

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE</b>	)	<b>ORDER OPENING DOCKET;</b>
<b>CONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBLE</b>	)	<b>ORDER SETTING COMMENT</b>
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER</b>	)	<b>DEADLINE</b>
<b>CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS</b>	)	
	)	<b>TC13-027</b>

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) annually provides certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that all federal high-cost support provided to eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of activities and services for which the support is intended. In its *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, the FCC set forth new annual reporting requirements for recipients of federal high-cost support.<sup>1</sup> Some of these requirements are identical or similar to the Commission's ETC annual certification requirements.<sup>2</sup> The FCC's reports are due by July 1, 2013. The Commission's requirements set a deadline of June 1, 2013.

At its March 26, 2013, meeting, the Commission considered whether it should consider revising or waiving any of its ETC requirements, including its June 1, 2013, deadline, in light of the FCC's new annual reporting requirements. After listening to comments from the South Dakota Telecommunications Association and Commission Staff, the Commission unanimously voted to open a docket to consider whether to revise or waive any of its ETC requirements regarding certifications to the FCC. The Commission set April 16, 2013, as the deadline for written comments. The Commission further found that it would make its decision at its April 23, 2013, meeting.

It is therefore

**ORDERED**, that a docket is opened to consider revisions or waivers to ETC certification requirements; and it is further

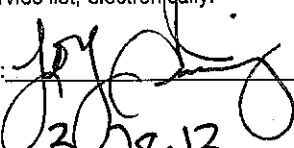
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<sup>1</sup> See *Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; High-Cost Universal Service Support; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Lifeline and Link-Up; Universal Service Reform—Mobility Fund*; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, GN Docket No. 09-51, WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order*), pets. for review pending sub nom. In re: FCC 11-161, No.11-9900 (10th Cir. filed Dec. 8, 2011).


<sup>2</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 54.313; ARSD 20:10:32:52 through 20:10:32:56, inclusive.


ORDERED, that any interested person may submit written comments on or before April 16, 2013.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.</p> <p>By: <u></u></p> <p>Date: <u>3.28.13</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner