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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Communications Division
Carrier Oversight and Policy Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17188
July 9, 2009**

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION T-17188. GRANTING WWC LICENSE LLC's (WESTERN WIRELESS) (U-3025) REQUEST TO RESCIND ITS DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER (ETC) IN IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

Summary

On April 24, 2009, WWC, LLC ("Western Wireless") a commercial mobile radio service provider filed Advice Letter #53, requesting the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") to rescind its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") designation in Imperial County, California.

This Resolution grants the request of Western Wireless to relinquish its ETC designation in Imperial County. Western Wireless will continue to operate as a non-ETC utility in Imperial County and the relinquishment of ETC status will not otherwise affect its customers.

Background

On July 20, 2000, Western Wireless, a commercial mobile radio service provider was designated an ETC in substantial parts of Inyo and Mono Counties by Resolution T-16436. Subsequently, on May 6, 2004, Resolution T-16824 granted Western Wireless ETC designation in Imperial County, California. However, in the counties of Inyo, Mono and Imperial, Western Wireless only receives High Cost Fund support and not the Lifeline subsidy from the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). Attachment A provides a list of the Census Block Groups ("CBGs") that were designated as the service areas for Western Wireless.

In 2005, Western Wireless was acquired by, and became a subsidiary of, Alltel Corporation. On January 9, 2009, Alltel Corporation and its subsidiaries including Western Wireless, were acquired by, and became subsidiaries of Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless.

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As a condition of the acquisition of Alltel Corporation by Verizon Wireless, the FCC is requiring that certain cellular markets owned by Alltel, including those in Inyo and Mono Counties, be divested by Verizon Wireless. These markets are being managed by an independent management trustee. The area of Imperial County that was granted ETC designation is not being divested by Verizon Wireless.

On April 24, 2009, Western Wireless filed Advice Letter #53, pursuant to Title 47 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 214(e)(4) and Title 47 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 54.205, requesting the CPUC terminate its ETC designation in Imperial County, California. The ETC designation granted by Resolution T-16436 for Inyo and Mono Counties will not be affected by this Advice Letter.

Title 47 C.F.R. § 54.205 and U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) set forth the responsibilities of state commissions in reviewing requests for relinquishment of ETC designation. C.F.R Title 47 § 54.205 require that:

(a) A state commission shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the state commission of such relinquishment.

(b) Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the state commission shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The state commission shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the state commission approves such relinquishment under this section, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

U.S. Code Title 47 U.S.C §214(e)(4) states that:

“A State commission (or the FCC in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier”.

Notice/Protests

Notice of the Advice Letter was published in the Commission Daily Calendar on May 4, 2009. This is an uncontested matter, no protests or comments were received on this Advice Letter. Pursuant to Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rule 14.6 (c)(2), the resolution comment period is waived.

Discussion

As described above, Advice Letter #53 is made pursuant to Title 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and Title 47 C.F.R. § 54.205 (a) & (b). We find that Western Wireless has complied with these Federal rules and that the request for relinquishment of its ETC designation in Imperial County should be granted, effective immediately for the following reasons.

Advice Letter #53 provides the CPUC with the advance notice of its intention to relinquish ETC designation and explained that the Designated Area of Imperial County will continue to be served by other ETCs operating in the area. We understand that there are two ETC's providing service in Imperial County at this time, the incumbent ETC AT&T and the competitive ETC ConnectO. None of the remaining ETCs will be required to purchase or construct additional facilities as a result of this relinquishment.

Western Wireless is not presently providing Lifeline service to any customers in Imperial County and has not received any Lifeline support from FCC. Consequently, no Lifeline customers will be affected by Western Wireless relinquishing its ETC designation in this area. Additionally, the customers served by Western Wireless will continue to receive service through its new parent company, Verizon Wireless.

Verizon Wireless has already assumed ownership and operational control of Western Wireless' business in Imperial County and is in the process of integrating the business operations and customers of the two companies in that area. During this transition and thereafter, Western Wireless customers will continue to receive service and will be unaffected by the ETC relinquishment. Because service will not be discontinued, we find that customer notification is not necessary and that the public interest will not be harmed by rescinding Western Wireless' ETC designation in Imperial County, California

Comments

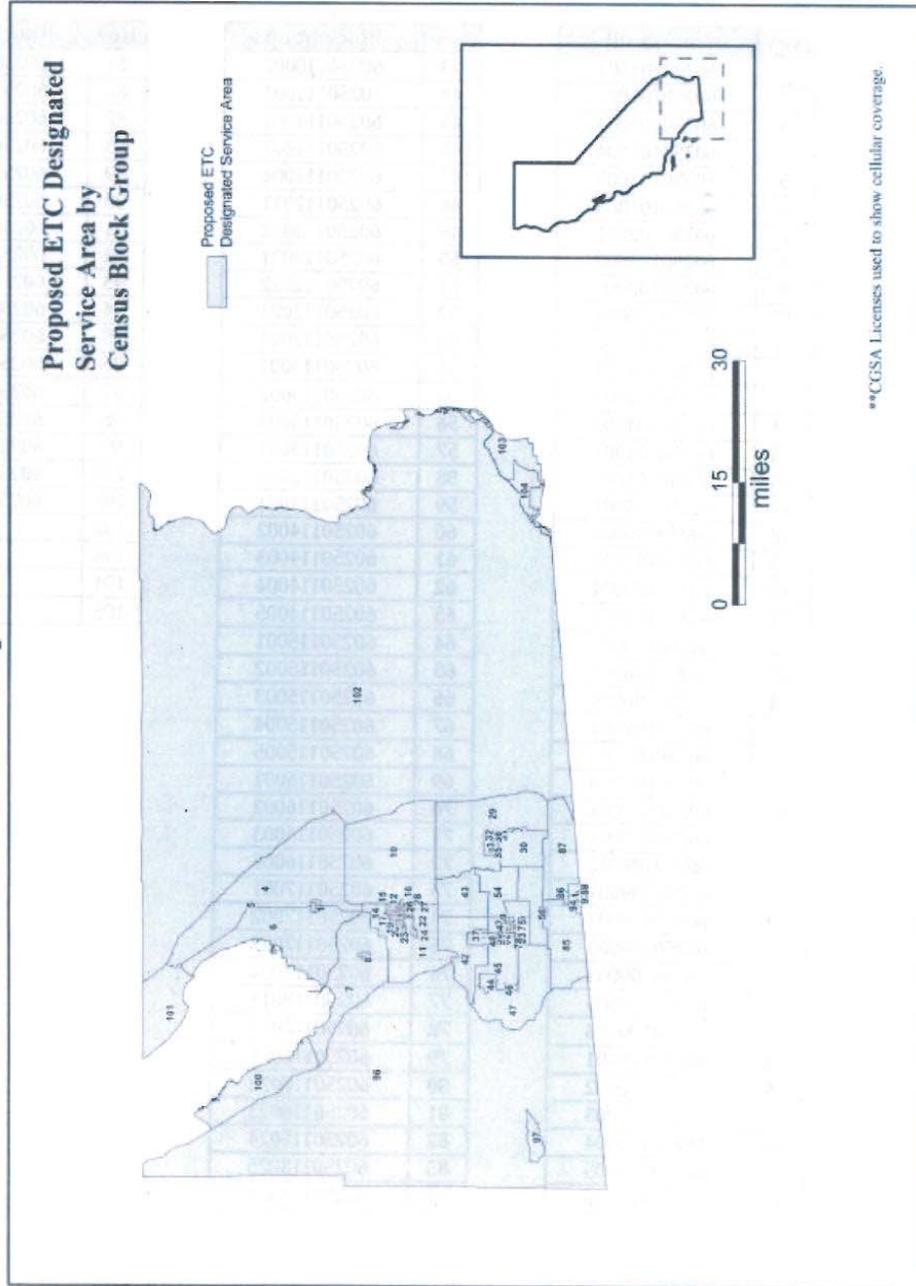
This is an uncontested matter in which the resolution grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to PU Code § 311 (g) (2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

Findings

1. Western Wireless is a commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) carrier.
2. Resolution T-16436 granted ETC designation to Western Wireless in Inyo and Mono Counties on July 20, 2000.
3. Resolution T-16824 granted ETC designation to Western Wireless in Imperial County on May 6, 2000.
4. Western Wireless has not requested or received any Lifeline support from FCC since being granted ETC designation in Inyo, Mono and Imperial Counties. However, Western Wireless has received High Cost Fund support as an ETC.
5. Western Wireless is requesting that ETC designation be rescinded in Imperial County, California only.
6. There are two ETC's providing services in Imperial County, AT&T and ConnectO. They will not have to purchase or construct additional facilities as a result of Western Wireless' ETC relinquishment.
7. No Protests or comments were received on the Advice Letter #53. The Advice Letter was posted on the Commissions Daily Calendar on May 4, 2009.
8. This is an uncontested matter, and pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure Rule 14.6(c)(2), the comment period for this resolution should be waived.
9. Western Wireless has satisfied federal rules to relinquish their designation as an ETC in Imperial County pursuant to Title 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R § 54.205 (a) & (b) regarding state notification requirements and continuity of service.
10. Western Wireless will continue to offer service and customers will not be affected.
11. The Public Interest will not be harmed by rescinding Western Wirelesses' ETC designation in Imperial County.
12. Western Wireless' request to relinquish ETC designation in Imperial County, California should be granted, effective immediately.

Attachment A

Western Wireless Corporation - California 7



Attachment A

Western Wireless ETC II Designated Service Area California RSA 7

Key	Blockgroup
1	60250101001
2	60250101002
3	60250101003
4	60250101004
5	60250101005
6	60250101006
7	60250102001
8	60250102002
9	60250102003
10	60250103001
11	60250103002
12	60250104001
13	60250104002
14	60250104003
15	60250104004
16	60250104005
17	60250105001
18	60250105002
19	60250105003
20	60250105004
21	60250106001
22	60250106002
23	60250106003
24	60250106004
25	60250107001
26	60250107002
27	60250107003
28	60250107004
29	60250108001
30	60250108002
31	60250109001
32	60250109002
33	60250109003
34	60250109004
35	60250109005
36	60250109006
37	60250110001
38	60250110002
39	60250110003
40	60250110004
41	60250110005
42	60250110006

Key	Blockgroup
43	60250110007
44	60250111001
45	60250111002
46	60250111003
47	60250111004
48	60250112011
49	60250112012
50	60250112021
51	60250112022
52	60250112023
53	60250112024
54	60250113001
55	60250113002
56	60250113003
57	60250113004
58	60250113005
59	60250114001
60	60250114002
61	60250114003
62	60250114004
63	60250114005
64	60250115001
65	60250115002
66	60250115003
67	60250115004
68	60250115005
69	60250116001
70	60250116002
71	60250116003
72	60250116004
73	60250117001
74	60250117002
75	60250117003
76	60250117004
77	60250118011
78	60250118012
79	60250118021
80	60250118022
81	60250118023
82	60250118024
83	60250118025
84	60250118031

Key	Blockgroup
85	60250119001
86	60250119002
87	60250119003
88	60250120001
89	60250120002
90	60250120003
91	60250121001
92	60250121002
93	60250121003
94	60250122001
95	60250122002
96	60250123011
97	60250123012
98	60250123021
99	60250123022
100	60250123023
101	60250124001
102	n/a
103	n/a
104	n/a
105	n/a