

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF BOOMERANG WIRELESS, :
LLC d/b/a enTOUCH WIRELESS :
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE : DOCKET NO. 4642
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE :
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE LIMITED :
PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE :
TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS :

ORDER

On August 25, 2016, Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless (Boomerang 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)¹ in order to provide discounted service to low income customers and receive certain subsidies from the Federal Universal Service Fund (petition). Under this pre-paid wireless telecommunications service, Boomerang will offer three plans, one with 500 minutes, one with 250 minutes, and a tribal offering of 1100 free minutes. With the exception of the tribal offering, each plan requires a customer to purchase or provide a handset and includes some level of data. 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. Boomerang offered that it has been allowed ETC status in several other states. Boomerang indicated that it will not be seeking ETC designation for the purpose of receiving federal service support for providing service to high-cost areas or on a wireline basis.

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.

On September 9, 2016, the Commission issued a public notice soliciting comments regarding the petition. No comments were received. On September 16, 2016, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers filed a letter with the Commission indicating that after its review of the petition, in conjunction with the PUC's Rules and Regulations Governing the Certification and Verification Procedures for Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Payments from the Federal Universal Services Fund, it supports Boomerang's Petition.

At an Open Meeting held on September 29, 2016, the PUC approved Boomerang's petition finding Boomerang's petition for ETC designation to be proper, in compliance with the federal and state requirements, and in the best interest of ratepayers.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(22563) ORDERED:

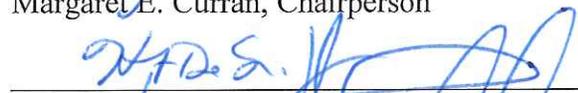
Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless is hereby designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout its service area for receiving universal service support.

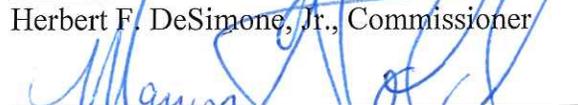
EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2016
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON
OCTOBER 7, 2016.



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.