

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF Q LINK WIRELESS LLC :  
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE :  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE : DOCKET NO. 4449  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE :  
PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE :  
TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On October 17, 2013, Q LINK WIRELESS LLC (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)<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, the Company 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 charges<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Company will offer four Lifeline Plan choices with various mixes of voice and text messaging, two of which include rollover minutes;<sup>3</sup> and

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

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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.

<sup>2</sup> Q LINK WIRELESS LLC Petition at 5.

<sup>3</sup> Q LINK WIRELESS LLC Petition at 4-5. One Lifeline Plan is a Tribal Plan. Petition at 5.

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

WHEREAS, As part of its petition, the Company 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 the Company's petition with a November 29, 2013 deadline for filing comments. No comments were received in response to the Notice; and

WHEREAS, On December 2, 2013, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers filed a Memorandum with the PUC recommending approval of the Company'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 the Company'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

(21299) ORDERED:

- 1) Q LINK WIRELESS, LLC is hereby designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout its service area to solely provide lifeline service to qualifying Rhode Island low-income households such that Q LINK WIRELESS, LLC 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, Q LINK WIRELESS LLC is hereby ordered to make such a filing.

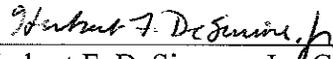
EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON DECEMBER 6, 2013  
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON  
DECEMBER 24, 2013.

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.