

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

In the Matter of the Petition of Assist
Wireless, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier for the Purpose
of Offering Lifeline Service on a Wireless
Basis

DOCKET NO. 17-2597-01

ORDER BIFURCATING
PROCEEDINGS AND NOTICE OF
SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

ISSUED: June 13, 2017

On May 18, 2017, Assist Wireless, Inc. (Assist Wireless) filed with the Public Service Commission of Utah (PSC) the above petition, requesting designation as an eligible telecommunications company for the purpose of receiving federal and state support for Lifeline service to qualified customers in Utah.

In the 2017 Utah General Legislative Session, statutory changes were enacted to broaden the application of Utah's state Lifeline support so as to include wireless telecommunications providers as eligible recipients. However, those statutory changes do not go into effect until July 1, 2017. Additionally, the amended statute requires the PSC to promulgate rules governing eligibility prior to beginning disbursements to wireless providers.¹ As of the date of this order, the PSC is drafting the necessary rules, but is not yet ready to enact them.

Given the foregoing, the PSC bifurcates this docket. The immediate proceedings will adjudicate Assist Wireless's request for designation as an eligible telecommunications provider for the purpose of receiving federal Lifeline support for its Utah customers. After the PSC makes effective rules governing wireless providers' eligibility for state Lifeline support, it will use those rules to adjudicate Assist Wireless's request for state support.

¹ The amended statute requires that the necessary rules be in place by January 1, 2018.

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NOTICE OF SCHEDULING CONFERENCE

The Public Service Commission of Utah will hold a scheduling conference at 9:00 A.M. on **Thursday, June 22, 2017** in the Fourth Floor Room 401, of the Heber M. Wells Building, 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Parties should come prepared to discuss the schedule for the case, including the hearing date and filing deadlines for testimony and prehearing motions. Parties should factor any applicable statutory deadline into the proposed schedule.

Individuals wishing to participate by telephone should contact the Public Service Commission two days in advance by calling (801) 530-6716 or (toll free) 1-866-PSC-UTAH (1-866-722-8824) to receive a bridge number and participant passcode. Participants attending by telephone should then call the bridge number five minutes before the conference, entering the passcode followed by the # sign to ensure participation.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during the conference should notify the Commission at 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114, (801) 530-6716, at least three working days prior to the conference.

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, June 13, 2017.

/s/ Jennie T. Jonsson
Administrative Law Judge

Attest:

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg
Commission Secretary
DW#294581

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on June 13, 2017, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following as indicated below:

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