

ORDER NO. 21-280

ENTERED Sep 09 2021

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

CP 1153

In the Matter of the Cancellation of the
Certificate of Authority Held by RURAL
SERVICES COMPANY.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY CANCELED

On May 15, 2003, Rural Services Company (Rural Services) was granted a certificate of authority to provide telecommunications service in Oregon as a competitive provider. *See* Order No. 03-309.

Rural Services has failed to comply with Oregon Universal Service Fund (OUSF) requirements for 4th Quarter 2020 and 1st Quarter 2021 per ORS 759.425 and OAR 860-100-0110.

Rural Services has also failed to file a 2020 annual report as required by OAR 860-032-0060, and failed to pay 2020 annual revenue fees as required by ORS 756.310 and OAR 860-032-0095.

Commission staff has made numerous attempts to notify Rural Services of the delinquencies and potential cancellation. Rural Services failed to file the required reports in a timely manner to avoid cancellation.

ORS 756.515(4) provides that the Commission may, after investigation, but without hearing, make such findings and orders as deemed justified by the results of the investigation. In view of the foregoing, the Commission determined at its September 7, 2021, Public Meeting that Rural Services' certificate of authority to provide telecommunications service should be canceled, per OAR 860-032-0008(2), as Rural Services has failed to comply with Commission rules and terms of the certificate. Rural Services is reminded that because it had a certificate of authority for one or more days during 2021, it is required to file an annual fee statement and pay a minimum of \$100 for that year.

The Commission also concludes that it will not process a future application filed by Rural Services for certification as a competitive provider unless Rural Services fully complies with Commission rules. Any future application or request for reconsideration must include, as applicable:

1. An explanation of why the company was unable to comply with Commission rules;
2. Proof of payment of all outstanding revenue fees, including late payment fees, owed for each calendar year of operation pursuant to ORS 756.310(4)(a) and OAR 860-032-0095, in accordance with Commission requirements;
3. Proof of compliance with OUSF requirements pursuant to ORS 759.425 and OAR 860-100-0110;
4. Proof of filing of any outstanding annual reports pursuant to OAR 860-032-0060; and
5. Proof of compliance with Residential Service Protection Fund (RSPF) requirements pursuant to ORS chapter 290, section 7, Oregon Laws 1987, and OAR 860-033-0006.

If Rural Services fails to include these items with its application, the Commission will deem the application incomplete.

IT IS ORDERED that the certificate of authority held by Rural Services Company is canceled.

Made, entered, and effective Sep 9, 2021.



BY THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nolan Moser".

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.