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| PUC logo | COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17120 | **IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO OUR FILE**  P-2018-3005127 |

May 24, 2021

Kenneth R. Stark, Esq.

Counsel to Tri-Co Connections, LLC

100 Pine Street

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[kstark@mcneeslaw.com](mailto:kstark@mcneeslaw.com)

Re: *Petition of Tri-Co Connections, LLC, for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, filed February 4, 2021 with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission; Docket No. P-2018-3005127

Dear Attorney Stark:

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) is in receipt of and is in the process of reviewing the joint petition of Tri-Co Connections, LLC’s (Tri-Co) for expansion of their Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation, which was filed on February 4, 2021.

The Commission recognizes that Tri-Co has acted in good faith by demonstrating its willingness to work with the Commission to address issues of concern identified by Commission staff in its ETC petition. Commission staff has been diligent in evaluating Tri-Co’s ETC petition, and Tri-Co also has been responsive to the Commission’s requests for additional information to supplement Tri-Co’s ETC application.

The Commission is aware that, per the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Tri-Co must obtain its ETC designation for all areas where it seeks to be authorized to receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auctioned support and submit required documentation to the FCC prior to 6:00 p.m. ET on Monday, June 7, 2021. However, given the complexity of the issues involved in processing an ETC petition, the Commission’s desire to ensure completeness of both the petition and review process, and the Commission’s Public Meeting schedule, the Commission does not anticipate acting on Tri-Co’s ETC petition by June 7, 2021. Assuming continued cooperation by Tri-Co, the Commission does expect that Tri-Co’s ETC petition will be ready for disposition at a Public Meeting of the Commission in the near future.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tiffany L. Tran

Tiffany L. Tran Assistant Counsel