

**iCommLaw®**  
1547 Palos Verdes #298  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2228  
Phone: 415.699.7885  
anita@icommlaw.com

October 30, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Commission Clerk  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850  
(850) 413-6770

*Re: Petition of Integrated Path Communications, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier & Request for Confidential Treatment*

Dear Commission Clerk,

Attached for filing with the Commission please find the public redacted Petition (“Petition”) of Integrated Path Communications, LLC (“IPC”) for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

IPC hereby requests confidential treatment for certain portions identified in the Petition pursuant to Section 364.183, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code. Confidential treatment is requested for information regarding the location of collocation facility information. As required in Rule 25-22.006(5) of the Florida Administrative Code, the Petition with the information claimed as confidential has been blocked out.

[Signature block on next page]

Please contact me at [anita@icommlaw.com](mailto:anita@icommlaw.com) if there are any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita J. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

*Counsel for*

*Integrated Path Communications, LLC*

**BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Integrated Path Communications, LLC ) Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications )  
Carrier in the State of Florida )

**APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED PATH COMMUNICATIONS, LLC  
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER  
IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

**[PUBLIC VERSION]**

Comes now Integrated Path Communications, LLC ("IPC" or the "Company") and pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C §214(E)(2) (The "Act") and the rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") designate IPC as a telecommunications carrier eligible under the provisions of Section 54.210(d) to receive federal universal service support.

1. Section 214(e)(2) of the Act provides that a state Commission may, upon its own motion, or upon request, designate a common carrier to be an "eligible telecommunications carrier" ("ETC") for purposes of receiving universal service support under the Act. Section 214(e)(2) also requires the carrier designated meet the requirements of Section 214(e)(1). Section 214(e)(1) states:

A common carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier...shall be eligible to receive universal service support in accordance with Section 254 and shall, throughout the service area for which the designation is received.

- a) Offer the services that are supported by the Federal Universal Service support mechanism under section 254(c), either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services (including the service offered by another eligible telecommunications carrier); and
  - b) Advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefore using a media of general description.
2. With regard to non-rural telephone companies, Section 214(c)(5) of the Act and C.F.R. Section 54.207 define the term "service area" to be a "geographic area" established by a state commission for the purpose of determining universal obligations and support mechanisms". For the purpose of this application, the minimum geographic area that an applicant must serve to be designated as an ETC will be assumed to be an exchange.
  3. This Petition establishes that IPC meets the two criteria set forth in Section 214(e)(1). It also identifies the "service area" that IPC requests the Commission establish for purposes of IPC receiving low-income funding assistance.

### **Background**

4. IPC is a competitive Local Exchange Carrier ("CLEC") licensed by the commission to provide local exchange service within the State of Florida. The Florida Public Service Commission licensed IPC to provide local exchange service on October 29, 2012, under Docket No. 120216-TX, Order No. PSC-12-0586-CO-TX, Certificate 8865. IPC provides Local Telephone Service only (wireline). IPC currently provides basic local exchange and interexchange service in the State of Florida. IPC offers

facilities-based and resale services.

5. IPC's street address and principal place of business is 9030 State Route 22, Suite 3 Hillsdale, NY 12529. IPC's telephone number is (888) 224-6958.

6. All correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices and decisions relating to this application should be addressed to:

Brian Shepard  
9030 State Route 22, Suite 3  
Hillsdale, NY 12529  
Phone: (518) 325-1396  
Fax: (518) 325-1397  
Email: [bshepard@ipc-llc.com](mailto:bshepard@ipc-llc.com)

With copies to:

Anita Taff-Rice  
iCommLaw  
1547 Palos Verdes, #298  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
Phone: (415) 699-7885  
Fax: (925) 274-0988  
Email: [anita@icommlaw.com](mailto:anita@icommlaw.com)

7. Under 214(e)(1) of the Act, a telecommunications carrier may be designated as an ETC and thereby receive universal service support so long as the carrier, throughout its service areas: (a) offers the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms under §254(c) of the Act, either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and those of another carriers (including services offered by another ETC); and (b) advertises the availability of and charges for such services using media of general distribution. Section 54.201(b) of the FCC's Rules states that the Commission shall, on its own motion or upon request, designate a common carrier an ETC so long as the carrier meets the requirements of Section 54.201(d), which restates the requirements found in §214(e)(1) of the Act. Section

214(e)(2) of the Act and Section 54.201(c) of the FCC's Rules state that the Commission may, in the case of an area serviced by a rural telephone company, and shall, in the case of all other areas, designate more than one common carrier as an ETC for a service area the Commission designates, provided each additional requesting carrier satisfies 214(e)(1) of the Act and Section 54.201(d) of the FCC's Rules. Before designating an additional ETC for an area services by a rural telephone company, the Commission shall find that such designation is in the public interest.

**Integrated Path Communications Provides the  
Core Services Required to Qualify for Universal Service Support**

8. IPC will offer the following services that are supported by the federal universal service support mechanisms under 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 using its own facilities and a combination of its own facilities, leased unbundled network elements ("UNEs"), and resale of another carrier's services throughout the area for which it seeks ETC/ETP designation: (1) voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; (2) minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users; (3) access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911 systems, to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and (4) toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers as provided in subpart E of 47 C.F.R. §54.1. IPC will provide the supported services by utilizing its own facilities, including switching equipment, in combination with facilities furnished by incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs") and other providers. Specifically, IPC will provide universal service supported through a Cisco brand switching network on which it has full ownership. The network consists of a Cisco PGW 2200 control switch, Cisco AS 5400HPX Media Gateway, and Distributed Signaling Gateway. The control switch resides in a carrier grade

collocation facility at \*\*\*BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION\*\*\* [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] \*\*\*END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION\*\*\*,  
with generator supplied back-up power and air conditioning. The network is  
monitored 24 hours per day by a network - data operations center in Miami Florida.  
IPC has interconnection agreement with Frontier Communications of the South (FL),  
LLC CenturyLink Communications, LLC on file with the Commission Docket  
Number: 140129-TP. IPC has arrangements with ILECs and other providers for  
transport as necessary to connect the various network elements in its system.

9. IPC offers all the supported services enumerated under Section 254(c) using its own facilities or those obtained from other carriers. Accordingly, the Company satisfies the requirement set forth in Section 214(e)(1)(A).

**Integrated Path Communications Satisfies the Requirements  
of the FCC'S ETC Order**

10. On March 17, 2005, FCC 05-46 ("FCC ETC Order") was released. In that order, the FCC urged that the new procedures it contained serve as guidelines for state commissions to follow in their evaluation of ETC applications before those commissions. State commissions, however, are not bound by the guidelines in the FCC ETC Order when they evaluate ETC applications.
11. The guidelines in the FCC ETC Order generally require that the ETC applicant must demonstrate (1) a commitment and ability to provide services, including providing service to all customers within its proposed service area; (2) how it will remain functional in emergency situations; (3) that it will satisfy consumer protection and service quality standards; (4) that it offers local usage comparable to that offered by incumbent LEC; (5) an understanding that it may be required to provide equal access

if all other ETC's in the designated service area relinquish their designations pursuant to section 214(e)(4) of the Act.

12. More specially, the guidelines in the FCC ETC Order require the following:

- a) An ETC Applicant shall commit to provide service throughout its proposed designated service area to all customers who make a reasonable request for service. If the ETC's network already passes or covers the potential customer's premises, the ETC should provide service immediately. In those instances where a request comes from a potential customer within the applicant's licensed service area but outside its existing network coverage, the ETC applicant should provide service within a reasonable period of time if service can be provided at reasonable cost. If an ETC applicant determines that it cannot serve the customer at reasonable cost, then the ETC must report the unfulfilled request to the commission within 30 days after making such determination.
- b) An ETC Applicant shall submit a five-year plan that describes with specificity proposed improvements or upgrades to the applicant's network on a wire center-by-wire center basis throughout its proposed designated service area.
- c) An ETC Applicant shall demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations. Specifically, in order to be designated as an ETC, an applicant must demonstrate it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.



- d) An ETC Applicant shall demonstrate that it will satisfy appropriate consumer protection and service quality standards.
- e) An ETC Applicant shall demonstrate that it offers a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the incumbent LEC in the service areas for which it seeks designation.
- f) An ETC Applicant shall certify that the carrier acknowledges that the FCC may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers if all other ETCs withdraw from the market.

Applicant's Commitment to Provide Service throughout Its ETC Designated Area

13. Applicant possesses the ability and hereby makes a commitment to provide service throughout its proposed ETC designated service area to all customers who make a reasonable request for service. If Applicant's network already passes or covers the potential customer's premises, Applicant will provide service immediately. For those instances where a request comes from a potential customer within Applicant's proposed ETC Designated Area but outside its existing network coverage, Applicant will provide service within a reasonable period of time if service can be provided at a reasonable cost utilizing one or more of the following methods: (1) modifying or replacing the requesting customer's equipment; (2) deploying a roof mounted antenna or other equipment; (3) adjusting network or customer facilities; or (4) reselling services from another carrier's facilities to provide service. If Applicant determines that it cannot serve the customer using one or more of these methods, then it will report the unfulfilled request to the commission within 30 days after making such determination.

#### Applicant's Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations

14. Applicant has the ability to remain functional in emergency situations. Applicant has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.
  
15. Applicant's entire network is monitored to check for proper operations at all times. Applicant has technicians on call 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. Applicant also stocks a full complement of spare parts for all network components.

#### Applicant's Commitment on Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards

16. Applicant will satisfy appropriate consumer protection and service quality standards. Applicant has existing customer care programs that demonstrate its commitment to quality service.

#### Applicant's Comparable local Usage/Rate Plans

17. Applicant acknowledges that Section 54.405 of the FCC's Rules requires all ETCs to make lifeline services (as defined in Section 54.401 of the FCC's Rules) available to qualifying low-income consumers. Applicant commits to make lifeline and link-up service available for qualified customers. Applicant will charge a reduced or zero activation fee to link-up eligible subscribers. With respect to lifeline-eligible subscribers, Applicant commits to offer a service plan to provide a low-cost service option comparable in price to that offered by the ILEC.

Applicant's Commitment to Advertise Supported Service

18. IPC's advertising will conform to rules adopted by this Commission. Specifically, in accordance with Code Part 757, IPC will advertise the general availability of, and charges for, the supported services listed above to all telecommunications customers in the specified geographic area on a quarterly basis. It will place those advertisements in a media of general distribution to include direct mail, television and radio ads, and Internet that targets the residential customer. In addition, if the Commission so requests, IPC will provide proof of its advertising practices to the Commission. With regard to the availability of low-income services, IPC will also advertise in accordance with the Commission's rules. Finally, IPC is willing to provide written notification of universal service programs to the directors of municipal, State and Federal governmental agencies within IPC's service territory whose clientele is likely to benefit from the program.

Applicant's Commitment on Carrier of Last Resort Equal Access Requirement

19. Applicant acknowledges that the FCC or GPSC may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers if all other ETCs withdraw from the market.
20. Applicant commits to make equal access available to allow a subscriber that elects to pay its own toll charges to pre-select its long-distance carrier for all toll calls which the customer originates if the ILEC in a wire center within its proposed ETC designated service area drops its ETC designation.

## **Integrated Path Communications Proposed ETC Service Area**

21. IPC is not a "rural telephone company" as that term is defined by §153(37) of the Act. Under Section 54.207(a) of the Rules, a "service area" is a "geographic area" established by a state commission for the purpose of determining universal service obligations and support mechanisms. IPC's proposed service area includes all of the wire centers on Appendix A. For non-rural service areas, there are no restrictions on how a state commission defines the "service areas" for purposes of designating a competitive ETC. Therefore, the Commission may designate Applicant as an ETC in all the wire centers of the above-mentioned ILECs as shown on Appendix A. For these service areas, IPC presently only seeks low income support through the lifeline and link-Up programs but may want seek support from other federal programs as they are developed.

### **ETC Designation for Integrated Path Communications Will Greatly Enhance Lifeline and Link-up Services Available in Florida**

22. IPC acknowledges that Section 54.405 of the FCC's Rules requires all ETC'S to make lifeline services (as defined in Section 54.401 of the FCC's Rules) available to qualifying low-income consumers. Lifeline services are available to qualifying low-income consumers in its service areas. Indeed, designation of IPC as an ETC would also allow lifeline and link-up service to be available to IPC's customers thereby offering telecommunications to a market that often is limited in services and selection.

23. The IPC Application is before this Commission under an established set of rules and statutory requirements.

24. IPC does not have any pending action or final unsatisfied judgment or decisions against it from any state or federal agency or court which involve customer service or rates, which action, judgment or decision has occurred within three (3) years of the date of the application.

### **Conclusion**

WHEREFORE, on basis of the foregoing, IPC respectfully requests that the Commission: (1) designate IPC as a telecommunications carrier eligible under the provisions of the Section 54.201 (d) of the FCC's Rules to receive federal universal service support; and (2) respectfully requests that the Florida Service Commission either by order or minute action without a hearing within (90) days from the date of this Application; (3) request that the Executive Secretary to send appropriate notice of this order to the Federal Communications Commission; and, (4) issue such other orders as are deemed necessary or convenient in this matter.

DATED this 30th day of October 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Taff-Rice  
iCommLaw  
1547 Palos Verdes, #298  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
Phone: (415) 699-7885  
Fax: (925) 274-0988  
Email: [anita@icommlaw.com](mailto:anita@icommlaw.com)  
*Attorney for*  
*Integrated Path Communications, LLC*

## APPENDIX A

<b>Rate Centre</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Serving LATA</b>	<b>IPC Switch</b>
Tampa Central	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Tampa North	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Zephyrhills	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Plant City	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Hudson	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Tarpon Springs	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
New Port Richey	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
St Petersburg	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Clearwater	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Tampa West	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Tampa East	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9
Tampa South	FL	952	CNSDFLXAMD9