

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Andrew J. French, Chairperson
Dwight D. Keen
Annie Kuether

In the Matter of USCOC of Nebraska/Kansas,)
LLC Petition for Relinquishment of its) Docket No. 25-USCZ-367-ETC
Designations as an Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier Under 47 U.S.C.)
Section 214(e)(2).)

**ORDER GRANTING RELINQUISHMENT OF
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION**

The above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (“Commission”) for consideration and determination. Having examined its files and records, the Commission finds and concludes:

1. On March 31, 2025, USCOC of Nebraska/Kansas, LLC (USCOC) filed its application requesting an Order approving the relinquishment of the company’s designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) and federal universal support in Kansas.

2. On June 30, 2025, Commission Staff (Staff) submitted its Report and Recommendation,¹ attached hereto and made a part hereof, recommending the Commission issue an Order granting USCOC’s request for ETC relinquishment in Kansas, effective on the approval and closing of the USCOC acquisition by T-Mobile US, Inc (T-Mobile).

3. 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) provides the Commission’s authority when considering ETC relinquishment requests. The statute states:

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

¹ Staff’s Report & Recommendation (Staff’s R&R) (June 30, 2025).

designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission...of such relinquishment. **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 paragraph, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed. (Emphasis added).

4. Therefore, the Commission must determine that customers affected by the proposed relinquishment will be served by at least one other ETC, and that customers will continue to be served with high-cost or Lifeline-only service(s) by an ETC.

5. Based on USCOC's application and its responses to discovery requests, USCOC is seeking relinquishment due to the anticipated acquisition of the Company's wireless business operations, assets, and customers by T-Mobile. The transfer of control and assignment of various spectrum licenses & authorizations are also pending at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). T-Mobile intends to provide Lifeline service to USCOC customers.²

6. Staff indicated that USCOC had met the requirements for relinquishment as identified in 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(4) as each of the impacted customers has the option of continuing to participate in the Lifeline program in the relinquished area and has at least one or more designated, competitive ETCs providing the Lifeline discount. Staff recommended the Commission issue an order granting USCOC's request but set the effective date to be the date of the approval and closing of its acquisition by T-Mobile. Furthermore, Staff requested the company

² Staff's R&R at p. 5.

file in this docket an affidavit of a company official confirming the FCC approval and closing date of the T-Mobile acquisition.

7. The Commission adopts Staff's analysis and recommendation of June 30, 2025, as additional findings, and finds the recommendations therein to be just and reasonable.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

A. USCOC of Nebraska/Kansas, LLC's request for ETC relinquishment in Kansas is granted. The relinquishment shall become effective upon the closing of the transaction between itself and T-Mobile US, Inc., after the FCC's approval.

B. USCOC of Nebraska/Kansas, LLC is directed to file in this docket an affidavit, executed by an officer of the Company, to identify the transaction's closing date as soon as it is known. The Company is also directed to file a copy of the FCC's order approving the transaction in this docket.

C. Any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).³

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 07/15/2025



Celeste Chaney-Tucker
Executive Director

AAL

³ K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

25-USCZ-367-ETC

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of electronic service on 07/15/2025.

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/S/ KCC Docket Room

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