

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. :
OF AMERICA d/b/a STAND UP WIRELESS :
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE : DOCKET NO. 4446
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE :
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE :
PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE :
TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On September 30, 2013, Global Connection, Inc. of America d/b/a STAND UP WIRELESS (Stand Up Wireless or Company) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) 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. § 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, Stand Up Wireless will offer handsets to lifeline participants free of charge (only one participant per household) on a month-to-month basis without requiring a security deposit or credit check. The Company does not assess activation or connection of service charges²; and

WHEREAS, Stand Up Wireless will offer five Lifeline Plan choices with voice and SMS text messaging, including two which have no monthly cost to the customer and three which provide for discounts off the unsubsidized rate plans;³ and

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

² Global Connection Inc. of America Petition at Attachment 4, p. 20.

³ Global Connection Inc. of America Petition at 5-6. A customer on a discounted plan who fails to make his or her payment will automatically default to the StandUp 100 Plan with 100 free airtime minutes and 100 free SMS text messages for the subsequent service period. Petition at 7.

WHEREAS, Because it is a pre-paid service, there is no concern that customers will not be protected from long-distance charges as there is with landline ETC service; and

WHEREAS, As part of its petition, Stand Up Wireless represented that it has been allowed ETC status in eighteen other states; and

WHEREAS, As part of its petition, Stand Up Wireless filed with the PUC a copy of its Rhode Island-specific Enrollment Form which includes the federal eligibility and state-specific eligibility requirements along with its marketing materials and call center script; and

WHEREAS, On November 18, 2013, the PUC issued a Notice to Solicit Comments on Stand Up Wireless's Petition with a November 29, 2013 deadline for filing comments. No comments were received in response to the Notice; and

WHEREAS, On October 18, 2013, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers filed a Memorandum with the PUC recommending approval of Stand Up Wireless's Petition on the basis that the Company had adequately met all of the PUC's requirements in the ETC Rules; and

WHEREAS, The PUC is of the opinion that Stand Up Wireless'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

(21300) ORDERED:

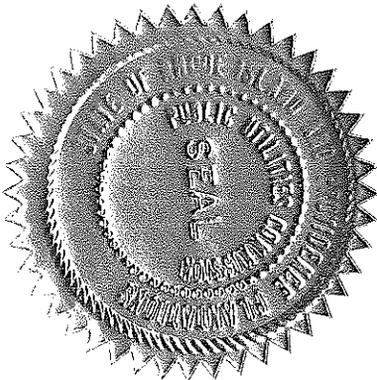
- 1) Global Connection Inc. of America d/b/a STAND UP WIRELESS is hereby designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout

its service area solely to provide lifeline service to qualifying Rhode Island low-income households such that Global Connection Inc. of America d/b/a STAND UP WIRELESS may receive universal service support.

- 2) To the extent 47 C.F.R. § 54.401 requires any additional information to be filed with the FCC or Universal Service Administration Company, Global Connection Inc. of America d/b/a STAND UP WIRELESS is hereby ordered to make such a filing.

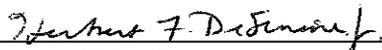
EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON DECEMBER 6, 2013
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON
DECEMBER 24, 2013.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION




Margaret E. Curran, Chairperson


Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner


Herbert F. DeSimone, Jr., 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 (7) 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.