



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU APPROVES THE COMPLIANCE PLANS OF AMERICAN BROADBAND & TELECOMMUNICATIONS, BUDGET PREPAY, CONSUMER CELLULAR, GLOBAL CONNECTION, TERRACOM AND TOTAL CALL

WC Docket Nos. 09-197 and 11-42

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) approves compliance plans of six telecommunications carriers: American Broadband & Telecommunications; Budget Prepay, Inc.; Consumer Cellular, Inc.; Global Connection, Inc. of America; TerraCom, Inc.; and Total Call Mobile, Inc. filed pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order* as a condition of obtaining forbearance from the facilities requirement of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), for the provision of Lifeline service.¹

The Act provides that in order to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purpose of universal service support, a carrier must “offer the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms . . . either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier’s services”² The Commission recently amended its rules to define voice telephony as the supported service and removed directory assistance and operator services, among other things, from the list of supported services.³ As a result of these amendments, many Lifeline-only ETCs that previously met the facilities requirement by relying on operator services, directory assistance or other previously supported services no longer meet the facilities requirement of the Act.⁴ In the *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Commission found that a grant of blanket forbearance of the facilities

¹ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 *et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11, at paras. 379-380 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012) (*Lifeline Reform Order*). A list of the compliance plans approved through this Public Notice can be found in the Appendix to this Public Notice.

² 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A).

³ See *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663, 17692-93, paras. 77-78, 80 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order*); *pets. for review pending sub nom. In re: FCC 11-161*, No. 11-9900 (10th Cir. filed Dec. 8, 2011); *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Order on Reconsideration, 26 FCC Rcd 17633, 17634-35, para. 4 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order on Reconsideration*).

⁴ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, FCC 12-11, at para. 366, App. A; *USF/ICC Transformation Order on Reconsideration* at para. 4. Some ETCs have included language in their compliance plans indicating that they have facilities or plan to acquire facilities in the future. See, e.g., Budget PrePay, Inc. Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, WC Docket Nos. 09-197 and 11-42, Compliance Plan of Budget PrePay, Inc. at 3 n. 6 (filed May 1, 2012). To the extent ETCs seek to avail themselves of the conditional forbearance relief established in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, we presume they lack facilities to provide the supported service under section 54.101 and 54.401 of the Commission’s rules. See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.101 and 54.401. Such ETCs must comply with the compliance plan approved herein in each state or territory where they are designated as an ETC, regardless of their claim of facilities for other purposes, such as eligibility for state universal service funding.

requirement, subject to certain public safety and compliance obligations, is appropriate for carriers seeking to provide Lifeline-only service.⁵ Therefore, in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Commission conditionally granted forbearance from the Act's facilities requirement to all telecommunications carriers seeking Lifeline-only ETC designation, subject to the following conditions: (1) compliance with certain 911 and enhanced 911 (E911) public safety requirements; and (2) Bureau approval of a compliance plan providing specific information regarding the carrier and its service offerings and outlining the measures the carrier will take to implement the obligations contained in the *Order*.⁶

The Bureau has reviewed the compliance plans listed in the Appendix for conformance with the *Lifeline Reform Order*, and now approves those six compliance plans.⁷

Filings, including the Compliance Plans identified in the Appendix, and comments are available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. They may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, telephone: (202) 488-5300, fax: (202) 448-5563, or via email www.bcpweb.com.

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For further information, please contact Divya Shenoy, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400 or TTY (202) 418-0484.

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⁵ See *Lifeline Reform Order*, FCC 12-11 at paras. 368-381.

⁶ See *id.* at paras. 373 and 389. Subsequently, the Bureau provided guidance for carriers submitting compliance plans pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order*. *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance for the Submission of Compliance Plans Pursuant to the Lifeline Reform Order*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197 and 11-42, Public Notice, 27 FCC Rcd 2186 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012).

⁷ The Commission has not acted on any pending ETC petitions filed by these carriers, and this Public Notice only approves the compliance plans of the carriers listed above. While these compliance plans contain information on each carrier's Lifeline offering, we leave it to the designating authority to determine whether or not the carrier's Lifeline offerings are sufficient to serve consumers. See *Lifeline Reform Order*, FCC 12-11 at paras. 50 and 387.

Appendix

Petitioner	Compliance Plans As Captioned by Petitioner	Date of Filing	Docket Numbers
American Broadband & Telecommunications	American Broadband & Telecommunications Revised Compliance Plan	April 27, 2012	09-197; 11-42
Budget PrePay, Inc.	Compliance Plan of Budget PrePay, Inc.	May 1, 2012	09-197; 11-42
Consumer Cellular, Inc.	Consumer Cellular Amended Revised Compliance Plan	April 18, 2012	09-197; 11-42
Global Connection, Inc. of America	Global Connection Inc. of America Compliance Plan	April 30, 2012	09-197; 11-42
TerraCom, Inc.	TerraCom, Inc. Second Revised Blanket Forbearance Compliance Plan	May 1, 2012	09-197; 11-42
Total Call Mobile, Inc.	Total Call, Inc. Revised Compliance Plan	May 17, 2012	09-197; 11-42