

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF BUDGET PREPAY, INC. DBA BUDGET) CASE NO. BPP-T-12-01
MOBILE TO RELINQUISH ITS)
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN) ORDER NO. 33768
IDAHO)

On April 18, 2017, Budget Prepay, Inc. dba Budget Mobile (“Budget” or the “Company”) filed a Notice of Relinquishment of its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in Idaho. Budget was granted a limited federal Lifeline-only ETC status on January 23, 2013. *See* Order No. 32723. The Company now seeks to relinquish its Lifeline-only ETC designation “because of changes in the wireless industry and proposed modifications to the [federal] Lifeline Program.” Application at 1. Budget asserted that the relinquishment of its ETC designation will not affect Idaho Lifeline customers because they can be served by other ETCs within the designated service area. *Id.* at 3.

The Company further stated that it has fewer than 250 Lifeline customers within its ETC designated area in Idaho and that these customers will receive text message notification by April 19, 2017, of Budget’s plan to cease Lifeline services, effective June 5, 2017. *Id.* at 4. The Company asserted that the notice would provide information related to other Idaho Lifeline providers as well as customer service information. *Id.* at 5. Budget stated that it would not charge affected customers an early termination fee. *Id.* at 4.

STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff reviewed Budget’s Application and stated that the Company had satisfied all the statutory requirements for relinquishment of ETC designation in Idaho. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a). Staff believed that the Company’s former Lifeline subscribers will have competitively-priced alternatives with other wireline and wireless ETC providers in its service area. Thus, Staff recommended Commission approval of Budget’s request to relinquish its ETC designation.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission reviewed Budget’s Application and Staff’s recommendation. The Commission approves the Company’s request to relinquish its ETC designation in Idaho. The

Commission approved the Company' initial Application for ETC designation in Idaho on January 23, 2013. *See* Order No. 32723. The Commission finds that Budget's decision to relinquish its ETC designation will not adversely affect telecommunications customers in the Company's ETC designated area. Additionally, the Commission finds that Budget's former customers will continue to have access to wireless service through subscription with an alternate ETC provider in the Company's former service area. Therefore, the Commission approves Budget's Application to relinquish its ETC designation in Idaho.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Application of Budget Prepay, Inc. dba Budget Mobile to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier status in Idaho is approved.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in the Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code* §§ 61-626 and 62-619.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 12th
day of May 2017.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

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