

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF BUDGET PREPAY, INC. :
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE : DOCKET NO. 4294
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE :
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE :
PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE :
TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS :

ORDER

On January 5, 2012, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued an order designating Budget PrePay, Inc. (Budget) 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.²

On April 28, 2017, Budget filed with the PUC a Request to Relinquish ETC Designation, stating that there were a number of alternate ETCs offering lifeline service in Rhode Island. Therefore, Budget maintained that it not only meets the federal requirements for relinquishment, but also that customers will not be harmed by the granting of its request. Budget requested an effective date of June 5, 2017 and sent notice to its current customers together with a toll free telephone number to its customer service department to assist customers with the transition.³

On May 1, 2017, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers filed a memorandum recommending that Budget be allowed to relinquish its designation as an

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.

² Order No. 20607 (Jan. 5, 2017); [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4294-BudgetPrepay-Ord20607\(1-5-12\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4294-BudgetPrepay-Ord20607(1-5-12).pdf).

³ Budget Pet. at 2-3, 5 (Apr. 28, 2017); [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4294-BudgetPrePay-Relinquish\(4-27-17\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4294-BudgetPrePay-Relinquish(4-27-17).pdf).

ETC in Rhode Island.⁴ On May 4, 2017 at an Open Meeting, the PUC approved Budget's request. The PUC finds that there exists an adequate number of other carriers offering lifeline service in Rhode Island to provide sufficient access to reduced price telecommunications service to qualifying customers in Rhode Island.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(22795) ORDERED:

Budget PrePay, Inc.'s Request to Relinquish ETC Designation is hereby granted.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JUNE 5, 2017
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON
MAY 10, 2017.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION




Margaret E. Curran, Chairman


Herbert F. DeSimone, Jr., Commissioner


Marion S. Gold, Commissioner

Notice of Right of Appeal: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within 7 days from the date of the Order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or Order.

⁴ Division Mem. (May 1, 2017).