

2187. Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation.

- (a) The Commission shall, upon application, designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d) and § 54.202 and paragraph 2187(b) as an ETC for a service area designated by the Commission.
- (b) Upon request and consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, the Commission may, in the case of an area served by a rural telecommunications provider, and shall, in the case of all other areas, designate more than one common carrier as an ETC for a service area designated by the Commission, so long as each additional requesting carrier meets the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d) and § 54.202. Before designating an additional ETC for an area served by a rural telecommunications provider, the Commission shall find that the designation is in the public interest.
- (c) Pursuant to Subpart E of 47 C.F.R., Part 54, as of January 1, 1998 all ETCs shall make available Lifeline service, as defined in § 54.401, to qualifying low-income customers.
- (d) Contents. The application for designation as an ETC shall include, in the following order and specifically identified, the following information, either in the application or in appropriately identified attached exhibits:
- (I) The information required by paragraph 2002(b).
- (II) A statement identifying the decision(s) of the Commission and/or the FCC authorizing the applicant to provide telecommunications service.
- ~~(III)~~ (III) A description of the service area for which the applicant seeks designation as an ETC. ~~If designation for a specific service area, rather than a statewide designation, is sought,~~ the application shall include either both a description of such service area by metes and bounds or the underlying carrier's exchange area a map displaying the applicant's service area.
- (IV) The facts (not in the form of conclusory statements) relied upon by the applicant to demonstrate that it meets the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d) and § 54.202.
- (V) An affirmative statement that the applicant will offer the services that are supported by the federal universal service support mechanisms under 47 U.S.C. § 254(c).
- (VI) An affirmative statement that the applicant is a common carrier.
- (VII) An affirmative statement that the applicant (ETC) will advertise the availability of such service and charges using media of general distribution pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. To meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(B), the Commission establishes as guidelines that an ETC shall advertise in media of general distribution and shall place customer guide pages in the "White Pages" directory within the ETC's service area. Such customer guide pages shall indicate that the ETC offers the supported

services identified by federal law within its ETC service area to all who request such service within that area.

(VIII) An affirmative statement that the applicant will make available Lifeline service, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 54.401, to qualifying low-income customers.

(IX) An affirmative statement that the applicant is in compliance with the Commission's rules.

(X) A demonstration of the applicant's ability to remain functional in emergency situations.

(XI) A demonstration that the applicant will satisfy consumer protection and service quality standards.

(XII) An affirmative statement that the applicant will offer local usage plans comparable to those offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC). At least one plan offered must include:

(A) No less than 900 minutes of use per month.

(B) A month-to-month term, and

(C) A rate comparable to the underlying LEC's basic residential local exchange rate.

(XIII) A two-year build-out plan demonstrating how high-cost universal service support will be used to improve the applicant's coverage, service quality or capacity in every wire center for which it seeks designation and expects to receive universal service support. If a wire center is not part of the build-out plan and the applicant does not have existing facilities in the service area, a detailed explanation of how the applicant will provide service to a requesting customer in the service area for which it is seeking designation.

(e) State certification for federal support. As required by the FCC's universal service regulations found at 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314, and when appropriate, the Commission shall file an annual certification with the Administrator of the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) and the FCC on behalf of each jurisdictional ETC serving access lines in the state, stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within that state will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The Commission may require a carrier to provide the information it finds necessary and convenient to make such a certification. At a minimum, carriers shall furnish requested information on a form supplied by the Commission as part of the carrier's annual report.

QUESTION FOR COMMENT: Should the Commission retain or modify the following rules in paragraph (f) Annual Reporting Requirements for Eligible Telecommunication Carriers, to ensure that ETCs comply with FCC rules including such things as verification that support is used for the intended purpose, and service quality standards. If the rules need to be modified, provide suggested language so that the Commission may openly certify to the FCC that the ETC is eligible to receive federal support and retain its ETC designation.

- (f) Annual Reporting Requirements for Eligible Telecommunication Carriers.
- (I) In order for an Eligible Telecommunication Carrier (ETC) previously designated by the Commission, or previously designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to be certified to receive federal support for the following calendar year, or to retain its ETC designation, it shall submit the reporting information specified below no later than August 15th of each calendar year to the Commission. ETCs failing to meet these annual report filing requirements and deadlines may not be certified by the Commission to the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as eligible to receive federal support for the following calendar year.
- (II) Every ETC shall submit the following information in its report:
- (A) The number of requests for service from potential customers within the ETC's service areas that were unfulfilled during the past year and a written explanation detailing how the ETC attempted to provide service to those potential customers, as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i).
- (B) The number of complaints per 1,000 access lines or handsets.
- (C) Detailed information on any outage lasting at least 30 minutes for any facilities that an ETC owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affects at least ten percent of the end users in a service area, or that could affect access to 9-1-1. An outage is defined as a significant degradation in the ability of an end user to establish and maintain a channel of communications as a result of failure or degradation in the performance of a communications provider's network. The ETC must report the following information regarding each outage: date and time of outage; description of the outage and resolution; specific service(s) affected; specific geographic area(s) affected; steps taken to prevent it from happening again; and number of customers affected by the outage.
- (D) Certification that the ETC is complying with the applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules, e.g., the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Service.
- (E) Certification that the ETC is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2).
- (F) Certification that the ETC acknowledges the FCC may require it to provide customers with equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within the service area.
- (G) The total amount of all federal high cost support received in the previous calendar year and year-to-date through June 30 for the current calendar year.
- (H) For the previous two calendar years, a detailed schedule/exhibit showing the actual dollar amounts expended by the carrier in the provision, maintenance, upgrading, plant additions and associated infrastructure costs for local exchange service within the service areas in Colorado where the carrier has been

designated an ETC. An explanation regarding any network improvement targets that have not been fulfilled. This information shall be submitted at the wire center level or at the authorized service area. If service improvements in a particular wire center are not needed, an explanation of why improvement is not needed and how funding will otherwise be used to further the provision of supported services in that area.

- (I) Documentation the carrier offers and advertises the rate and availability of Basic Universal Service offerings, Lifeline, and Linkup programs throughout the service areas in Colorado where the carrier has been designated an ETC. Copies of written material used in newspaper advertisements, press releases, posters, flyers and outreach efforts and a log of when and where these materials were distributed. For newspaper advertisements, dated copies of the published newspaper advertisements may serve as copies of written material. For radio station advertising, a confirmation from broadcasters of when the public service announcement was aired.
- (J) Documentation that a competitive ETC is offering a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent LEC in the relevant service areas.
- (K) A map of the service areas where the carrier has ETC designation showing the locations of facilities or for wireless providers, maps showing the location of all cellular towers and the coverage area of these towers. Maps shall be submitted in 2007 and at least once every three years thereafter.
- (L) Through June 30 of the current calendar year, a detailed schedule/exhibit showing the actual dollar amounts expended by the carrier in the provision, maintenance, upgrading, plant additions and associated infrastructure costs for any local exchange service within the service areas in Colorado where the carrier has been designated an ETC. This shall include the carrier's build-out plans and budgets for projects, upgrades or installations planned but not yet completed during the current calendar year applicable to local exchange service. This information shall be submitted at the wire center level or at the authorized service area.
- (M) A copy of cost study filing made on July 31st to NECA for current year. If an ETC is not required to file cost study to NECA, then a copy of the line count filing made to the FCC and USAC Administrator shall be submitted.
- (N) A copy of the company's Colorado-specific trial balance for previous year.
- (O) An affidavit attesting to the fact that the information reported on the annual report and information submitted under this rule is true and correct. The affidavit must also state that the ETC is aware of the purpose of the support for the federal high-cost support and it is complying with the requirement set forth by the FCC in 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). An officer, director, partner, or owner of the company must sign the affidavit.

- (P) If a review of the data submitted by an ETC indicates that the ETC is no longer in compliance with the Commission's criteria for ETC designation, the Commission may refrain from certifying the carrier to the FCC or revoke the carrier's designation as an ETC. In addition, ~~carriers-ETCs~~ must submit their reports on a timely basis.