

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. to)	<u>File No. RO-2026-0112</u>
Expand its Eligible Telecommunications)	
Carrier Designated Service Area)	

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (“Staff”),
by and through counsel, and for its *Staff Recommendation*, states as follows:

1. On October 22, 2025, Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. (“Assurance Wireless”) filed an application to expand its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) designated service area for Lifeline only services in the state of Missouri.

2. On February 20, 2013, the Commission designated Assurance Wireless (formerly Virgin Mobile USA, L.P.) as a wireless ETC, pursuant to 47 USC § 214(e)(2), eligible to receive federal universal service Lifeline support in specified geographic areas effective March 04, 2013.¹

3. Assurance Wireless is a wholly owned subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. (“T-Mobile”). The principal offices of Assurance Wireless are located in Bellevue, Washington.

4. On October 28, 2025, the Commission entered an *Order* directing Staff to file a recommendation no later than November 20, 2025. The Commission Order limited applications to intervene to be filed no later than November 12, 2025.

¹ See *In the Matter of the Application of Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. Branded Assurance Wireless Brought to you by Virgin Mobile for Limited Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Missouri*; File No. RA-2012-0264.

5. In Accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 214, upon request and consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, the Commission may grant companies ETC status and designated service areas.²

6. Based upon review of the previous Commission orders, federal regulations, and commission rules, Staff recommends the Commission expand Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.'s ETC status for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support to the areas contained in Exhibit 1 of the application.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully request that the Commission accept its Recommendation on this matter; and to grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just and reasonable in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ray Cunneen

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**Attorney for Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission**

² 47 U.S.C. § 214 (e)(2).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First-Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 17th day of November 2025, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Ray Cunneen

MEMORANDUM

To: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
Case No. RO-2026-0112

From: Kari Salsman, Senior Research/Data Analyst
John Van Eschen, Regulatory Compliance Manager
Telecommunications Department

Subject: Staff's Recommendation to approve Assurance Wireless USA
L.P.'s Request for Expansion of Existing ETC Designation

Date: November 17, 2025

On October 22, 2025, Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. (Assurance Wireless) filed an application for expansion of their designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC).¹ The company is a wireless provider and is not certificated or registered by the Missouri Commission. Assurance Wireless seeks to expand its ETC designation in order to provide federal Lifeline discounts statewide where it has wireless coverage, specifically to areas contained in Exhibit 1 of the application.

Federal authority enables state commissions to grant ETC status to a company.² Missouri's ETC application requirements are contained in existing Missouri Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016. Staff reviewed the company's request for compliance with Missouri's rules as well as federal requirements. In Staff's opinion the company has adequately met all requirements. Consequently, Staff supports the Assurance Wireless's application for expansion of its ETC status.

Staff recommends the Commission expand Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.'s ETC status for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support to the areas contained in Exhibit 1 of the application.

¹ ETC status granted to Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. d/b/a Assurance Wireless brought to you by Virgin Mobile in Case No. TA-2011-0164. Name change to Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. in Case No. RN-2020-0268.

² 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(2) and FCC rule §54.201.