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**PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE - PUC**

**DIVISION 1. REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES [201 - 3297]** ( *Division 1 enacted by Stats. 1951, Ch. 764.*  )

**PART 1. PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT [201 - 2120]** ( *Part 1 enacted by Stats. 1951, Ch. 764.*  )

**CHAPTER 5. Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity [1001 - 1103]** ( *Chapter 5 enacted by Stats. 1951, Ch. 764.*  )

**ARTICLE 1. Specified Utilities [1001 - 1013]** ( *Article 1 enacted by Stats. 1951, Ch. 764.*  )

**1001.** (a) A railroad corporation whose railroad is operated primarily by electricity, street railroad corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telegraph corporation, telephone corporation, water corporation, or sewer system corporation shall not begin the construction of a street railroad, of a line, plant, or system, or of any extension thereof, without having first obtained from the commission a certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity require or will require its construction.

(b) The extension, expansion, upgrade, or other modification of an existing electrical transmission facility, including transmission lines and substations, does not require a certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity requires or will require its construction.

(c) This article does not require those corporations to secure that certificate for an extension within any city or city and county within which it has lawfully commenced operations, for an extension into territory either within or without a city or city and county contiguous to its street railroad, line, plant, or system, and not served by a public utility of like character, or for an extension within or to territory already served by it, necessary in the ordinary course of its business. If any public utility, in constructing or extending its line, plant, or system, interferes or is about to interfere with the operation of the line, plant, or system of any other public utility or of the water system of a public agency, already constructed, the commission, on complaint of the public utility or public agency claiming to be injuriously affected, may, after hearing, make an order and prescribe terms and conditions for the location of the lines, plants, or systems affected as to it may seem just and reasonable.

( *Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 357, Sec. 2. (SB 529) Effective January 1, 2023.* )



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## AT&T Applications Regarding Carrier of Last Resort and Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation

Proceedings A.23-03-002 and A.23-03-003

### Carrier of Last Resort (COLR)

AT&T has requested to be relieved of its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligations in certain areas of California. If approved, AT&T California (landline service, separate from cellular) would no longer be required to offer landline telephone service where it is currently required to offer Basic Service in those areas. Basic Service includes nine service elements such as Lifeline rates for eligible customers, free access to 9-1-1, Telephone Relay Service, and directory and operator services. More information on Basic Service is available at [here](#).

On May 10, 2024, the CPUC issued a proposal rejecting AT&T's request to withdraw as a COLR and indicating the CPUC intends to initiate a new Rulemaking process to address COLR telecommunications service obligations. This proposal will be on the CPUC's June 20 Voting Meeting agenda and can be reviewed in full [here](#).

#### What is a COLR?

A COLR is a telecommunications service provider that stands ready to provide basic telephone service, commonly landline telephone service, to any customer requesting such service within a specified area. At least one telephone company in a specified area is legally required to provide access to telephone service to anyone in its service territory who requests it. This is known as the Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligation, which ensures that everyone in California has access to safe, reliable, and affordable telephone service. AT&T is the designated COLR in many parts of the state and is the largest COLR in California. Where AT&T is the default landline telephone service provider means that the company must provide traditional landline telephone service to any potential customer in that service territory. AT&T is proposing to withdraw as the COLR in your area without a new carrier being designated as a COLR.

#### What areas are impacted by AT&T's request to withdraw as a COLR?

[Here](#) is the list of census designated places where AT&T is requesting to withdraw as the designated COLR and [here](#) is an online version of the map with address lookup.

#### What might happen if AT&T withdraws as a COLR?

An area without a COLR could mean that there would be no landline telephone company serving that area and that there could possibly be no landline telephone access for customers in that area. If AT&T's proposal were accepted as set forth in its application, then no COLR would be required to provide basic service in your area. This does not necessarily mean that no carriers would, in fact, provide service in your area—only that they would not be required to do so. Other outcomes are possible, such as another carrier besides AT&T volunteering to become the COLR in your area, or the CPUC denying AT&T's proposal. Refer to [Application 23-03-003](#) for more information on AT&T's request.

### Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Designation

In addition, on March 3, 2023, AT&T requested to give up its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC). Refer to [Application 23-03-002](#) for more information, as well as the Administrative Law Judge's January 12, 2024 [ruling](#) establishing a revised schedule for this proceeding and the Assigned Commissioner's September 20, 2023 [Scoping Memo](#) setting forth the issues in the proceeding.

#### What is an ETC?

An ETC is a telephone company operating in a specific geographic area, that receives financial assistance from the federal government-established Universal Service Fund to provide high quality, and affordable telephone service to customers at all income levels in specific geographic areas. One example of a program funded by the Universal Service