

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  SHELL ROCK COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	DOCKET NO. 199 IAC 39.2
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**ORDER DESIGNATING ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

(Issued January 4, 2008)

On October 15, 2007, Shell Rock Communications, Inc. (Shell Rock), filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application for universal service eligible telecommunications carrier status in the Shell Rock, Iowa, exchange. On December 12, 2007, Shell Rock filed an amendment to its application. In its amended application, Shell Rock asks that the Board designate it as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) pursuant to 199 IAC 39.2 in the Shell Rock exchange. No objections have been filed regarding this application.

Board rule 39.2 provides a means by which the Board can designate Iowa telecommunications companies to be eligible to receive funding from the universal service fund, as defined by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 254. Under the Act (and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations implementing the Act), the Board must determine that a carrier meets certain service requirements before it may be designated an eligible telecommunications carrier as set forth in subrule 39.2(3). The carrier must, among other things:

- 1) Offer the services supported by the federal universal service fund;
- 2) Offer the services using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale (47 C.F.R. § 54.201(c) provides that "own facilities" includes purchased unbundled network elements);
- 3) Advertise the availability of the supported services; and
- 4) Offer the services throughout the designated service area.

In its amended request for designation, Shell Rock states that it satisfies each of the requirements listed in 199 IAC 39.2(3). Based on Shell Rock's unopposed representations and the supporting information filed by Shell Rock, the Board finds that Shell Rock offers the services supported by the federal universal service fund in the manner required by 199 IAC 39.2(3) and will comply with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules throughout its designated service area.

Shell Rock also states that it will provide to the Board, for informational purposes, a description of its service and rate plan(s) when it commences providing universal service fund offerings to Iowa customers. The Board finds these commitments by Shell Rock adequate to assure that public interest concerns will be satisfied.

The Board also notes that it has recently adopted amendments to the certification and reporting requirements for ETCs. Shell Rock is required to file a certification regarding its use of universal service funds with the Board in addition to

various reports. The certification and reports must be made pursuant to 199 IAC 39 as described in Docket No. RMU-06-1, In re: Eligibility, Certification, and Reporting Requirements for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers [199 IAC 39].

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. Eligible telecommunications carrier status is granted to Shell Rock Communications, Inc., as requested in its application filed October 15, 2007, and amended December 12, 2007, subject to the voluntary commitments described in the body of this order.
2. The designated service area for Shell Rock Communications, Inc., shall be the Shell Rock, Iowa, exchange.
3. The Executive Secretary of the Utilities Board shall mail copies of this order to Shell Rock Communications, Inc., the Universal Service Administration Company, the Federal Communications Commission Universal Service Branch, and the Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Krista K. Tanner

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Darrell Hanson

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008.