

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF VIRGIN MOBILE USA, L.P. :  
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE : DOCKET NO. 4250  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE :  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE LIMITED :  
PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE :  
TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On May 23, 2011, Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. (“Virgin Mobile” 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)<sup>1</sup> 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, Virgin Mobile will provide handsets to lifeline participants free of charge (only one participant per household) and will include two hundred fifty (250) free minutes of usage each month; 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, Virgin Mobile has indicated that its Lifeline service involves no charges for commencement of service; and

WHEREAS, Virgin Mobile has been allowed ETC status in several other states; and

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<sup>1</sup> 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, Virgin Mobile also filed for a Waiver of the requirement in 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 ("ETC Rules") that it be exempted from the requirement that it participate in the federal LinkUp program which allows a discount to the initial service charge for landline customers; and

WHEREAS, In support of its Waiver request, Virgin Mobile states that because its Lifeline service involves no charges for commencement of services, there are no charges to which linkup could apply; and

WHEREAS, Virgin Mobile responded to data requests issued by the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers ("Division"); and

WHEREAS, On July 11, 2011, the Commission issued a Public Notice to Solicit Comments regarding the Petition. No comments were received; and

WHEREAS, On July 14, 2011, the Division filed a letter with the Commission recommending approval of Virgin Mobile's Petition on the basis that the Company had adequately met all of the Commission's requirements in the ETC Rules; and

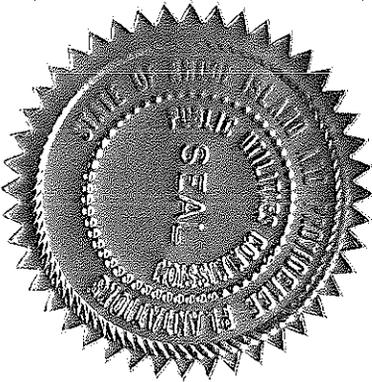
WHEREAS, The Commission is of the opinion that Virgin Mobile's petition for ETC designation is proper, complies with the federal and state requirements, and is in the best interest of ratepayers; and

Accordingly, it is hereby

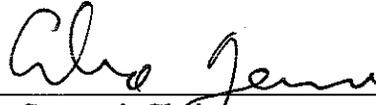
(20480) ORDERED:

- 1) Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. is hereby designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout its service area for receiving universal service support.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON AUGUST 31, 2011  
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2011.



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

  
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Elia Germani, Chairman

  
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Mary E. Bray, Commissioner

  
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Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner