BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for designation as eligible telecommunications carrier in the State of Florida, by Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless.

DOCKET NO. 20240066-TP ORDER NO. PSC-2024-0205-PAA-TP ISSUED: June 20, 2024

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

MIKE LA ROSA, Chairman ART GRAHAM GARY F. CLARK ANDREW GILES FAY GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER GRANTING ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

Background

On April 17, 2024, Boomerang Wireless d/b/a enTouch Wireless's (Boomerang or Company) filed a petition with the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC or Commission) seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for the sole purpose of providing Lifeline service to qualifying consumers throughout Florida. Boomerang is a provider of commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) and offers prepaid wireless telecommunications services to consumers as a reseller. Specifically, Boomerang uses the network infrastructure and wireless transmission facilities of T-Mobile USA, Inc. (T-Mobile) to operate as a Mobile Virtual Network Operator. Boomerang is currently designated as an ETC providing Lifeline service in 37 other states.

As a CMRS provider, Boomerang is regulated as a common carrier pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 153(11). Boomerang is an Iowa limited liability company (LLC) authorized to do business as a foreign LLC in the state of Florida. The company asserts in Florida it will be operating under

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 153(11) (defining a common carrier as "any person engaged as a common carrier for hire, in interstate or foreign communications by wire or radio"; 47 U.S.C. §332(c)(1)(A) (treating commercial mobile service providers as common carriers).

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its authorized fictitious name "enTouch". Boomerang is wholly owned by ViaOne Acquisitions Company, LLC.

Boomerang asserts that it meets all applicable federal requirement for designation as a Lifeline only ETC in Florida pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201. Boomerang acknowledges and asserts that, if approved, it will comply with Sections 364.10 and 364.105, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-4.0665, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which govern Lifeline service and provide for a transitional discount for customers who no longer qualify for Lifeline. In addition to the federal rules and statutes discussed above, we have jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Section 364.10, F.S.

Section 214(e)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) provides state public utility commissions with "primary responsibility" for the designation of ETCs. We initially exercised this authority to designate both wireline and wireless carriers as ETCs. In 2011, the Florida Legislature removed the FPSC authority to designate wireless ETC providers.² However, the Florida Legislature amended Section 364.10, F.S., in 2024 to specifically grants us jurisdiction to address wireless ETC petitions for Lifeline purposes only.³

Decision

I. Requirements for ETC Designation

This Order addresses whether Boomerang qualifies for ETC designation to provide Lifeline service throughout the State of Florida.⁴ Section 364.10, F.S. allows us to approve wireless Lifeline ETC petitions for requesting carriers. Specifically, paragraphs 364.10(1)(a) and (3)(a) F.S., provide us with the authority to designate a CMRS provider as an ETC for the limited purpose of providing Lifeline service.

Federal rules outline the requirements for ETC designation.⁵ To obtain ETC designation to provide Lifeline services, federal rules require that carriers:

- 1) Be a common carrier;
- 2) Offer the services that are supported by the federal universal support mechanisms either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services:
- 3) Advertise the availability of its Lifeline service through a media of general distribution;

² House Bill 1231 (2011), effective July 1, 2011.

³ Senate Bill 478 (2024), effective April 15, 2024.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 254(e)

⁵ 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, 47 C.F.R. § 54.201, and 47 C.F.R. § 54.401; While Section 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a) also includes requirements addressing toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers, the FCC in its 2012 Lifeline and Link Up Reform Order (FCC 12-11) stated that: "ETCs are not required to offer toll limitation service to low-income consumers if the Lifeline offering provides a set amount of minutes that do not distinguish between toll and non-toll calls."

- 4) Provide voice grade access to the public switch network or its functional equivalent;
- 5) Offer minutes of use for local service at no additional charge to end users;
- 6) Provide access to the emergency services available by local government or other public safety organizations;
- 7) Provide Broadband Internet Access Service;⁶
- 8) Demonstrate that it is financially and technically capable of providing the supported Lifeline service. and
- 9) Not charge Lifeline customers a monthly number-portability charge.

In addition, Florida law requires the following for ETC designation:

- 1) Offer a discounted transitional basic telecommunications service.⁷
- 2) Participate in the Lifeline Promotion Process.⁸

II. <u>Forbearance of Facilities Requirements</u>

Boomerang plans to offer all of the supported services enumerated under Section 254(c) of the Act through its wireless resale agreement with T-Mobile. Therefore, it sought forbearance of the facilities requirement from the FCC. On August 8, 2012, the FCC approved Boomerang's compliance plan as a condition of obtaining forbearance from the facilities requirement for the provision of Lifeline service. As part of its compliance plan Boomerang committed to do the following:

- 1) Provide the supported services throughout the carrier's designated areas;
- 2) Remain functional in emergency situations;
- 3) Comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for Wireless Service;
- 4) Demonstrate that it is financially and technically capable of providing the Lifeline service in compliance with federal rules; and
- 5) Describe the terms and conditions of the broadband Internet access service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers.

Because Boomerang will offer the supported services and is compliant with the FCC requirements pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 C.F.R. 54.201, as well as the Florida specific requirements, Boomerang is eligible for designation as a Lifeline only ETC in Florida.

⁶ Broadband Internet Access Service (BIAS) is defined as a mass-market retail service that provides the capability to transmit and receive data, but excluding dial-up service.

⁷ Section 364.105, F.S states that each ETC shall offer a residential basic local telecommunications service at 70 percent of the residential local telecommunications service rate for any Lifeline subscriber who no longer qualifies for Lifeline for a period of 1 year after the date the subscriber ceases to qualify for Lifeline.

⁸ Rule 25-4.0665(3), F.A.C. The Lifeline Promotion Process is an electronic system developed in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families, ETCs and the FPSC. This system helps assist ETCs and the FPSC in providing information on how to apply for Lifeline assistance to eligible customers.

III. Financial, Managerial, and Technical Capabilities

As noted in its petition, Boomerang has offered service since 2008 and has not filed for any form of bankruptcy relief. The company has operated as an ETC in 37 states and has not been subject to any enforcement actions or ETC revocation proceedings. The Company has over 15 years of technical and managerial experience, and it does not rely exclusively on Lifeline reimbursements for its operating revenues. As Boomerang will be providing resold wireless service, it will also rely upon the managerial and technical expertise of its underlying carrier.

IV. Public Interest

State commissions are required to find that ETC designation is in the public interest. Boomerang asserts granting its ETC designation will bring Lifeline eligible consumers more choice in providers without creating an additional burden on the federal high-cost programs. In Florida, consumers are currently limited to three wireless Lifeline providers. These three companies represent 98 percent of the Lifeline market in Florida. However, the FPSC's estimated Lifeline participation rate for the last two years has hovered around 18 percent. The increase in carriers servicing this market may increase participation through additional marketing and would serve the public interest.

V. Conclusion

We have reviewed Boomerang's petition for ETC designation in Florida. Boomerang meets all the requirements for designation as an ETC. Additionally, the Company has demonstrated sufficient financial, managerial, and technical capabilities. Therefore, we find Boomerang shall be granted an ETC designation throughout the State of Florida as identified in Attachment A of this Order. We further find that if there is a future change of Company ownership, the new owners shall be required to file a petition with us to demonstrate that it is in the public interest to maintain the Company's ETC designation.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Boomerang Wireless d/b/a enTouch Wireless's Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout the State of Florida is GRANTED. It is further

ORDERED that Boomerang Wireless d/b/a enTouch Wireless is designated an eligible telecommunications carrier for the sole purpose of providing Lifeline service to qualifying consumers in the State of Florida. It is further

⁹ 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(2)

¹⁰ 2023 Florida Lifeline Assistance Report, December 2023, Appendix C, p 24.

¹¹ Ibid, p 13.

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ORDERED that if there is a future change in Boomerang Wireless d/b/a enTouch Wireless's ownership, the new owners shall file a petition with the Commission to demonstrate that it is in the public interest to maintain the ETC designation. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., is received by the Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings" attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that in the event this Order becomes final, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 20th day of June, 2024.

ADAM J. TEITZMAN

Commission Clerk

Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399

(850) 413-6770 www.floridapsc.com

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing that is available under Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on July 11, 2024

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

Boomerang Wireless d/b/a enTouch Wireless Florida Coverage Area Zip Codes

32003	32055	32095	32131	32173
32004	32056	32096	32132	32174
32006	32058	32097	32133	32175
32007	32059	32102	32135	32176
32008	32060	32105	32136	32177
32009	32062	32110	32137	32178
32011	32063	32111	32138	32179
32013	32064	32112	32139	32180
32024	32065	32113	32140	32181
32025	32066	32114	32141	32183
32026	32068	32115	32142	32185
32030	32071	32116	32143	32187
32033	32072	32117	32145	32189
32034	32073	32118	32147	32190
32035	32079	32119	32148	32192
32038	32080	32120	32149	32193
32040	32081	32121	32157	32195
32041	32082	32122	32158	32198
32042	32083	32123	32159	32201
32043	32084	32124	32160	32202
32044	32085	32125	32162	32203
32046	32086	32126	32163	32204
32050	32087	32127	32164	32205
32052	32091	32128	32168	32206
32053	32092	32129	32169	32207
32054	32094	32130	32170	32208

32209	32239	32311	32350	32424
32210	32240	32312	32351	32425
32211	32241	32313	32353	32426
32212	32244	32314	32355	32427
32215	32245	32315	32356	32428
32216	32246	32316	32357	32430
32217	32247	32317	32358	32431
32218	32250	32318	32359	32432
32219	32254	32321	32361	32433
32220	32255	32322	32362	32434
32221	32256	32323	32395	32435
32222	32257	32326	32401	32437
32223	32258	32327	32402	32438
32224	32259	32328	32403	32439
32225	32260	32329	32404	32440
32226	32266	32331	32405	32444
32227	32267	32332	32406	32445
32228	32277	32333	32407	32446
32229	32290	32334	32408	32447
32230	32301	32336	32409	32448
32231	32302	32337	32410	32449
32232	32303	32340	32411	32452
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32234	32305	32343	32413	32455
32235	32307	32345	32417	32456
32236	32308	32346	32420	32457
32237	32309	32347	32421	32459
32238	32310	32348	32422	32460

32461	32535	32578	32625	32692
32462	32536	32579	32626	32693
32463	32537	32580	32627	32694
32465	32538	32583	32628	32696
32466	32539	32588	32631	32697
32501	32540	32590	32633	32701
32502	32541	32591	32634	32702
32503	32542	32592	32635	32703
32504	32544	32601	32640	32704
32505	32547	32602	32641	32706
32506	32548	32603	32643	32707
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32512	32561	32608	32656	32713
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32522	32566	32614	32666	32719
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32534	32577	32622	32686	32726

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32733	32775	32809	32853	32903
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32736	32777	32811	32855	32905
32738	32778	32812	32856	32906
32739	32779	32814	32857	32907
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34276	34442	34487	34660	34734
34277	34445	34488	34661	34736
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34284	34450	34601	34674	34742
34285	34451	34602	34677	34743
34286	34452	34603	34680	34744
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34288	34460	34605	34683	34746
34289	34461	34606	34684	34747
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34292	34470	34609	34689	34753
34293	34471	34610	34690	34755
34295	34472	34611	34691	34756
34420	34473	34613	34692	34758

ATTACHMENT A

34759	34778	34948	34972	34991
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34761	34786	34950	34974	34994
34762	34787	34951	34981	34995
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34770	34789	34953	34983	34997
34771	34797	34954	34984	
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34777	34947	34958	34990	