

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

Petition of Global Connection Inc. of America  
d/b/a Stand Up Wireless to Amend its  
Designation as an Eligible  
Telecommunications Carrier in the State of  
Utah to Participate in the Utah Universal  
Service Fund

DOCKET NO. 19-2432-01

ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION AND  
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

ISSUED: October 10, 2019

On April 23, 2019, Global Connection Inc. of America d/b/a Stand Up Wireless (“Global”) filed its Petition to Amend its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Utah to Participate in the Utah Universal Service Fund (“Petition”). In the Petition, Global seeks an amendment to its existing eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation, authorizing it to obtain Utah Universal Service Funds (UUSF) for its Lifeline program.

On September 16, 2019, the parties filed a Stipulation and Settlement Agreement (“Settlement”), signed by the Division of Public Utilities (DPU), the Office of Consumer Services (OCS), and Global (collectively, the “Parties”). The Public Service Commission (PSC) held a hearing to consider the Settlement on September 24, 2019.

In the Settlement, the Parties stipulate and agree Global’s Lifeline product offering will offer an enhanced service to Utah customers that exceeds the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Lifeline requirements. The Parties further agree the enhanced Lifeline offering represents a benefit for Utah customers, is in the public interest, and furthers the statutory goal that basic service be available and affordable to all citizens of Utah.

Specifically, the Settlement provides that, as a condition of receiving UUSF support, Global will offer Lifeline customers the option of a bundle of services to include 800 voice

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minutes, unlimited text messages, and 2 GB of data at no cost to the consumer. The voice portion of the bundled plan will include Caller ID, Call Waiting, 3-Way Calling, and Voicemail Custom Calling. Utah Lifeline customers may still elect to subscribe to Global's national Lifeline Voice plan offering, which does not qualify for Utah USF support, at no net cost to the customer. Global will also continue to offer additional airtime and data usage for Lifeline customers to purchase if needed (customers can purchase a "Top-Up" or upgrade to a discounted retail plan). On and after December 1, 2019, the FCC's minimum monthly service standard will be calculated in accordance with the formula contained in the FCC's Minimum Service Standard Rule, 47 C.F.R. § 54.408(c)(2)(ii)(A)-(D), (c)(2)(iii). As of the date of the changes, Global will change the amount of mobile broadband data offered to its Lifeline customers to conform with the amount calculated pursuant to this rule.

The Parties agree Global will abide additional requirements enumerated in the Settlement, including but not limited to the following: (i) with respect to customers that will experience any loss of benefits by migrating to the Utah enhanced offering (i.e. customers currently on the 1,000-minute/500 MB plan migrating to the 800-minute/2 GB plan), Global will send an opt-out text message prior to plan migration informing customers about the new plan and what the customer will lose as well as what they will gain, with details on how to contact Global if the customer prefers to remain on their existing plan; (ii) Global will maintain a Utah-specific fact sheet that provides customers concise and complete information about the services they will receive; (iii) Global will receive \$3.50 per qualifying line per month pursuant to Utah Admin. Code R746-8-403 and Utah Code Ann. § 54-8b-15; (iv) Global will comply with all applicable state service quality and consumer protection requirements; (v) Global will pay all applicable

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state and local regulatory fees as a condition of receiving UUSF; (vi) Global agrees to adopt any changes to the Lifeline certification and verification process required by the FCC or by the PSC; and (vii) upon implementing any changes to its Lifeline offerings, Global will timely file a notice with the PSC, the DPU, and the OCS describing the changed plans.

At hearing, the DPU testified it believes approval of the Settlement to be just, reasonable, and in the public interest. The DPU further testified it was unaware of any opposition to the Settlement. Similarly, the OCS testified it believes the Settlement to be just and reasonable in result and that approval of the Settlement is in the public interest.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND ORDER

Settlement of matters before the PSC are statutorily encouraged. To approve a settlement, the PSC must consider the interests of the public and other affected persons and find the settlement is just and reasonable in result. Utah Code Ann. § 54-7-1.

Based on our consideration of the Petition, the submitted written testimony, the testimony at hearing, and the Settlement, the PSC finds and concludes that approval of the Settlement is in the public interest and that the terms of the Settlement are just and reasonable in result.

The PSC, therefore, approves the Settlement and grants the Petition, as conditioned and supplemented by the Settlement.

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, October 10, 2019.

/s/ Michael J. Hammer  
Presiding Officer

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Approved and confirmed October 10, 2019 as the Order of the Public Service  
Commission of Utah.

/s/ Thad LeVar, Chair

/s/ David R. Clark, Commissioner

/s/ Jordan A. White, Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg

PSC Secretary

DW#310251

Notice of Opportunity for Agency Review or Rehearing

Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. §§ 63G-4-301 and 54-7-15, a party may seek agency review or rehearing of this order by filing a request for review or rehearing with the PSC within 30 days after the issuance of the order. Responses to a request for agency review or rehearing must be filed within 15 days of the filing of the request for review or rehearing. If the PSC fails to grant a request for review or rehearing within 20 days after the filing of a request for review or rehearing, it is deemed denied. Judicial review of the PSC's final agency action may be obtained by filing a Petition for Review with the Utah Supreme Court within 30 days after final agency action. Any Petition for Review must comply with the requirements of Utah Code Ann. §§ 63G-4-401, 63G-4-403, and the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on October 10, 2019, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following as indicated below:

By Email:

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Administrative Assistant