

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF NEXUS COMMUNICATIONS, :
INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE : DOCKET NO. 4238
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE :
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE LIMITED :
PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE :
TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On April 18, 2011, Nexus Communications, Inc. (“Nexus” or “Company”) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) a Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) throughout its service area in the State of Rhode Island pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 214(e)¹ in order to provide discounted service to low income customers and receive certain subsidies from the Federal Universal Service Fund (“Petition”); and

WHEREAS, Under this pre-paid wireless telecommunications service, Nexus will provide handsets to lifeline participants free of charge (only one participant per household) and will offer three calling plans each which include free minutes of usage each month and each of which provides different uses for the free minutes; and

WHEREAS, Because it is a pre-paid service, there is no concern that customers be protected from long-distance charges as there is with landline ETC service; and

WHEREAS, Nexus has indicated that it will recover a portion of the activation fee through disbursements from the Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) and recover the remaining portion of the activation fee from customers over a twelve month period with no interest; and

¹ 47 U.S.C. 214(e) imposed statutory responsibility upon the Commission to certify telecommunications service providers as “eligible” to receive funds from the Federal Universal Service Fund.

WHEREAS, Nexus indicated that it would conduct a recertification of its customers annually utilizing one of the methods contained in Part VI of the Commission's Rules and Regulations Governing the Certification and Verification Procedures for Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Payments from the Federal Universal Service Fund and Certification and Verification Processes for Compliance with Providing Lifeline and Linkup Service; and

WHEREAS, Nexus responded to data requests issued by the Commission and Division; and

WHEREAS, On June 7, 2011, the Commission issued a public Notice soliciting comments regarding the Petition. No comments were received; and

WHEREAS, On June 30, 2011, the Division filed Comments with the Commission supporting Nexus's Petition on the basis that it will provide more competition among phone service providers which will ultimately be a benefit to customers and allow low income customers who are not currently participating in Lifeline programs another choice. The Division also indicated that Nexus had adequately met all of the Commission's requirements in its ETC Rules; and

WHEREAS, The Commission is of the opinion that Nexus' petition for ETC designation is proper, complies with the federal and state requirements, and is in the best interest of ratepayers.

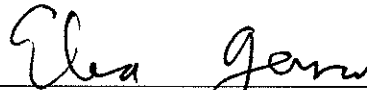
Accordingly, it is hereby

(20440) ORDERED:


1) Nexus Communications, Inc. is hereby designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout its service area and qualified to receive lifeline and linkup funding.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JULY 26, 2011
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON
AUGUST 5, 2011.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Elia Germani, Chairman



Mary E. Bray, Commissioner



Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner

