

## CONDITIONS FOR AUTHORITY

1. Pursuant to § 40-15-503.5, C.R.S., and Commission Rule 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-2-2111, EarthGrid PBC shall maintain a bond or letter of credit for a period of three years from within one year of the date that the Decision that authorizes its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) issued by this Commission becomes effective. EarthGrid PBC shall file with the Commission, as a separate filing in this proceeding, a verified statement signed by an officer of EarthGrid PBC attaching the original and two copies of the bond or letter of credit to the verified statement. The beneficiary of the bond or letter of credit shall be the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

2. The bond or letter of credit shall be in the amount of \$6,500 for the duration of the financial assurance requirement. The formula used to calculate the amount of the bond or letter of credit is found in Attachment AA of this Decision.

3. The issuer of a bond shall be rated “Secure” by A.M. Best Company, Inc.

4. EarthGrid PBC shall be considered in default of the bond or letter of credit in the following circumstances:

(a) if EarthGrid PBC:

(i) untimely remits<sup>1</sup> or fails to remit payments to statutory funds (including the Colorado High Cost Support Mechanism, the Telecommunications Utilities Fund, 9-1-1 surcharges, and the Colorado Telephone Users with Disability Fund (Telecommunications Relay Service));

(b) if EarthGrid PBC untimely files or fails to file Commission-required reports including, but not limited to:

(i) verified statements of bond or letter of credit renewal or modification;  
and/or

(ii) violation of any applicable Commission rules concerning regulated telecommunications services.

5. If any of the items described in Paragraph No. 4 occur, Commission Staff (Staff) shall have cause to request that the Commission issue a formal complaint against EarthGrid PBC. Staff shall also have cause to make recommendations to the Commission concerning EarthGrid PBC’s bond or letter of credit and the status of EarthGrid PBC’s CPCN. In the event the Commission issues an order resulting from a formal complaint finding EarthGrid PBC is in breach of any or all of the items described in Paragraph No. 4, the Commission may authorize its representatives to draw on the bond or letter of credit. No demand for a draw on the bond or letter of credit shall be honored

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<sup>1</sup> “Untimely” is defined as late by more than 30 calendar days, which period shall begin on the first day after the due date.

by the issuing financial institution absent an order resulting from a formal complaint issued by the Commission authorizing a draw.

6. EarthGrid PBC expressly acknowledges that, in accordance with § 40-5-105, C.R.S., as amended, it cannot sell, assign, or otherwise transfer without prior Commission approval, its CPCN.

7. EarthGrid PBC shall file a notice with the Commission in this proceeding within 30 days of executing any agreement with a third party for the provision of marketing, customer service, or customer acquisition services in connection with EarthGrid PBC's telecommunications service in Colorado. If a third party agreement is entered into with a party affiliated with EarthGrid PBC agreement. This requirement does not include employment agreements with EarthGrid PBC employees who may be hired to perform inside sales, marketing, customer service, or acquisition activities.

8. For the three-year period that EarthGrid PBC is required to maintain financial assurance pursuant to Paragraph No. 1, EarthGrid PBC shall file a report with the Commission in writing within ten calendar days of any of the following occurrences in connection with the telecommunications services provided by EarthGrid PBC or any of its regulated affiliates:

- (a) assessment of civil penalties by any court or regulatory body;
- (b) assessment of criminal penalties by any court or regulatory body;
- (c) entry of an injunction by any court or regulatory body;
- (d) any corrective action imposed by any court or regulatory body;
- (e) any refund of more than \$100 in any individual case, or any refund of \$250 or more to any class of customers awarded by any court or regulatory body;
- (f) reparations to any party awarded by any court or regulatory body;
- (g) initiation of a show cause or formal complaint proceeding by any court or regulatory body;
- (h) initiation of disciplinary proceedings by any court or regulatory body, including proceedings to limit or to place restrictions on any authority to operate a CPCN or offer any service;
- (i) refusal to grant authority to operate or provide a service by any court or regulatory body;
- (j) revocation of authority to operate or to provide a service by any court or regulatory body;
- (k) voluntary surrender of any certificate or authority to operate in lieu of any action by a court or regulatory body; or

(l) any combination of the foregoing sanctions, penalties, corrective actions, or other proceedings.

9. If EarthGrid PBC fails to perform any or all of the obligations set forth herein including, but not limited to, failure to obtain and maintain a bond or letter of credit according to the terms outlined herein or failure to timely report to the Commission any events set forth in Paragraph No. 8, the Commission shall consider EarthGrid PBC to have violated the terms of its granted authority to operate. In that event, Staff may request the Commission issue a formal complaint to determine whether the Commission should take action against EarthGrid PBC complaint finding EarthGrid PBC is in breach of any or all of the obligations set forth herein, the Commission may authorize its representatives to draw on the bond. No demand for a draw on the bond or letter of credit shall be honored by the issuing financial institution, absent an order resulting from a formal complaint issued by the Commission authorizing its representative to draw on the bond.