Decision No. C25-0116

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24A-0575T

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ASSURANCE WIRELESS USA, L.P. TO AMEND ITS ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA.

COMMISSION DECISION DEEMING APPLICATION COMPLETED AND GRANTING APPLICATION

Issued Date:February 18, 2025Adopted Date:February 12, 2025

I. <u>BY THE COMMISSION</u>

A. Summary

1. On December 26, 2024, Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. ("Assurance Wireless") submitted an Application ("Application") to expand the service area of its Lifeline only Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") Designation. The Application seeks approval to expand the service area of Assurance Wireless, a wholly-owned subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. ("T-Mobile"), to be consistent with T-Mobile's Colorado service territory. We grant the Application consistent with the discussion below.

B. Background

2. In its Application, Assurance Wireless is seeking to expand its service area to provide Lifeline-only services to eligible low-income households in line with its wireless coverage in Colorado. Assurance Wireless is not requesting designation in the expanded area in order to receive high-cost support from the Universal Service Fund. In addition, Assurance Wireless requests a waiver of Commission Rule 2187(d)(II) of the Commission's Rules Regulating

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Telecommunications Service and Providers of Telecommunications Service, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-2, which requires an applicant to submit a metes and bounds description or an underlying carrier exchange map.

3. Assurance Wireless was previously designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier in Colorado, by Decision No. R12-0246 ("ETC Designation Order"), issued on March 6, 2012, and is currently providing Lifeline services in Colorado. Assurance Wireless's service area was limited to the wire centers specified in the ETC Designation Order, which encompassed Assurance Wireless's service territory at that time. Assurance Wireless requests the expansion of its designated ETC service area to be consistent with T-Mobile's Colorado service territory.

C. Findings and Conclusions

4. In its Application and to the extent necessary, Assurance Wireless is seeking a waiver of Rule 2187(d)(II), which requires a description of the proposed service area by either metes and bounds or providing an underlying carrier exchange area map. Assurance Wireless included with its Application, T-Mobile's Colorado Service territory (Attachment A of the Application) as well as a list of wire centers for which Assurance Wireless seeks to expand its ETC designation (Attachment B of the Application). With the inclusion of this information, we find good cause to grant this waiver.

5. The Commission finds that for the reasons put forth in Assurance Wireless's Application, it is in the public interest to expand Assurance Wireless's ETC service territory as requested.

6. Assurance Wireless must comply with all applicable Commission rules, including, but not limited to, remitting its CHCSM, TRS, and E911 surcharges for the entirety of its ETC service areas.

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II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. Assurance Wireless's Application for service area expansion as a Lifeline-only Eligible Telecommunications Carrier filed on December 26, 2024, is deemed complete pursuant to § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S., and is granted.

2. The request for a waiver of Rule 4 Code of Colorado Regulations 723-2-2817(d)(II), is granted.

3. This application does not alter the requirements and filing obligations set forth in Decision No. R12-0246.

4. The 20-day period provided for in § 40-6-114, C.R.S., within which to file applications for rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration begins on the first day following the effective date of this Decision.

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- 5. This Decision is effective upon its Issued Date.
- B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING February 12, 2025.



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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Rebecca E. White, Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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Commissioners