

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In Re: *Application of Holtson Electric Cooperative for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority*

AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES SANDLIN

Docket No. 18-00075

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF HAMBLEN

I, James Sandlin, have been duly sworn in accordance with the law, state as follows:

A. Identification of Affiant and Application Fee

1. Affidavit is Made by an Officer of Applicant.

My name is James Sandlin. I am General Manager of the applicant HolstonConnect, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Holston Electric Cooperative, Inc., a rural electric membership cooperative with its principal offices located at 1200 West Main Street, Rogersville, TN 37857 (hereinafter "HEC"). I am authorized to make this affidavit on behalf of applicant HEC.

2. Application Fee for Service Area.

HEC submits the application fee of \$2,000 with this application on the basis of a service area population of 119,377, as reflected by the most recent decennial census.

B. Required Information and Affirmations

1. Compliance with Laws.

HEC agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and will timely file with the FCC all forms required by the FCC in advance of offering video services or cable services

2. Description of Municipalities and Unincorporated Areas to be Served in Whole or in Part.

HEC seeks a state-issues certificate of franchise authority to provide video services within its electric service territory in the incorporated and unincorporated portions of Hawkins and Hamblen Counties in East Tennessee. HEC's territory includes Rogersville, Russellville and Church Hill. A map of HEC's service territory is attached to this Application as Exhibit A.

3. Intent to Serve.

HEC intends to begin offering video and internet services in each of the municipalities and the unincorporated areas of each county described in subdivision (c)(2) within twenty-four (24) months of the date of the issuance of a state-issued certificate of franchise authority.

4. Indemnity.

In accordance with § 7-59-318, HEC agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the state, municipality, county and any employee or representative of the state, municipality or county, as well as any political subdivision of the state and any employee or representative of the political subdivision, individually and collectively from all claims, demands, causes of action, liability, judgments, costs and expenses or losses for injury or death to persons or damage to property owned by, and workers' compensation claims, collectively referred to in this section as claims, against any parties indemnified in accordance with this section, arising out of, caused by, or as a result of the holder's exercising its authority granted under a state-issued certificate of franchise authority,

except for claims related to public, educational or governmental channels controlled by an indemnitee or other third-party designated by the indemnitee.

5. Contact Information.

HEC's principal place of business is 1200 West Main Street in Rogersville, Tennessee 37857. Its Board of Directors consists of the following individuals:

Jeff Ringley, President District 5	Phil Barrett, Vice President District 6
Brent Price, Secretary-Treasurer District 4	David Marshall, District 1
Gordell Ely, District 2	Jerry Horner, District 3
Mark Derrick, District 7	Daniel Boyd, Attorney
James B. Sandlin, General Manager	

6. Managerial, Financial and Technical Qualifications to Provide Video Service.

HEC has the managerial, financial, and technical qualifications to provide video service as required by Tenn. Code Ann. 7-59-305(c)(6) and (d)(2).

7. Description of Customer Service Complaint Process.

Customers with questions or complaints about their cable or video service or with questions concerning their bills may contact HEC's Customer Service call center at (423) 272-8821 Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. Customers may submit questions or concerns online via HEC's website at www.holstonconnect.com. HEC also maintains three offices where customers may come in person to resolve questions or concerns. It is the policy of HEC to resolve customer complaints and to answer questions promptly with a focus on customer satisfaction. HEC has a written Customer Service Policy, which includes a dispute resolution procedure. In the event of a customer dispute, HEC conducts an investigation, attempts to resolve any dispute informally in a manner that is

mutually satisfactory to both parties, allows examination of any relevant records of the Cooperative, and provides for a hearing in front of an individual appointed or designated by the General Manager. In the event of a hearing, the customer has the right to be represented, and the hearing officer will render any decision in writing, with a copy to the customer.

8. Notice to Affected Local Governments.

HEC has provided notice and a copy of this Affidavit to each local government that would be affected by the State-issued certificate of franchise authority at the addresses set forth in the list attached as Exhibit B. HEC will comply with any applicable local ordinance or resolution requiring notice to other entities with facilities in the public rights of way.

9. Compliance with Legal Requirements.

HEC agrees to comply with the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. 7-59-301 et seq., expressly including the applicable nondiscrimination and service deployment requirements of 7-59-311. HEC acknowledges the enforcement provisions in Tenn. Code Ann. 7-59-312 relative to enforcement of non-discrimination and deployment requirements.

10. Notice to Local Governing Authority.

HEC agrees to provide notice to an affected local governing authority no less than ten (10) days prior to providing service in that jurisdiction.

11. Compliance with Minority Owned Business Plan.

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 7-59-313, HEC has adopted a minority-owned business participation plan and agrees to comply with the provisions of its plan. HEC's plan is attached hereto as Exhibit C and incorporated herein by reference.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

HEC COOPERATIVE

BY: James B. Sandlin
Name: James Sandlin
Title: General Manager

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME

This 28th day of May, 2018.

Rebecca Lawson
NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires: 10-31-2020



EXHIBIT A
SERVICE TERRITORY MAP



Holston Electric Cooperative/ HolstonConnect, LLC - TN

Service Area Map

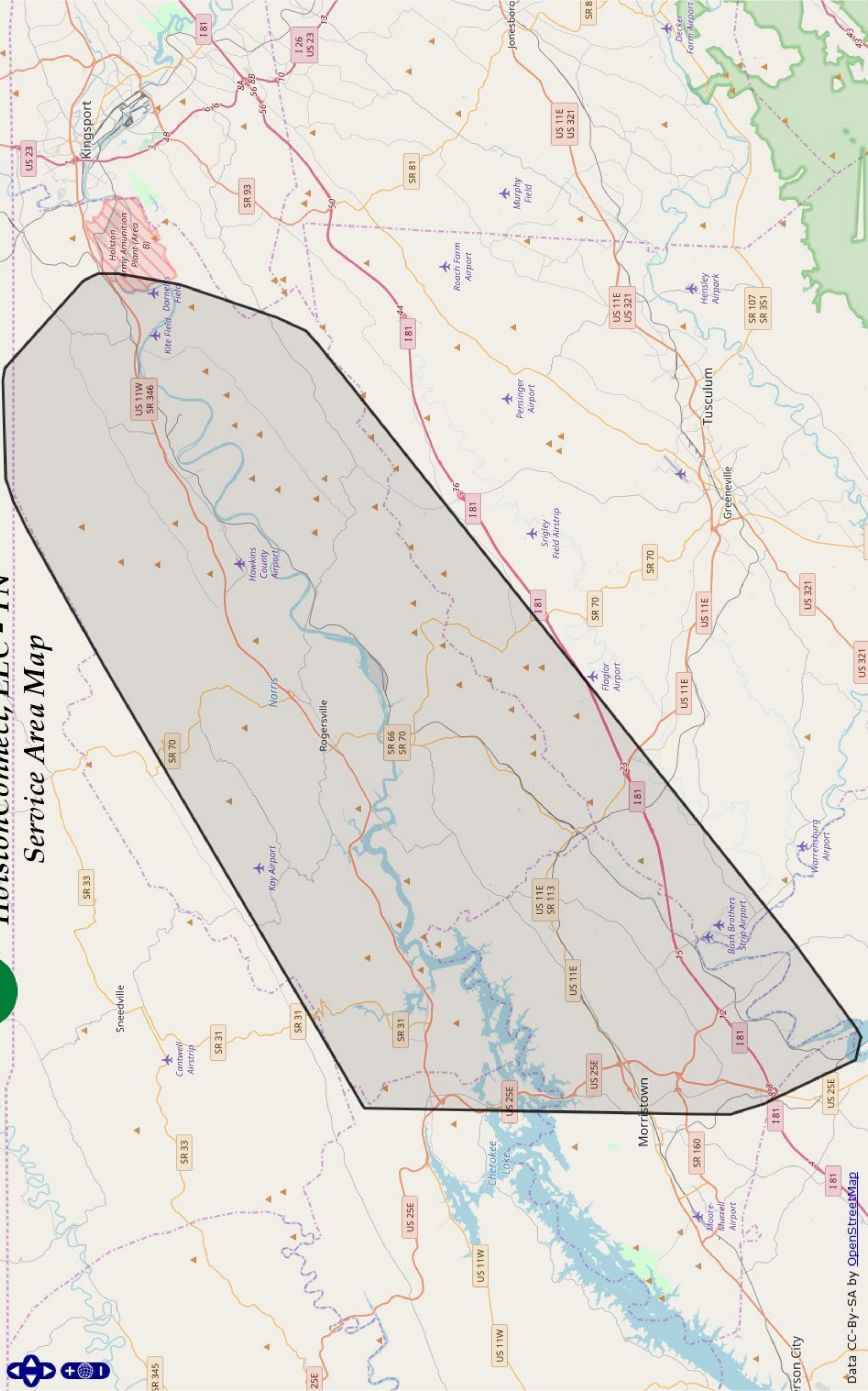


EXHIBIT B – LIST OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Hamblen County

Hamblen County Courthouse
511 West Second North Street
Morristown, TN 37814

Hawkins County

150 E. Washington St., Suite 2
Rogersville, TN 37857

Town of Rogersville

PO Box 788
106 East Kyle St,
Rogersville, TN 37857

City of Church Hill

300 East Main Boulevard
Church Hill, TN 37642

Town of Surgoinsville

1735 Main Street
Surgoinsville, TN 37873

Town of Bulls Gap

139 S. Main St.
Bulls Gap, TN 37711

Exhibit C

MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION PLAN

The following is Holston Electric Cooperative's plan to actively solicit bids from minority and women owned businesses (MWOBs) and to award contracts to such qualified businesses when feasible as HEC begins to establish and provide video services Tennessee. HEC is adopting this plan consistent with the requirements of the Tennessee legislature and its intent to promote, increase, and improve the quality and participation of MWOBs in the procurement and supply chains for Tennessee businesses.

For purposes of this plan, unless the context otherwise requires, "Minority-Owned Business(es)" means a business that is solely owned, or at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the assets or outstanding stock of which is owned, by an individual(s) who personally manages and controls the daily operations of such business and who is impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of:

- (a) past practices of discrimination based on race, religion, ethnic background, or sex including, but not limited to, women;
- (b) a disability as defined in T.C.A. Section 4-26-201 including, but not limited to, disabled veterans; or
- (c) past practices of racial discrimination against African-Americans.

HEC shall endeavor to promote, increase and improve the quality of the overall participation of MWOBs when HEC purchases materials and services. HEC shall afford every opportunity for MWOBs to participate as suppliers of materials and services to HEC. HEC shall also encourage subcontracting opportunities for MWOBs by requiring its prime contractors to provide information on their own diversity participation plans and considering such information when selecting contractors.

Pursuant to this plan, HEC shall strive to maximize the participation of MWOBs through both prime and second tier business opportunities and shall strive to achieve a level of participation representative of the population demographics within the state of Tennessee.

On or before January 31 of each year, HEC will prepare an annual report to the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission about its compliance with this Plan.