

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Budget PrePay, Inc.
Designated Eligible Carrier
Cancellation / Application**

Case No. PU-17-175

ORDER ON ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION

July 12, 2017

Preliminary Statement

On December 12, 2012, the Commission issued an Order designating Budget PrePay, Inc. (Budget) as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for the purpose of receiving federal universal service support for low-income consumers in the study areas of Qwest Corporation and SRT Communications, Inc. in North Dakota, Case No. PU-12-707.

On April 26, 2017, the Commission received Budget's application to relinquish the ETC designation and to discontinue the provision of wireless services due to changes in the wireless industry and proposed modifications to the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline program.

On May 10, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Comment providing until close of business on June 23, 2017 to receive comments. No comments were received.

Discussion

Budget intends to relinquish its designation as an ETC due to changes in the wireless industry and proposed modifications to the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline program.

Under 47 U.S.C. section 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. section 54.205, the Commission shall permit a carrier to relinquish its ETC designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the state commission shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The state commission shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the state commission approves such relinquishment under this section, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

The Commission has reviewed the documents in this proceeding and finds that it has not been shown that customers served by the relinquishing carrier will not continue to be served by the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers. Budget states that it has less than 40 subscribers in North Dakota.

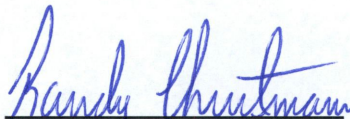
Order

The Commission orders that Budget PrePay, Inc.'s relinquishment of its December 12, 2012 designation as an essential telecommunications carrier is permitted effective July 12, 2017.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**Brian Kroshus
Commissioner**



**Randy Christmann
Chairman**



**Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner**