

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF TOTAL CALL MOBILE, INC. :
FOR RELINQUISHMENT OF ELIGIBLE : DOCKET NO. 4383
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION :

ORDER

On March 5, 2014, the Public Utilities Commission issued an order¹ designating Total Call Mobile, Inc. as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) throughout its service area in the State of Rhode Island, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e),² in order to provide discounted prepaid wireless service to low income customers and receive certain subsidies from the Federal Universal Service Fund.

On December 16, 2016, Total Call Mobile, Inc. filed a Request to Relinquish ETC Designation, stating that it seeks to discontinue service in Rhode Island due to changes in the wireless industry and the proposed modifications to the Lifeline program.³ In its petition, Total Call Mobile, Inc. represented that, in addition to the incumbent local exchange carrier, there were at least thirteen other competitive wireless Lifeline providers offering lifeline service in Rhode Island, thus posing no bar to the relinquishment. Total Call Mobile, Inc. represented that it currently has no subscribers in the State of Rhode Island.⁴

At an Open Meeting held on January 5, 2017, the Public Utilities Commission voted to allow Total Call Mobile, Inc. to relinquish its designation as an Eligible

¹ Order No. 21375 (Mar. 7, 2014); http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4383-TotalCall-Ord21375_3-7-14.pdf.

² 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.

³ Total Call Mobile, Inc. also represented that it intends to exist its wireless Lifeline business in every state and U.S. territory in which is currently offers wireless Lifeline Service. Pet. at 2; http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4383-4479-TotalCall-Relinquish_12-15-16.pdf.

⁴ Pet. at 1, 3.

Telecommunications Carrier in Rhode Island. There is an adequate number of other carriers, currently two wireline and fourteen wireless, offer lifeline service in Rhode Island. Therefore, Rhode Island residents will not be harmed by approval of the relinquishment.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(22660) ORDERED:

Total Call Mobile, Inc.'s Request to Relinquish ETC Designation is granted.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JANUARY 5, 2017
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON
FEBRUARY 7, 2017.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson



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 seven 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.