

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

Tri-Co Connections LLC

Public Meeting held April 11, 2019
3005127-LAW
Docket Nos. P-2018-3005127

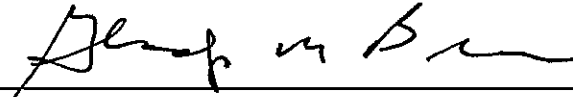
STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN GLADYS M. BROWN

The Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation we grant today is required by federal law before a carrier can receive federal funding. It is also historic.

Tri-Co can now proceed to get the funding it seeks to construct a Fiber-to-the-Home Broadband network in very high-cost areas of rural Pennsylvania. This fiber network, a network that offers virtually unlimited capacity, is going to provide broadband service to rural consumers at speeds greater than the federal minimum and at affordable rates. This includes eligible low-income consumers under the federal Lifeline program.

Tri-Co's petition was successful, at least in part, due to a \$17.15M funding commitment from Pennsylvania as part of the Office of Broadband Initiative's focus on getting broadband to rural Pennsylvania. We look forward to working with Tri-Co as it deploys this state-of-the-art fiber broadband network and begins to provide service to rural Pennsylvania.

April 11, 2019
Date



Gladys M. Brown, Chairman