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Proposed Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

In re:)	Chapter 11
WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC., <i>et al.</i> , ¹)	Case No. 19-22312 (RDD)
Debtors.)	(Jointly Administered)

**NOTICE OF FILING OF
REVISED PROPOSED FINAL ORDER AUTHORIZING
THE DEBTORS TO CONTINUE AND RENEW THEIR SURETY BOND PROGRAM**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on February 25, 2019, the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (the “Debtors”) filed the *Debtors’ Motion for Entry of Interim and Final Orders Authorizing the Debtors to Continue and Renew their Surety Bond Program* [Docket No. 6] (the “Motion”).

¹ The last four digits of Debtor Windstream Holdings, Inc.’s tax identification number are 7717. Due to the large number of Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, for which joint administration has been granted, a complete list of the debtor entities and the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers is not provided herein. A complete list of such information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors’ proposed claims and noticing agent at <http://www.kccllc.net/windstream>. The location of the Debtors’ service address for purposes of these chapter 11 cases is: 4001 North Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212.



PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that on February 28, 2019, the Court entered the *Interim Order Authorizing the Debtors to Continue and Renew their Surety Bond Program* [Docket No. 65].

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Debtors hereby file a revised proposed *Final Order Authorizing the Debtors Authorizing the Debtors to Continue and Renew their Surety Bond Program* attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “Revised Proposed Order”).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a comparison between the Revised Proposed Order and order filed with the Motion is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Debtors will seek entry of the Revised Proposed Order at the hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m., prevailing Eastern Time, on April 16, 2019, before the Honorable Robert D. Drain, United States Bankruptcy Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, 300 Quarropas Street, White Plains, New York 10601.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of all documents filed in these chapter 11 cases may be obtained free of charge by visiting the website of Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC at <http://www.kccllc.net/windstream>. You may also obtain copies of any pleadings by visiting the Court’s website at <http://www.nysb.uscourts.gov> in accordance with the procedures and fees set forth therein.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

Dated: April 12, 2019
New York, New York

/s/ Stephen E. Hessler

Stephen E. Hessler, P.C.

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Proposed Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

Exhibit A

Revised Proposed Order

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

In re:)	Chapter 11
WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC., <i>et al.</i> , ¹)	Case No. 19-22312 (RDD)
Debtors.)	(Jointly Administered)

**FINAL ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO
CONTINUE AND RENEW THEIR SURETY BOND PROGRAM**

Upon the motion (the “Motion”)² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) for entry of a Final Order (this “Final Order”), authorizing the Debtors to continue and renew the Surety Bond Program in the ordinary course of business consistent with historical practice, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York*, dated February 1, 2012; and that this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and this Court having found that the Debtors’ notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate under the

¹ The last four digits of Debtor Windstream Holdings, Inc.’s tax identification number are 7717. Due to the large number of debtor entities in these chapter 11 cases, for which the Debtors have requested joint administration, a complete list of the debtor entities and the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers is not provided herein. A complete list of such information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors’ proposed claims and noticing agent at <http://www.kccllc.net/windstream>. The location of the Debtors’ service address for purposes of these chapter 11 cases is: 4001 North Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing, if any, before this Court (the "Hearing"); and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is granted on a final basis as set forth herein.
2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to maintain the Surety Bond Program on a postpetition basis in the ordinary course of business, including without limitation:
 - (a) paying applicable surety bond Premiums and Brokerage Fees as they come due (including any such obligations that arose prior to the Petition Date);
 - (b) maintaining, renewing or potentially acquiring additional bonds and/or bonding capacity as needed in the ordinary course of their businesses;
 - (c) requesting releases from duplicate bonding obligations;
 - (d) cancelling, revising and/or supplementing surety bonds;
 - (e) honoring and paying any amounts due under the Surety Indemnity Agreements, including payment for any pre-petition amounts that may come due in connection with the Surety Indemnity Agreements;
 - (f) renewing, supplementing and/or cancelling the Surety Indemnity Agreements as may be necessary;
 - (g) replacing the Surety Broker as may be necessary; and
 - (h) executing other agreements in connection with the Surety Bond Program; *provided, however*, that, notwithstanding any of the foregoing, the Debtors shall consult with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") prior to paying any amount or making any material modification to the Surety Bond Program that, in either case, is outside the ordinary course of the Debtors' businesses and not consistent with the Debtors' past practices; *provided, further*, that any request for collateral and/or additional collateral for

postpetition renewal of surety bonds shall only be in amounts consistent with past practices and in the ordinary course between the applicable Debtor and the applicable surety bond issuer, as such practices and ordinary course existed prior to the commencement of these chapter 11 cases; *provided, further*, that to the extent the Debtors seek to provide collateral or grant administrative claims in connection with obtaining new surety bonds or provide additional collateral or grant administrative claims for the postpetition renewal of surety bonds, the Debtors shall provide the Committee with reasonable notice.

3. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Final Order and any actions taken pursuant to such relief, nothing in this Final Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the validity of any particular claim against the Debtors; (b) a waiver of the rights of Debtors or the Committee to dispute any particular claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any particular claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Final Order or the Motion; (e) a request or authorization to assume any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (f) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors' rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (g) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) satisfied pursuant to the Motion are valid, and the Debtors expressly reserve their rights to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens. Any payment made pursuant to this Order is not intended and should not be construed as an admission as to the validity of any particular claim or a waiver of the Debtors' or the Committee's rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

4. The banks and financial institutions on which checks were drawn or electronic payment requests made in payment of the prepetition obligations approved herein are authorized

to receive, process, honor, and pay all such checks and electronic payment requests when presented for payment, and all such banks and financial institutions are authorized to rely on the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as approved by this Final Order without any duty to inquire otherwise and without liability for following the Debtors' instructions.

5. Except as expressly set forth herein, to the extent any surety bond or related agreement is deemed an executory contract within the meaning of Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, neither this Final Order nor any payments made in accordance with this Final Order shall constitute: (a) the assumption or postpetition reaffirmation of those surety bonds or related agreements under Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (b) a grant of third-party beneficiary status or bestowal of any additional rights on any third party; or (c) a waiver of any rights, claims or defenses of, or an admission by, the Debtors.

6. The Debtors are authorized to issue postpetition checks, or to effect postpetition fund transfer requests, in replacement of any checks or fund transfer requests that are dishonored as a consequence of these chapter 11 cases with respect to prepetition amounts owed in connection with the relief granted herein.

7. Notwithstanding anything in the Motion, the Interim Order, or this Final Order to the contrary, any payment made or action taken by any of the Debtors pursuant to the authority granted herein, as well as the exercise of any and all other rights and authorizations granted or approved hereunder, shall be subject in all respects to, as applicable: (i) the orders approving the Debtors' use of cash collateral and/or post-petition debtor-in-possession financing facilities (collectively, the "DIP Orders"); (ii) the other documentation governing the Debtors' use of cash

collateral and postpetition financing facilities; and (iii) the Budget (as defined in the DIP Orders).

8. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the terms of any of the DIP Orders and this Final Order, the terms of the DIP Order (or DIP Orders, as applicable) shall control.

9. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

10. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Final Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

11. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Final Order in accordance with the Motion.

12. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Final Order.

White Plains, New York
Dated: _____, 2019

THE HONORABLE ROBERT D. DRAIN
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Exhibit B

Blackline Against Proposed Order

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

In re:)	Chapter 11
WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC., <i>et al.</i> , ¹)	Case No. 19-22312 (RDD)
Debtors.)	(Joint Administration Requested) <u>(Jointly Administered)</u>

**FINAL ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO
CONTINUE AND RENEW THEIR SURETY BOND PROGRAM**

Upon the motion (the “Motion”)² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”) for entry of a Final Order (this “Final Order”), authorizing the Debtors to continue and renew the Surety Bond Program in the ordinary course of business consistent with historical practice, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York*, dated February 1, 2012; and that this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and this Court having found that the Debtors’ notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate under the

¹ The last four digits of Debtor Windstream Holdings, Inc.’s tax identification number are 7717. Due to the large number of debtor entities in these chapter 11 cases, for which the Debtors have requested joint administration, a complete list of the debtor entities and the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers is not provided herein. A complete list of such information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors’ proposed claims and noticing agent at <http://www.kcellc.net/windstream>. The location of the Debtors’ service address for purposes of these chapter 11 cases is: 4001 North Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72212.

circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing, if any, before this Court (the “Hearing”); and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is granted on a final basis as set forth herein.

2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to maintain the Surety Bond Program on a postpetition basis in the ordinary course of business ~~on a postpetition basis consistent with historical practice~~, including ~~the payment of the~~ without limitation: (a) paying applicable surety bond Premiums and Brokerage Fees as they come due (including any such obligations that arose prior to the Petition Date), ~~performance~~; (b) maintaining, renewing or potentially acquiring additional bonds and/or bonding capacity as needed in the ordinary course of their businesses; (c) requesting releases from duplicate bonding obligations; (d) cancelling, revising and/or supplementing surety bonds; (e) honoring and paying any amounts due under the Surety Indemnity Agreements, ~~renewal of or entry into new surety bonds, and execution of~~ including payment for any pre-petition amounts that may come due in connection with the Surety Indemnity Agreements; (f) renewing, supplementing and/or cancelling the Surety Indemnity Agreements as may be necessary; (g) replacing the Surety Broker as may be necessary; and (h) executing other agreements in connection with the Surety Bond Program; provided, however, that, notwithstanding any of the foregoing, the Debtors shall consult with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Committee”) prior to paying any amount or

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

making any material modification to the Surety Bond Program that, in either case, is outside the ordinary course of the Debtors' businesses and not consistent with the Debtors' past practices; provided, further, that any request for collateral and/or additional collateral for postpetition renewal of surety bonds shall only be in amounts consistent with past practices and in the ordinary course between the applicable Debtor and the applicable surety bond issuer, as such practices and ordinary course existed prior to the commencement of these chapter 11 cases; provided, further, that to the extent the Debtors seek to provide collateral or grant administrative claims in connection with obtaining new surety bonds or provide additional collateral or grant administrative claims for the postpetition renewal of surety bonds, the Debtors shall provide the Committee with reasonable notice.

3. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Final Order and any actions taken pursuant to such relief, nothing in this Final Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the validity of any particular claim against the Debtors; (b) a waiver of the ~~Debtors'~~ rights of Debtors or the Committee to dispute any particular claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any particular claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Final Order or the Motion; (e) a request or authorization to assume any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (f) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors' rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (g) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) satisfied pursuant to the Motion are valid, and the Debtors expressly reserve their rights to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens. Any payment made pursuant to this Order is not intended and should not be construed as

an admission as the validity of any particular claim or a waiver of the Debtors' or the Committee's rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

4. The banks and financial institutions on which checks were drawn or electronic payment requests made in payment of the prepetition obligations approved herein are authorized to receive, process, honor, and pay all such checks and electronic payment requests when presented for payment, and all such banks and financial institutions are authorized to rely on the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as approved by this Final Order without any duty to inquire otherwise and without liability for following the Debtors' instructions.

5. Except as expressly set forth herein, to the extent any surety bond or related agreement is deemed an executory contract within the meaning of Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, neither this Final Order nor any payments made in accordance with this Final Order shall constitute: (a) the assumption or postpetition reaffirmation of those surety bonds or related agreements under Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (b) a grant of third-party beneficiary status or bestowal of any additional rights on any third party; or (c) a waiver of any rights, claims or defenses of, or an admission by, the Debtors.

5.6. The Debtors are authorized to issue postpetition checks, or to effect postpetition fund transfer requests, in replacement of any checks or fund transfer requests that are dishonored as a consequence of these chapter 11 cases with respect to prepetition amounts owed in connection with the relief granted herein.

6.7. Notwithstanding anything in the Motion, the Interim Order, or this Final Order to the contrary, any payment made or action taken by any of the Debtors pursuant to the authority granted herein, as well as the exercise of any and all other rights and authorizations granted or

approved hereunder, shall be subject in all respects to, as applicable: (i) the orders approving the Debtors' use of cash collateral and/or post-petition debtor-in-possession financing facilities (collectively, the "DIP Orders"); (ii) the other documentation governing the Debtors' use of cash collateral and postpetition financing facilities; and (iii) the Budget (as defined in the DIP Orders).

~~7.8.~~ 8. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the terms of any of the DIP Orders and this Final Order, the terms of the DIP Order (or DIP Orders, as applicable) shall control.

~~8.9.~~ 9. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

~~9.10.~~ 10. Notwithstanding ~~anything to the contrary,~~ Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Final Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

~~10.11.~~ 11. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Final Order in accordance with the Motion.

~~11.12.~~ 12. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this ~~Interim~~ Final Order.

White Plains, New York
Dated: _____, 2019

THE HONORABLE ROBERT D. DRAIN
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE