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May 18, 2021

Via Electronic Delivery

Judith Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street, 2nd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620

Re: Petition of East Central Vermont Telecommunications District for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Case No. 21-0049-PET

Dear Judith,

On January 6, 2021, East Central Vermont Telecommunications District ("ECFiber") electronically filed its Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the above referenced matter. ECFiber subsequently engaged in follow-up discussions regarding the Petition with Department of Public Service ("DPS"). Based upon those discussions, ECFiber filed a Supplement to the Petition dated March 24, 2021. Thereafter, the DPS filed Comments, also on March 24th, to ECFiber's Petition.

ECFiber supports and has no objection to the DPS' Comments to the Petition.

In addition, ECFiber respectfully renews its request for expedited consideration of its Petition by the Commission.

As ECFiber stated in the Petition, ECFiber had been awarded Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I support in the FCC's RDOF Phase I auction ("Auction 904"), and as a condition of such RDOF award, ECFiber is obligated to obtain ETC designation status within 180 days of the announcement by the FCC that ECFiber was a winning bidder. Petition at 1-2.

This 180-day deadline falls on June 7, 2021.

Unfortunately, if ECFiber does not obtain its ETC designation by June 7th, its Auction 904 RDOF award will be in jeopardy.

Moreover, the FCC recently announced the availability of funds through its Emergency Broadband Benefit (“EBB”) program. The EBB program allows eligible low-income households to receive a discount off the cost of broadband services. ETC status will allow ECFiber to participate in this program.

According, for all of the reasons stated in this letter and in its Petition, ECFiber respectfully requests that the Commission act expeditiously on its Petition so that ECFiber can meet the June 7th deadline of being designated an ETC, as established by the FCC in Auction 904.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew H. Montroll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "Montroll" clearly legible.

Andrew H. Montroll, Esq.

Enclosure

CC: Carole Monroe
Sarah Aceves, Vermont Department of Public of Public Service (via e-mail)