

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re:)
Petition of Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.,)
Petition to Expand Its Eligible) Docket No. _____
Telecommunications Carrier Designated)
Service Area to Statewide)
_____)
)
)

**PETITION OF ASSURANCE WIRELESS USA, L.P.
TO EXPAND ITS ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE AREA TO STATEWIDE**

Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. (“Assurance Wireless” or “the Company”), pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the “Act”), Sections 54.101 through 54.207 of the Rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), and Section 364.10(3), Florida Statutes, respectfully submits this Petition to the Florida Public Service Commission (“Commission” or “PSC”) to expand its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) designated service area for Lifeline only services in the state of Florida so that it is statewide in scope, as those facilities may from time to time exist. In support of this Petition, Assurance Wireless states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. All correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices, orders, and decisions relating to this Petition should be addressed to the following attorneys on behalf of Assurance Wireless:

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2. The Commission previously designated Assurance Wireless (formerly Virgin Mobile) as an ETC for Lifeline only service by its Proposed Agency Action Order No. PSC-2010-0323-PAA-TP, dated May 19, 2010, that was consummated by Order No. PSC-2010-0444, issued on July 17, 2010 (hereinafter “ETC Designation Order”). In designating Assurance Wireless as an ETC, the Company was limited in its service area only to those AT&T, Verizon, and CenturyLink wire centers listed in Attachment B to the ETC Designation Order. The existing ETC designation area for Assurance Wireless is materially smaller than its current wireless coverage area in Florida.

3. By this Petition, Assurance Wireless requests expansion of its designated ETC service area to encompass statewide authority to provide wireless Lifeline-only service to those additional qualifying Florida households outside of the currently authorized wire centers. In seeking statewide authority, Assurance Wireless shall provide service only to the extent its facilities are available, and as those facilities may change over time. A listing of the current additional wire centers the Company proposes to serve is listed in Exhibit A.¹ This expansion will allow Assurance Wireless to provide Lifeline services to eligible low-income households anywhere it has wireless coverage in Florida. Consistent with its current Lifeline only ETC designation, the Company is not seeking designation in the expanded area to receive high-cost support from the Universal Service Fund.

¹ In addition to the wire center listing, Exhibit B to this Petition is a map showing the coverage area of the network for Assurance Wireless in Florida.

4. Assurance Wireless is a wholly owned subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. (“T-Mobile”). T-Mobile is the second largest wireless carrier in the United States, headquartered in Bellevue, Washington. T-Mobile acquired Assurance Wireless when it completed its acquisition of Sprint Corporation in 2020. The principal offices of Assurance Wireless are located in Bellevue, Washington. Assurance Wireless continues to possess the financial, managerial, and technical capability to provide Lifeline service in compliance with Section 54.201(h) of the FCC’s Rules.

5. Assurance Wireless has been designated as a wireless ETC in 46 states and the District of Columbia.²

6. As demonstrated herein, Assurance Wireless meets all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for designation as an ETC in the proposed expansion of its designated service area.³ The Commission’s grant of Assurance Wireless’s Petition would advance the public interest by enabling the Company to expand the availability of Assurance Wireless Lifeline service to substantially more low-income consumers in Florida. Accordingly, Assurance Wireless respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously approve this Petition.

II. DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA

7. In its ETC Designation Order, the Commission designated Assurance Wireless as an ETC to provide wireless Lifeline service in the wire centers/zip codes listed in Exhibit 3, List of Wire Centers, to its Amended Petition filed on April 1, 2010, in Docket No. 20090245, which was included as Attachment B to the ETC Designation Order. The existing ETC designation area

² Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

³ The terms and conditions are available on Assurance’s website: www.assurancewireless.com

for Assurance Wireless is materially smaller than its current wireless coverage area in Florida. The Company seeks to expand its ETC service area to statewide so that it can offer Lifeline service throughout its coverage area.

III. ASSURANCE WIRELESS MEETS APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS

8. The FCC's rules and Section 364.10, Fla. Stat., set forth the information that must be contained in a Petition for ETC designation.⁸ In its Amended ETC Petition filed in Docket No. 20090245-TP, incorporated herein by reference, Assurance Wireless provided all the information required by the Commission and the FCC's rules in effect at the time. The Commission found in its ETC Designation Order that Assurance Wireless met the requirements for designation as an ETC. Assurance Wireless has complied with the conditions in the ETC Designation Order and will continue to do so. Assurance Wireless also complies with the service requirements applicable to the Lifeline support that it receives, including those new requirements that have been imposed since 2010.

A. Assurance Wireless Will Provide All Required Services in The Expanded Designated Service Area

9. Assurance Wireless will provide all services required by Section 54.101(a) of the FCC's Rules throughout its expanded designated service area in the State of Florida, including voice and broadband Internet access services. Assurance Wireless' Lifeline services will meet or exceed the minimum service standards. The Company's current Lifeline offering is free unlimited texting, 1000 talk minutes and 4.5GB of data.⁴

⁴ The terms and conditions are available on Assurance's website – www.assurancewireless.com

B. Assurance Wireless's Processes Comply with the Lifeline Verification and Enrollment Requirements, and the Company Remains Committed to Preventing Waste, Fraud and Abuse of the Lifeline Program

10. Section 54.410 of the FCC's rules and Rule 25-4.0665, Fla. Admin. Code, require ETCs to certify and verify a Lifeline customer's initial and continued eligibility. Assurance Wireless has processes in place to facilitate compliance with all federal customer enrollment requirements. Assurance Wireless has additional processes in place to guard against waste, fraud, and abuse, and to ensure compliance with all FCC rules designed to achieve those objectives.

IV. EXPANSION OF ASSURANCE WIRELESS'S ETC SERVICE AREA WOULD PROMOTE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

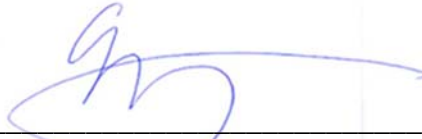
11. In its ETC Designation Order, the Commission found that designation of Assurance Wireless as an ETC would serve the public interest. Similarly, expansion of Assurance Wireless's ETC service area to statewide will serve the public interest by providing a variety of benefits to Lifeline-eligible consumers including increased consumer choice, high-quality service offerings, and mobility. The statewide designated ETC area expansion will increase the number of low-income households that can benefit from Assurance Wireless's high quality mobile voice, text, and data services. Indeed, its presence in the expanded designated area will increase competition within the Lifeline market, which this Commission and the FCC have previously indicated is in the public interest. For the foregoing reasons, grant of this Petition is in the public interest.

V. CONCLUSION

12. Based on the foregoing, Assurance Wireless respectfully requests that the Commission promptly grant this Petition and expand its Lifeline-only ETC service area to be statewide authority, subject to its available facilities as they exist today and may exist in the future as further described in this Petition.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of October, 2024.

ATTORNEYS FOR ASSURANCE WIRELESS USA, LP




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ILEC	cli	Locality	Exchange	RateCenter
AMERICAN MESSAGING SERVICES, LLC	WPBHFLGR	MIAMI	MIAMI	MIAMI
BELLSOUTH TELECOMM INC DBA SOUTHERN BELL TEL & TEL	MICCFLBB	MICCO	SEBASTIAN	SEBASTIAN
CENTURYLINK OF FLORIDA, INC. (UNITED)	KSSMFLXC	REEDYCREEK	REEDY CREEK	REEDYCREEK



 T-Mobile Coverage