



THOMAS, NIESEN & THOMAS, LLC

Attorneys and Counsellors at Law

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January 5, 2021

Via Electronic Filing

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

In re: Joint Petition of Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC d/b/a Frontier Communications Commonwealth Telephone Company; Frontier Communications of Breezewood, LLC; Frontier Communications of Canton, LLC; and Frontier Communications of Pennsylvania, LLC, For Expansion of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Status to Include Additional Census Blocks

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

We are counsel to Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC d/b/a Frontier Communications Commonwealth Telephone Company; Frontier Communications of Breezewood, LLC; Frontier Communications of Canton, LLC; and Frontier Communications of Pennsylvania, LLC and are submitting with this letter, via electronic filing, their Joint Petition for Expansion of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Status to Include Additional Census Blocks.

A copy of the Joint Petition is being served upon the persons and in the manner set forth on the certificate of service attached to it.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS, NIESEN & THOMAS, LLC

By

Thomas T. Niesen

cc: Certificate of Service (w/encl.)
Frederick Thomas, Esq. (via email, w/encl.)

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Joint Petition of:

Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC d/b/a
Frontier Communications Commonwealth
Telephone Company;
Frontier Communications of Breezewood, LLC;
Frontier Communications of Canton, LLC; and
Frontier Communications of Pennsylvania, LLC

For Expansion of Eligible Telecommunications
Carrier Status to Include Additional Census Blocks

Docket Nos. _____

**JOINT PETITION FOR EXPANSION OF ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIER STATUS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL CENSUS BLOCKS**

TO THE HONORABLE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

AND NOW, come Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC d/b/a Frontier Communications Commonwealth Telephone Company, Frontier Communications of Breezewood, LLC, Frontier Communications of Canton, LLC, and Frontier Communications of Pennsylvania, LLC, (collectively, "Frontier"), by their undersigned counsel, and file this petition (this "Joint Petition") with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (the "Commission") to amend its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") to expand the geographic area covered by its designation. In support thereof, Frontier respectfully submits the following:

1. Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC d/b/a Frontier Communications Commonwealth Telephone Company is a Pennsylvania corporation with its address at 100 CTE Drive, Dallas, PA 18612. Frontier Communications of Breezewood, LLC is a Pennsylvania corporation with its address at 37 Diller Avenue, P.O. Box 1902, New Holland, PA 17557-0904. Frontier Communications of Canton, LLC is a Pennsylvania corporation with its address at 37 Diller Avenue, P.O. Box 1902, New Holland, PA 17557-0904. Frontier Communications of Pennsylvania, LLC is a Pennsylvania corporation with its address at 37 Diller Avenue, P.O. Box 1902, New Holland, PA 17557-0904. All Frontier companies are rural incumbent local exchange carriers ("RLEC") that provide both voice and internet services.

2. By Commission Order issued on December 26, 1997 in Docket No. P-00971281, all above referenced Frontier companies were designated as ETCs throughout their existing study areas and/or service territories.

3. Frontier's attorneys for this matter are:

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4. Frontier has recently been awarded federal subsidies through the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I auction. As a condition of receiving RDOF Phase I subsidies, the FCC effectively required in its December 7, 2020 Public Notice that Frontier seek expanded ETC status by January 6, 2021.¹ The FCC's Public Notice also requires that the expanded ETC status be obtained by June 7, 2021.²

5. Frontier therefore respectfully requests that the Commission amend Frontier's above-mentioned ETC Designations to include the additional census blocks attached hereto as Exhibit A. Collectively, the expanded service area will add approximately 1,470 households to Frontier's existing service area. The locations in the census blocks are largely rural in nature.

6. Frontier will provide broadband internet services and voice-grade access to the Public Switched Telephone Network consistent with 47 C.F.R. 54.101 and access to emergency services (including 911 or E911 where available) in the locations listed in Exhibit A.

7. Frontier will continue to comply with its obligations as an ETC, including in the expanded ETC service area.

8. Commission approval of this Joint Petition is in the public interest because Frontier's expanded ETC status will bring greater choice and competition to the telecommunications marketplace in the census blocks listed in Exhibit A. Many rural customers demand faster broadband connections at speeds comparable to those offered in non-rural areas. Moreover, consumers in the expanded ETC area do not have access to Gigabit speed internet, which Frontier will bring to the area through its RDOF deployment. Faster speeds can also produce an incentive for economic development in those areas. The voice and broadband services Frontier proposes to deploy with the funds would advance the goals of universal

¹ "Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction (Auction 904) Closes", Public Notice, Appendix C, *available at* <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-20-1422A4.pdf>, p. 19 (Dec. 7, 2020) (explaining carrier will be determined to make a reasonable effort to obtain ETC certification if it files within 30 days of Public Notice).

² *Id.*

service. In short, expanded availability of voice service and fiber broadband through the approval of this Joint Petition will serve the public interest.

9. Given the required timeframes in the RDOF program, Frontier requests that the Commission approve this Petition at its first opportunity.

WHEREFORE, For the reasons set forth above, Frontier respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission grant this Joint Petition and amend Frontier's ETC designations to include the census blocks listed in Exhibit A.

Respectfully submitted,

**COMMONWEALTH TELEPHONE COMPANY LLC
D/B/A FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS
COMMONWEALTH TELEPHONE COMPANY;
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF
BREEZEWOOD, LLC; FRONTIER
COMMUNICATIONS OF CANTON, LLC; AND
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF
PENNSYLVANIA, LLC**

By 

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d/b/a Frontier Communications Commonwealth Telephone
Company; Frontier Communications of Breezewood, LLC;
Frontier Communications of Canton, LLC; and Frontier
Communications of Pennsylvania, LLC*

Date: January 5, 2021

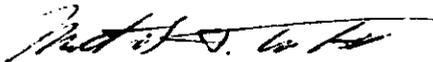
EXHIBIT A

Expansion of ETC Designation Status to Include Additional Census Blocks

Census Block	State	County	SAC	Frontier RLEC
420250201062001	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062039	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062018	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062022	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062027	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062030	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062051	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062084	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062105	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062113	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062117	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062197	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062198	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420250201062199	PA	Carbon	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293072001040	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293072001041	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293072001049	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293079002031	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293079002065	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293079002038	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293079002019	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293079002014	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293079002072	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293079002098	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420293079002101	PA	Chester	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002000	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002074	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002054	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002055	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002094	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002098	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002103	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002131	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420370515002149	PA	Columbia	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002052	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002026	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002042	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002072	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002077	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002084	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002088	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002090	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002091	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420430248002095	PA	Dauphin	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420691102012069	PA	Lackawanna	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420691102013064	PA	Lackawanna	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC
420691102013073	PA	Lackawanna	170161	Commonwealth Telephone Company LLC

VERIFICATION

I, Michael Cicchetti, Vice President, Government & External Affairs of Frontier Communications, hereby state that the facts set forth in the foregoing Joint Petition 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).



Michael Cicchetti, Vice President
Government & External Affairs
Frontier Communications

Dated: January 5, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 5th day of January 2021, served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document upon the persons and in the manner listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54:

Via Electronic Mail

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