

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

August 31, 2026

IN RE:	)	
	)	
APPLICATION OF VERO NETWORKS	)	DOCKET NO.
ABS, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF	)	26-00056
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO	)	
PROVIDE COMPETING LOCAL	)	
EXCHANGE AND INTEREXCHANGE	)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN	)	
THE STATE OF TENNESSEE	)	

**INITIAL ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

This matter came before the Administrative Judge of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (the “Commission” or “TPUC”) at a Hearing held on August 6, 2026, to consider the *Application for a Certificate to Provide Competing Local Exchange Telecommunication Services* filed by Vero Networks ABS, LLC (“Vero Networks,” “Applicant,” or “Company”) on July 2, 2026, and deemed complete as of the date of its filing.¹ In its *Application*, Vero Networks seeks a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) for authority to provide competing local exchange telecommunications services within the State of Tennessee.

I. LEGAL STANDARD

Vero Networks’s *Application* was made in accordance with and is considered in light of the criteria for granting a CCN as set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201 which provides, in pertinent part:

- (a) No public utility shall establish or begin the construction of, or operate any line, plant, or system, or route in or into a municipality or other territory already receiving a like service from another public utility, or establish service therein, without first having obtained from the commission, after written application and hearing, a

¹ See *Notice of Complete Application* (July 22, 2026).

certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity require or will require such construction, establishment, and operation, and no person or corporation not at the time a public utility shall commence the construction of any plant, line, system, or route to be operated as a public utility, or the operation of which would constitute the same, or the owner or operator thereof, a public utility as defined by law, without having first obtained, in like manner, a similar certificate

* * *

(c) (1) After notice to the incumbent local exchange telephone company and other interested parties and following a hearing, the commission shall grant a certificate of convenience and necessity to a competing telecommunications service provider if after examining the evidence presented, the authority finds:

(A) The applicant has demonstrated that it will adhere to all applicable commission policies, rules and orders; and

(B) The applicant possesses sufficient managerial, financial and technical abilities to provide the applied for services.

* * *

Furthermore, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-112, a competing telecommunications provider is required to file with the Commission a small and minority-owned telecommunications business participation plan which provides the provider's plan for purchasing goods and services from small and minority-owned telecommunications businesses and information on programs that might provide technical assistance to such businesses.

II. HEARING ON THE MERITS

In accordance with the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-204, a public notice of the Hearing in this matter was issued by the Administrative Judge on July 27, 2026, setting the case for Hearing on August 6, 2026. No one sought intervention prior to or during the Hearing. Chris Pietila, General Counsel for the Vero companies, appeared at the Hearing.

Mr. Pietila participated in the Hearing and summarized his pre-filed testimony with no corrections, revisions, or amendments. Mr. Pietila testified that the Company will comply with all applicable laws, and TPUC rules, policies, and orders and stated that it is in the public interest to grant

the *Application*. He also provided a summary of the Company's financial, technical, and managerial qualifications.

The Administrative Judge opened the floor for public comment, but no member of the public sought recognition to comment. Upon conclusion of the presentation of its proof, the Administrative Judge granted Vero Networks's *Application* based upon the findings of fact and conclusions of law stated herein.

III. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. VERO NETWORKS'S QUALIFICATIONS

1. Vero Networks is a Delaware corporation authorized to do business in the State of Tennessee.

2. The Company's principal office is located at 3575 Ringsby Court, Suite #320 Denver, CO 80216. The Company's telephone number is: 800- 691-8376.

3. The *Application* and information in the record indicate that Vero Networks has the requisite technical and managerial ability to provide competitive local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services within the State of Tennessee. Specifically, Vero Networks's management team possesses extensive business, operational, and regulatory telecommunications experience and technical expertise.

4. Vero Networks has the necessary capital and financial ability to provide the services it proposes to offer.

5. Vero Networks has represented that it will adhere to all applicable statutes, policies, rules, and orders of the Commission.

B. PROPOSED SERVICES

Vero Networks seeks authority to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services throughout Tennessee. The Applicant's primary business is "to provide essential

telecommunications and broadband infrastructure to underserved schools and libraries, both directly and through wholesale arrangements, by connecting those schools and libraries with reliable, scalable, and secure connectivity.”² The Applicant notes that its *Application* is being filed in connection with certain restructuring and financing arrangements, and a separate filing will be submitted to the Commission regarding the Pro Forma Asset Transfer.³

Vero Networks intends to deliver an aggregation of technologies utilizing fiber optic cable depending on the customer's location and needs. Applicant also intends to provide telecommunications and broadband infrastructure services to other educational, healthcare, government, banking, telecommunications and business customers throughout the state. Vero Networks will primarily provide services using its own facilities, including those of Vero Fiber, and facilities leased from other carriers, but also seeks authority to provide services on a resold basis.⁴ Vero Networks states it plans to elect market regulation in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-109 and will provide the services described in this *Application* on a de-tariffed basis. To the extent Applicant provides switched voice services, it will submit a switched access tariff.⁵

C. PERMITTING COMPETITION TO SERVE THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Vero Networks’s *Application* and its proposed services would inure to the benefit of the present and future public convenience by increasing the level of competition in the telecommunications services markets in the State. According to Vero Networks, increased competition will ultimately compel other providers to operate more efficiently and result in reduced costs for consumers.⁶ The Applicant avers that “[t]hese benefits work to maximize the public interest

² *Application*, pp. 5-6 (July 2, 2026).

³ *Id.* at 2.

⁴ *Id.* at 6.

⁵ *Id.* at 7.

⁶ *Id.* at 8.

by providing continuing incentives for carriers to reduce costs while simultaneously promoting the availability of potentially desirable services.”⁷

D. COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION RULE 1220-04-08-.04(1) AND Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 65-4-125(j), and 65-5-112.

Vero Networks filed all necessary documents and satisfied the provisions of Commission Rule 1220-04-08-.04(1). In compliance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-125(j), the Applicant has also filed a surety bond and a satisfactory Small and Minority-Owned Telecommunications Business Participation Plan in compliance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-112.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The *Application for a Certificate to Provide Competing Local Exchange Telecommunication Services* filed by Vero Networks ABS, LLC is approved.
2. Any party aggrieved by the Administrative Judge’s decision in this matter may file a petition for reconsideration within 15 days from the date of this Order.
3. This Initial Order shall become a Final Order of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, if no petition for reconsideration or appeal of this Order is filed prior to the expiration of the 15-day appeal period.



Monica Smith-Ashford
Administrative Judge
By Commission Delegated Authority

cc: Interested Parties
Original in Docket File

⁷ *Id.*