

WEIKLE & Co.

January 22, 2021

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc. Application for Amended ETC Designation

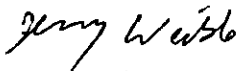
Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

On behalf of Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc., enclosed is an Application for Amended Designation as An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC"). Armstrong was previously awarded ETC status in Docket No. P-2018-3005035. Armstrong seeks an amended ETC certification in order to qualify for available federal high cost USF for providing designated services in high cost areas awarded in the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC's") Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Auction conducted in 2020. Armstrong was awarded Census Blocks in this Auction. Armstrong requests an amended ETC certification to cover these awarded Census Blocks.

A condition to accept FCC high cost support is for Armstrong to have ETC designation covering the awarded RDOF Census Blocks and notify the Federal Communications Commission no later than June 7, 2021.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at 704.699.9451.

Sincerely,



Jerry Weikle
Consultant to Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc.

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Application of:

Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc. to Amend its Certificate for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

1. **IDENTITY OF THE APPLICANT:** The name, address, telephone number, and fax number of the Applicant.

Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc.
One Armstrong Place
Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724-283-0925
Fax: 724-256-8098

Please identify any predecessors of the Applicant and provide other names under which the Applicant has operated within the preceding five years, including name, address, and telephone number.

Not applicable.

2. **ATTORNEY:** The name, address, telephone number, and fax number of the Applicant's attorney.

Kathryn Zeltwanger
Deputy General Counsel
One Armstrong Place
Butler, PA 16001
Phone: (724) 283-0925
Fax: (724) 256-8098

3. **CONTACTS:**

A) **APPLICATION:** The name, title, address, telephone number, and fax number of the person to whom questions about this application should be addressed.

Jerry Weikle
Weikle & Co.
151 Spring St NW
Concord NC 28025
Phone: 704-699-9451
Fax: 704-793-6338

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B) PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (PEMA): The name, title, address, telephone number and FAX number of the person with whom contact should be made by PEMA (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency).

Thomas S. Wilson
Director Telecom Traffic Management
Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724-283-0925
Fax: 724-256-8068

C) RESOLVING COMPLAINTS: Name, address, telephone number, and FAX number of the person and an alternate person responsible for addressing customer complaints. These persons will ordinarily be the initial point(s) of contact for resolving complaints and queries filed with the Public Utility Commission or other agencies.

Thomas S. Wilson
Director Telecom Traffic Management
Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724-283-0925
Fax: 724-256-8068

Shawn Beqaj
VP of Regulatory and Interconnection
Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724-283-0925
Fax: 724-256-8068

4. FICTITIOUS NAME:

The Applicant will not be using a fictitious name.

The Applicant will be using a fictitious name. Attach to the Application a copy of the Applicant's filing with the Commonwealth's Department of State pursuant to 54 Pa. C.S. § 311, Form PA-953.

5. BUSINESS ENTITY AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE FILINGS: Applicant has registered its business with the Pennsylvania Department of State. Please check the appropriate registration type for Applicant as designated with the Department.

- Sole proprietor
- Domestic general partnership
- Domestic corporation
- Domestic limited partnership
- Domestic limited liability company

- Domestic limited liability partnership
- *Foreign corporation
- *Foreign general or limited partnership
- *Foreign limited liability company
- *Foreign limited liability general partnership
- *Foreign limited liability limited partnership

*Provide name and address of Corporate Registered Office Provider or Registered Office within PA. _____

Attach to the application the name and address of partners. If any partner is not an individual, identify the business nature of the partner entity and identify its partners or officers.

Attach to the application proof of compliance with appropriate Department of State filing requirements as indicated above. Additionally, provide a copy of the Applicant's Articles of Incorporation or a Certificate of Organization.

The Applicant is incorporated in the State of Pennsylvania. The Applicant is in good standing with the Department of State. The Applicant's Articles of Incorporation have not changed since being filed in A-2019-3015183.

Give name and address of officers:

Dru A. Sedwick – CEO and Secretary, One Armstrong Place, Butler, PA 16001
Jeffrey A. Ross – President, One Armstrong Place, Butler, PA 16001
Mark J. Rankin – CFO and Treasurer, One Armstrong Place, Butler, PA 16001

6. AFFILIATES AND PREDECESSORS WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA:

- The Applicant has no affiliates doing business in Pennsylvania or predecessors which have done business in Pennsylvania.
- The Applicant has affiliates doing business in Pennsylvania or predecessors which have done business in Pennsylvania. Name and address of the affiliates. State whether they are jurisdictional public utilities. Give docket numbers for the authority of such affiliates.

If the Applicant or an affiliate has predecessors who have done business within Pennsylvania, give name and address of the predecessors and state whether they were jurisdictional public utilities. Give the docket numbers for the authority of such predecessors.

Armstrong Telephone Company – North
693 Main Street
Duke Center, PA 16729
A jurisdictional public utility

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Armstrong Telephone Company – Pennsylvania
1755 State Route 30
Clinton, PA 15026
Certificate of Public Convenience at Commission Docket No. A-312350

Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc.
One Armstrong Place
Butler, PA 16001
Certificate of Public Convenience at Commission Docket Nos. A-311014 F0002,
A-311014 F0003, A-311014F002AMA, A-311014F002AMB, A-311014 F0002,
Am-B, A-311014F0002AMC, A-311014 F0002, Am-C, and A-2012-2287271
A jurisdictional public utility

Armstrong Utilities, Inc.
One Armstrong Place
Butler, PA 16001
Not a jurisdictional public utility

Armstrong Digital Services, Inc.
One Armstrong Place
Butler, PA 16001
Not a jurisdictional public utility

Armstrong Holdings, Inc.
One Armstrong Place
Butler, PA 16001
Not a jurisdictional public utility

AGOC Investments, Inc.
One Armstrong Place
Butler, PA 16001
Not a jurisdictional public utility

7. AFFILIATES AND PREDECESSORS RENDERING PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE OUTSIDE PENNSYLVANIA:

- The Applicant has no affiliates rendering or predecessors which rendered public utility service outside Pennsylvania.
- The Applicant has affiliates rendering or predecessors which rendered public utility service outside Pennsylvania. Name and address of the affiliates and predecessors (please identify affiliates versus predecessors).

Armstrong Telephone Company – New York
136 East Front Street

Addison, NY 14801

Armstrong Telephone Company – West Virginia
311 Main Street
Hamlin, WV 25523

Armstrong Telephone Company – Northern Division (WV)
600 East North Street
Harrisville, WV 26362

Armstrong Telephone Company – Maryland
122 South Queen Street
Rising Sun, MD 21911

8. APPLICANT'S PRESENT OPERATIONS: (Select and complete the appropriate statement)

- The applicant is not presently doing business in Pennsylvania as a public utility.
- The applicant is presently doing business in Pennsylvania as a:
 - Interexchange Toll Reseller, InterLATA and/or IntraLATA, (e.g., MTS, 1+, 800, WATS, Travel and Debit Cards)
 - Interexchange Toll Facilities-based carrier, InterLATA and/or IntraLATA, (e.g., MTS, 1+, 800, WATS, Travel and Debit Cards)
 - Competitive Access Provider (dedicated point-to-point or multipoint service; voice or data)
 - Competitive Local Exchange Carrier.
 - Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier.
 - Other (Identify).

9. APPLICANT'S PROPOSED OPERATIONS: The Applicant proposes to operate as:

- Interexchange Toll Reseller, InterLATA and/or IntraLATA, (e.g., MTS, 1+, 800, WATS, Travel and Debit Cards)
- Interexchange Toll Facilities-based carrier, InterLATA and/or IntraLATA, (e.g., MTS, 1+, 800, WATS, Travel and Debit Cards)
- Competitive Access Provider (dedicated point-to-point or multipoint service; voice or data)
- Competitive Local Exchange Carrier.
- Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier

Other (Identify).

10. **PROPOSED SERVICES:** Describe in detail the services which the Applicant proposes to offer. If proposing to provide more than one category in Item #9, clearly and separately delineate the services within each proposed operation. Provide a brief description of the facilities the Company will use to provide services. Specify whether those facilities are Company-owned or obtained from other companies as UNEs or on a resold basis.

Interexchange Toll Reseller: Applicant proposes to operate as reseller of toll services, including MTS, 1+, and 800 toll free services.

Competitive Access Provider: Applicant proposes to offer facilities based point-to-point services.

Competitive Local Exchange Carrier: Applicant proposes to offer competitive local exchange services. Services will include dialtone service and custom calling features for residential and business customers. Applicant intends to provide services with a combination of TDM and VoIP technologies. Applicant intends to use its own switching facilities and to obtain transport from other providers where needed. Applicant will be offering Lifeline service to customers in this expanded ETC service area.

11. **SERVICE AREA:** Describe the geographic service area in which the Applicant proposes to offer services. Clearly and separately delineate the service territory for each category listed in Item #9. For Competitive Local Exchange Carrier operations, you must name and serve the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers in whose territory you request authority.

Applicant is currently certificated as a carrier. Applicant is currently designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) covering areas awarded in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Connect America Fund II (CAF-II) Auction in 2018. Applicant participated in the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Auction in late 2020. Applicant was awarded Census areas as listed in Attachment A. Applicant needs ETC status covering the awarded Census Blocks.

Interexchange Toll Reseller: Applicant proposes to offer toll reseller services.

Competitive Access Provider: Applicant proposes to offer facilities based point-to-point services.

Competitive Local Exchange Carrier: Applicant proposes to offer competitive local exchange services.

12. **MARKET:** Describe the customer base to which the Applicant proposes to market its services. Clearly and separately delineate a market for each category listed in Item #9.

Interexchange Toll Reseller: Applicant proposes to offer toll reseller services to residential, business, and wholesale customers.

Competitive Access Provider: Applicant proposes to offer services to business and wholesale customers.

Competitive Local Exchange Carrier: Applicant proposes to offer competitive local exchange services to residential, business, and wholesale customers.

13. **PROPOSED TARIFF(S):** Each category of proposed operations must have a separate and distinct proposed tariff setting forth the rates, rules and regulations of the Applicant. Every proposed tariff shall state on its cover page the nature of the proposed operations described therein, i.e., IXC Reseller, CLEC, CAP, or IXC Facilities-based. A copy of all proposed tariffs must be appended to each original and duplicate original and copy of Form 377.

This Application has no impact on existing Company tariffs. Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc. currently offers Lifeline service in its PA PUC Tariff No. 1 (Local Exchange Service) because of its ETC designation covering the CAF II awarded territory. An expansion of the ETC designation to include the RDOF territory will not require a change in any of the Applicant's tariffs..

14. **FINANCIAL: *Attach the following to the Application:***

A general description of the Applicant's capitalization and, if applicable, its corporate stock structure;

Current balance sheet, Income Statement, and Cash Flow Statement of Applicant or Affiliated Company, if relying on affiliate for financial security;

A tentative operating balance sheet and a projected income statement for the first year of operation within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; provide the name, title, address, telephone number and fax number of the Applicant's custodian for its accounting records and supporting documentation; and indicate where the Applicant's accounting records and supporting documentation are, or will be, maintained.

If available, include bond rating, letters of credit, credit reports, insurance coverage and reports, and major contracts.

Applicant is currently a certificated CLEC, IXC Reseller, and CAP based on Docket Nos. A-311014F002, A-311014F002AMA, A-311014F002AMB, A-311014F002AMC, and A-311014F003.

15. **START DATE:** The Applicant needs to submit ETC designation to the FCC by June 7, 2021 in order to be eligible to receive Universal Service Funding. Scheduling and planning are still being done to determine when service would be available in the RDOF territory.

16. **FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS:** Attach to the Application a statement of further developments, planned or contemplated, to which the present Application is preliminary or with which it forms a part, together with a reference to any related proceeding before the Commission.

Not Applicable.

17. **NOTICE:** Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.14, you are required to serve a copy of the signed and verified Application, with attachments, on the below-listed parties, and file proof of such service with this Commission:

Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street
5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Office of Small Business Advocate
Commerce Building, Suite 1102
300 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Office of Attorney General
Office of Consumer Protection
Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

A certificate of service must be attached to the Application as proof of service that the Application has been served on the above-listed parties. A copy of any Competitive Local Exchange Carrier Application must also be served on any and/or all Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier(s) in the geographical area where the Applicant proposes to offer services.

18. **FEDERAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996:** State whether the Applicant claims a particular status pursuant to the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Provide supporting facts.

Not Applicable.

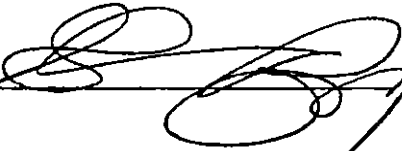
19. **COMPLIANCE:** State specifically whether the Applicant, an affiliate, a predecessor of either, or a person identified in this Application has been convicted of a crime involving fraud or similar activity. Identify all proceedings, limited to proceedings dealing with business operations in the last five (5) years, whether before an administrative body or in a judicial forum, in which the Applicant, an affiliate, a predecessor of either, or a person identified herein has been a defendant or a

respondent. Provide a statement as to the resolution or present status of any such proceedings.

Neither the Applicant nor any individual named in this Application has been convicted of a crime involving fraud or similar activity.

20. **FALSIFICATION:** The Applicant understands that the making of false statement(s) herein may be grounds for denying the Application or, if later discovered, for revoking any authority granted pursuant to the Application. This Application is subject to 18 Pa. C.S. §§ 4903 and 4904, relating to perjury and falsification in official matters.
21. **CESSATION:** The Applicant understands that if it plans to cease doing business within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is under a duty to request authority from the Commission for permission prior to ceasing business.

Applicant: Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc.

By: 

Title: Vice President

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22. **AFFIDAVIT:** Attach to the Application an affidavit as follows:

AFFIDAVIT

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania :
: ss.
County of Butler :

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Shawn Beqai, Affiant, being duly [sworn/affirmed] according to law, deposes and says that:

Affiant is the Vice President (Office of Affiant) of Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc.


That Affiant is authorized to and does make this affidavit for said corporation;

That Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc., the Applicant herein, acknowledges that [he/she/it] may have an obligation to serve or to continue to serve the public by virtue of the Applicant commencing the rendering of service pursuant to this Application consistent with the Public Utility Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Title 66 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes; with the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, signed February 6, 1996, or with other applicable statutes or regulations;

That Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc., the Applicant herein, asserts that Affiant possesses the requisite technical, managerial, and financial fitness to render public utility service within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that the Applicant will abide by all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and by the decisions of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

That Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc., the Applicant herein, asserts that Affiant has contacted the appropriate 911 Coordinator(s) via certified letter, from the list provided from the PUC website (<http://www.puc.pa.gov>), and that arrangements are under way for the provisioning of emergency 911 service in each of the Counties/Cities where service is to be provided. The applicant certifies Affiant has attached a copy of the 911 Coordinator list indicating each 911 Coordinator contacted.

That the facts above set forth are true and correct] to the best of [Affiant knowledge, information and belief, and that Affiant expects said entity to be able to prove the same at any hearing thereof]



Signature of Affiant

Sworn and subscribed before me this 21st day of January, 2021.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal
Bess L. Mental, Notary Public
Butler County
My commission expires May 6, 2023
Commission number 1350222
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries



Signature of official administering oath

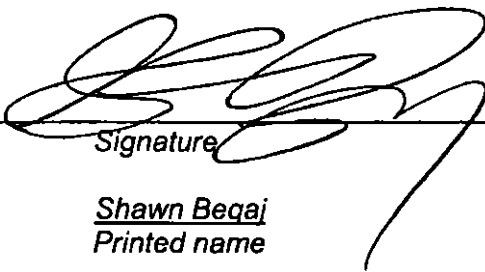
My Commission expires May 6, 2023

23. § 1.36 Verification.

Verification

I, Shawn Beqaj, hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct (or are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief), and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date



Signature

Shawn Beqaj
Printed name

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911 COORDINATOR MAILING LIST

There are no 911 Coordinators that required notification of this application.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 22nd day of January, 2021, served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Application of Armstrong Telecommunications, Inc., upon the persons listed below as follows:

First Class Mail. Postage Prepaid:

Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street
5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

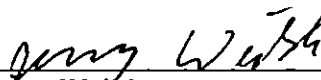
Office of Small Business Advocate
Commerce Building, Suite 1102
300 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Office of Attorney General
Office of Consumer Protection
Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Jerry Weikle

WEIKLE & CO
JERRY WEIKLE
151 SPRING STREET NW
CONCORD, NC 28025-4749



1020



17105

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FCM LG ENV
CONCORD, NC
28025
JAN 22, 21
AMOUNT

\$1.60

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Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265