

# STARLINK

February 23, 2024

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Docket No. P-2021-3023580 Petition of Starlink Services, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for Purposes of Receiving Rural Digital Opportunity Support

Dear Ms. Chiavetta,

Starlink Services, LLC (“Starlink”) was granted the above-captioned authorization (“Authorization”) by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) on October 28, 2021, and subsequently satisfied the Commission’s criteria necessary for a common carrier to obtain Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) designation on February 9, 2022. Starlink hereby requests to relinquish the Authorization. As referenced in its initial application, Starlink applied for the Authorization as a requirement of its winning bids in the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (“RDOF”) and the scope of the Authorization was limited to the specific census blocks in which Starlink was to receive RDOF support. As Starlink noted in its initial application, it applied for this authorization exclusively in connection with RDOF.

Subsequently, the Wireline Competition Bureau (“Bureau”) denied Starlink’s RDOF “Long Form” application<sup>1</sup>, Starlink appealed this Bureau decision to the FCC<sup>2</sup>, and the FCC later affirmed the Bureau’s decision.<sup>3</sup> As a result, Starlink will not receive any RDOF support to provide service in the state. Starlink is deeply disappointed and perplexed by the FCC’s decision to exclude the Starlink satellite broadband service from RDOF and this decision directly undermines the very goal of RDOF: to connect unserved and underserved Americans.<sup>4</sup>

As a result of these changes in circumstances since the Authorization was applied for and granted, Starlink respectfully requests to relinquish the Authorization. 47 U.S.C. § 214 (e)(4) establishes that an ETC may relinquish its authorization where an area is served by another ETC

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<sup>1</sup> See *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction Support for 80 Winning Bids Ready to Be Authorized, Bid Defaults Announced*, AU Docket No. 20-34 et al., Public Notice, DA 22-848, at 8-11 (WCB/OEA Aug. 10, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> See *Application for Review of Starlink Services, LLC*, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Sept. 9, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> See *Order on Review*, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al. (rel. Dec. 12, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> SpaceX’s response to these FCC actions is available on the FCC’s website. See Letter from Christopher Cardaci, Vice President, Legal, SpaceX, to Marlene Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, In re Long Form Application of Starlink Services, LLC, File No. 0009395128, WC Docket No. 19-126 (December 12, 2023), available at: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/121299238977/1>.

# STARLINK

or where existing customers will continue to be served. Starlink has never received universal services support, nor provided any broadband, voice, or other telecom services in the state.

Accordingly, there are no existing Starlink subscribers to consider in connection with relinquishment of the Authorization, and Starlink respectfully requests expedited consideration of this request. Starlink notes that the unregulated Starlink-branded broadband service provided by Space Exploration Technologies Corp., a separate entity, remains available in the state and this request for relinquishment will have no impact on those subscribers.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Aishani Shukla

Aishani Shukla, Regulatory Analyst

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