

040553-TX

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: June 15, 2004

TO: Kay B. Flynn, Chief of Records, Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services

FROM: Beth Keating, Attorney Supervisor, General Counsel *BK*

RE: Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. d/b/a Coast Connections, Inc. Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC)

Action requested: Open Docket for Petition

On June 14, 2004, I received a Petition from Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. d/b/a Coastal Connections, Inc. requesting designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier. The Petition is attached, and I request that a Docket be opened so that we may begin processing it.

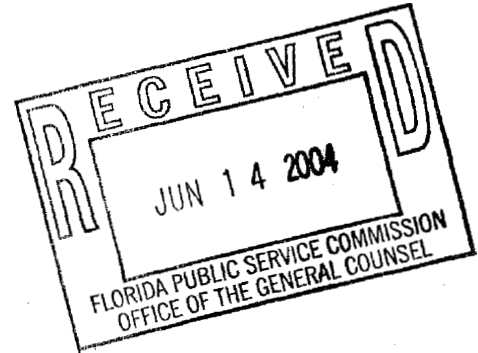
BK
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DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc dba Coastal Connections, Inc
1186 Hamilton Ave.
Jennings, Fl. 32053
Ph: 386-938-2078 Fax: 386-938-2545

June 10, 2004

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850



Dear Beth,

Enclosed you will find our petition for designation as an ETC to be placed **before** the commission. We request this designation in order to obtain reimbursement from the federal government for providing service to customers eligible for Florida Telephone Assistance Program.

We ask that our designation be made as of the date of our competitive **classification** in the state of Florida. Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. will provide low income service to thousands of Florida residents qualified by the Florida Telephone Assistance Program. A Federal Spin number has already been obtained by Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc in order **to** receive federal reimbursement for costs associated with providing **the** FTAP service.

Sincerely,

John H. Fondren, Jr.
President

Ronnie Smith
Vice President

Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC)

Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. dba Coastal Connections

Pursuant to 214(e)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act"), 47 USC 214(e)(2) and 54.201 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules, 47 CFR 54.201 and FCC Order 97-157. Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. dba Coastal Connections requests to be designated as eligible to receive all available support from the Federal Universal Services Fund ("USF") including, but not limited to, support for low income customers. In support of this petition, the following is respectfully shown.

I. Name and address of Petitioner

1. Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. dba Coastal Connection, 1186 Hamilton Ave., Jennings, Fl. 32053

II. Applicable Statutes and Rules

2. Statutes and rules implicated by the instant Petition are as follows: 47 USC 153(44), 214(e), 253(b) and 254(d); 47CFR 51.5, 54.5, 24.2021 AND FCC Order 97-157.

III. Authorization and Service Area

3. Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. dba Coastal Connections is a telecommunications carrier as defined in 47 USC 153(44) and 47 CFR 51.5 and FCC Order 97-157, and for the purposes of part 54 of the FCC's rules.
4. A telecommunications carrier may be designated as an ETC and receive universal service support throughout its designated service area if it agrees to: (i) offer services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms and (ii) advertise the availability of such services. In its First Report and Order implementing Sections 214(e) and 254, the FCC set forth the services a carrier must provide to be designated as an ETC in order to receive federal universal support.
5. Section 214(e)(1) of the Act provides that ETC designation shall be made for a "service area" designated by the state commission. In areas served by a non-rural company, the state commission may establish an ETC service area for a competitor without federal concurrence.

IV. Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. dba Coastal Connections offers the supported services to Qualify for Federal USF Support

6. Section 214(e)(1) of the Act and section 54.201(d) of the FCC's rules provide that carriers designated as ETCs shall, throughout their service area, (i) offer the services that are supported by federal universal support mechanisms either using their own facilities or a combination of their own

facilities and resale of another carrier's services and (2) advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefore using media of general distribution. 47 USC 214(e); CFR 54.20I(d). The services which are supported by the federal USF are:

- 1) voice grade access to the public switched network;
- 2) local usage;
- 3) dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent;
- 4) single-party service or its functional equivalent;
- 5) **access** to emergency services;
- 6) access to operator services;
- 7) **access** to interexchange **service**;
- 8) access to directory assistance; and
- 9) toll limitation for qualifying low-income customers

47 CFR 54.101(a)

7. **Coastal** Telephone Connections, Inc dba **Coastal** Connections is contracted to lease Unbundled Network Elements in all areas of the State of Florida. **Where Coastal** Telephone Connections, Inc dba **Coastal** Connections **leases** Unbundled Network Elements, they **are** considered a facilities based **provider** according to FCC Order 97-157.

V. Statement of Need

Coastal **Telephone** Connections, Inc dba **Coastal** Connections is licensed as a competitive focal exchange carrier with the State of **Florida**. Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc dba Coastal Connections will service many residents of the State of Florida who are **on** a limited income **and** public **assistance**. Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. dba Coastal Connections understands that it must offer the Florida Telephone **Assistance** Program to its customers that qualify for the program. Coastal Telephone Connection, Inc. dba Coastal Connections **is** requesting ETC designation in order to **obtain** reimbursement of its costs to comply with this rule.

VI. Grant of Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. dba **Coastal** Connections Application would serve the public interest

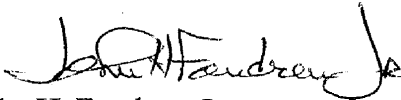
8. By granting ETC designation to Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc. dba Coastal Connections, this Commission will greatly benefit the people of Florida who qualify by lowering their telephone bills and allowing more money for other needs of these citizens and their families.

Wherefore, pursuant to Section 214(2)(2) of the **Act**, Coastal Telephone Connection, Inc dba Coastal Connections respectfully **request** that the Commission enter an Order designating **Coastal** Telephone Connections, Inc dba Coastal Connections **as** an ETC for the **State** of Florida. -

Respectfully Submitted

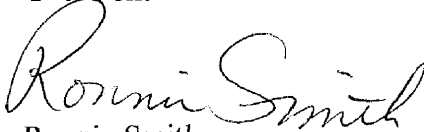
Coastal Telephone Connections, Inc dba Coastal Connections

By



John H. Fondren, Jr.

President



Ronnie Smith

Vice President

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dune 10,2004