

TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

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Electronically Filed in TPUC Docket
Room on May 29, 2026 at 2:33 p.m.

NOTICE OF FILING

IN RE: **APPLICATION OF SCR NETWORK INC. FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND
NECESSITY TO PROVIDE COMPLETING LOCAL
EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN THE
STATE OF TENNESSEE**

DOCKET NO.: **26-00040**

DATE: **May 29, 2026**

On May 19, 2026, Mr. Scott Hill, Owner of SCR Network, Inc. (“SCR”) filed an Application in this matter on behalf of SCR. Tennessee law requires that corporate entities be represented by counsel in contested case matters. An Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) is deemed a contested case by statute. *See* Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-102. As a result, SCR is required to be represented by an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Tennessee or otherwise admitted pro hac vice in the above referenced docket. Please see the attached *Notice Concerning Attorney Representation in Contested Case Proceedings Before the Commission* issued by the Commission on August 28, 2023, for additional information regarding this requirement.

SCR is required to have local counsel submit an entry of appearance in this matter **by July 15, 2026**. If an attorney does not file an appearance on behalf of SCR by July 15, 2026, this matter will be dismissed without prejudice, and the docket will be administratively closed.


Monica Smith-Ashford, Administrative Judge

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August 28, 2023

NOTICE CONCERNING ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION IN CONTESTED CASE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with Tennessee law, representation by a Tennessee licensed attorney is required for any corporation or limited liability company appearing as a party in any contested case proceeding before the Commission. The Tennessee Uniform Procedures Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-101 *et seq.* defines a contested case as:

. . . a proceeding, including a declaratory proceeding, in which the legal rights, duties or privileges of a party are required by any statute or constitutional provision to be determined by an agency after an opportunity for a hearing. Such proceeding may include rate making; price fixing; granting of certificates of convenience and necessity; the making, review or equalization of tax assessments; the granting or denial of licenses, permits or franchises where the licensing board is not required to grant the licenses, permits or franchises upon the payment of a fee or the finding of certain clearly defined criteria; and suspensions of, revocations of, and refusals to renew licenses. An agency may commence a contested case at any time with respect to a matter within the agency's jurisdiction.¹

Contested cases before the Commission include, but are not limited to, rate cases, petitions for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (“CCN”), petitions to amend a CCN, petitions to provide competing local telecommunications services, applications for certificate to provide operations services and/or resell telecommunication services, and show cause proceedings.

In administrative law matters under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, a corporate party may participate in a hearing by a duly authorized representative.² The Tennessee Court of Appeals differentiates between “informal, information gathering proceeding[s]” wherein

¹ Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-102(3) (2023).

² Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-305(a).

a non-attorney may be a corporate party participant pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-305(a), and “formal adversarial proceedings as in a contested case proceeding” in which a non-attorney may not represent a corporate party.³

It is well settled Tennessee law that a corporation may not act *pro se* in contested legal matters, nor may it be represented by an officer or other non-lawyer agent. Tennessee courts have held that allowing a corporation, or an officer on behalf of a corporation, to sign pleadings would result in the unauthorized practice of law.⁴ Preparation and filing of documents that initiate contested case proceedings require the professional judgment of an attorney and as such, is the practice of law.⁵ As such, all contested case proceedings before the Commission in which a business entity is participating as a party must be represented by legal counsel, as discussed in this notice.

FOR THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:



Kelly Cashman Grams, General Counsel

³ *Tenn. Envtl. Council v. Water Quality Control Bd.*, 254 S.W.3d 396, 407 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2007).

⁴ *Old Hickory Eng'g & Mach. Co., Inc. v. Henry*, 937 S.W.2d 782, 785-786 (Tenn. 1996).

⁵ *Id.*