

BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

RECEIVED
JUN 17 2001

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF
CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY
FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING
ITS USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL
SERVICE SUPPORT

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION
DOCKET NO.

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. ("Citizens Telecommunications Company") by and through its attorney hereby submits a Request for Certification to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") seeking certification from the Commission pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314. In support of this Request, Citizens Telecommunications Company offers the following:

1. On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an Order relative to the federal universal service support mechanism for rural carriers.¹ This Order (hereafter referenced as the "Fourteenth Report and Order"), in part, codifies at 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, a requirement for States to provide a certification regarding federal universal service support that is received by rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or other eligible telecommunications carriers providing service in rural service areas. Pursuant to such rule, states that desire rural carriers within their jurisdiction to receive future federal universal service support must file an annual certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") stating that federal high cost support provided to such carriers within that State will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. This certification requirement applies to various categories of

¹ CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twelve Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Support and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001

federal universal service support, including support provided pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307, and/or 47 C.F.R. Part 36, Subpart F (high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support, and safety valve support). Support provided under these FCC rule provisions will only in the future be made available if the State Commission files the requisite certification pursuant to § 54.314.

2. The certification required for rural carriers to receive federal universal service support for all four quarters during calendar year 2002 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2001. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the State are eligible to receive federal support during the 12-month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

3. Citizens Telecommunications Company provides local exchange telephone services, including all of the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service, to approximately 800 access lines in Jasper, Minnesota. Citizens Telecommunications Company maintains a switch in Jasper. Access lines connected to the Jasper, Minnesota switch are used to provide service to approximately 25 customers across the Missouri River in South Dakota. As a result of the limited number of access lines in South Dakota, the South Dakota customers are included in Citizens Telecommunications Company's study areas for Minnesota for purposes of federal universal service support.

4. At the present time, Citizens Telecommunications Company is not receiving any federal universal service support for the study area that includes Jasper, Minnesota and the approximately 25 customers in South Dakota. The purpose of this filing is to verify that in the

event that Citizens Telecommunications Company does receive federal universal support in the future, it will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 254.

5. The Company has previously filed a Request for Certification and accompanying affidavit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, which is attached as Exhibit 1, requesting that the Minnesota Commission certify that its use of federal high cost funding received in Minnesota is for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which support was intended. Citizens Telecommunications Company has received federal universal service support in Minnesota in the past and expects to receive support during calendar year 2002 for a study area that does not include Jasper, Minnesota or the customers served in South Dakota. As of this time, specific support amounts the Company should receive in 2002 have not yet been identified by USAC. The Company, however, offers the following summary of the support it received in 2000 in Minnesota:

High-Cost Loop Support	\$ 54,949
Local Switching Support (DEM Weighting)	\$161,512
Total Year 2000	\$216,460

Total Year 2000 for Citizens Telecommunications operations in Minnesota is September 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000. For calendar year 2000, Citizens Telecommunications Company made supported expenditures before return on investment totaling \$21,665,034 in Minnesota.

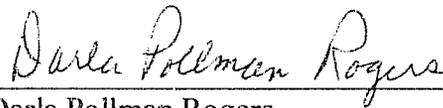
6. Citizens Telecommunications Company anticipates that the total costs relating to its planned network facility and equipment investments and other expenses to be incurred in providing local exchange telecommunications services in 2002 will exceed any federal universal service receipts for 2002 it ultimately receives in Minnesota and for the customers served in

South Dakota. Consistent with the universal service principles set forth in the federal law and also the recent FCC orders referenced herein, Citizens Telecommunications Company will use federal universal service amounts received in 2002 to offset a portion of these total costs. This use of federal universal service support will enable Citizens Telecommunications Company to: (1) maintain rates for its local exchange services that are affordable and reasonably comparable to rates being charged for the same services in urban areas; and (2) to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements and maintain high quality service. The use of federal universal service support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal service provisions.

7. Based on all of the foregoing information and also the Affidavit of Mr. Wayne Lafferty attached in Exhibit 1, Citizens Telecommunications Company requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that the Company is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support subsequently made available for distribution to the Company in 2002. In order to ensure that this certification is issued to the FCC prior to October 1, 2001, Citizens Telecommunications Company would further ask the Commission to expedite the process that is initiated based on this filing.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2001.

Respectfully submitted.



Darla Pollman Rogers
MEYER & ROGERS
320 E. Capitol
P. O. Box 1117
Pierre, SD 57501

ATTORNEY FOR CITIZENS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF
MINNESOTA, INC.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Edward Garvey
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendraye
Phyllis Rhea

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of Annual Certifications related
to Eligible Telecommunications (ETCs) Use
of the Federal Universal Service Support

MPUC Docket No.: P999/M-01-1219

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION

On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an order relative to federal universal service support mechanisms.¹ Among other things, this order established a requirement for States that desire rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers within their jurisdiction to receive federal universal service support to annually certify that, consistent with Section 254(e) of the 1996 Act, all federal high cost support to be provided to such carriers in 2002 and subsequent years will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. This certification must be filed by the appropriate state regulatory authority with the FCC and Universal Service Administrative Company on or before October 1, 2001 for carriers to receive support for all four quarters of the succeeding year.

Pursuant to an August 3, 2001 notice from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission"), Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. ("CTC-MN") respectfully submits this petition, requesting that the Commission certify that CTC-MN's use of

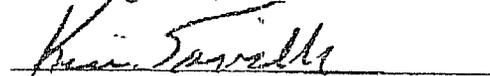
EXHIBIT 1

Its federal universal service support received for calendar year January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, will be used "only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." In support of this request, CTC-MN has provided an affidavit from Mr. F. Wayne Lafferty, Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs, certifying that CTC-MN will only use the federal high cost funding it receives during 2002 for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which support was intended. As further support, CTC-MN has provided an itemization of its costs associated with providing universal service, as well as a listing of the federal high cost support received during 2000 (Attachment 1). This information was taken from the annual report previously filed with the Commission and shows that expenses and capital investment incurred by CTC-MN for 2000 far exceeded the amount of federal high cost funding received, indicating that the federal funding is being directed to the support of universal service. Accordingly, CTC-MN respectfully requests that the Commission certify to the FCC and USAC that CTC-MN use of federal high cost funding is "only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended" on or before October 1, 2001.

(Footnote Continued From Previous Page)

¹ CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rule-making in CC Docket, No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001.

Dated August 20, 2001



KEVIN SAVILLE
Citizens Communications
2378 Wilshire Blvd.
Mound, MN 55364
(952) 491-5564 - Telephone
(952) 491-5515 Fax

ATTORNEY FOR CITIZENS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF
MINNESOTA, INC.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS)
)ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

1. My name is F. Wayne Lafferty. I am the Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs for Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. (the "Company"), and am authorized to give this affidavit on behalf of the Company. This affidavit is provided to support the request of the Company for certification by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission as contemplated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314.

2. During the year 2000, the Company received federal universal service support as shown on Attachment 1 to this Affidavit and had investments and expense relating to the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support was intended as also shown on Attachment 1. During the year 2000, the Company used the federal universal service support it received only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

3. The Company hereby also certifies that it will only use the federal high-cost support it receives during 2002 for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended.

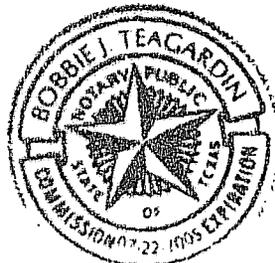
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

[Signature]
Name

STATE OF TEXAS)
)ss.
COUNTY OF DALLAS)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of August, 2001.

[Signature]
Notary Public



Attachment to Affidavit
Citizens Telecommunications Company

Year 2000 Federal Universal Service Receipts Subject To Certification. ¹

High cost loop support	\$ 54,948
Local switching support	\$ <u>161,512</u>
TOTAL²	\$ 216,460

Year 2000 Expenditures For Provision, Maintenance, and Upgrading Of Facilities and Services Supported By Federal Universal Service Funding ¹

Plant Specific Operations Expenses		Source
		MN Schedule 5
Network support (Accts. 6110-16)	\$ 0	Pg. 2
General support (Accts. 6120-24)	\$ 1,020,131	Pg. 2
Central office (Accts. 6210-6215)	\$ 779,365	Pg. 2
Cable and wire facilities (Accts. 6410-6441)	\$ 2,108,973	Pg. 3
Network operations (Accts. 6530-35)	\$ 1,516,416	Pg. 4
Depreciation and amortization (Accts. 6540-65)	\$ 8,467,380	Pg. 4
 Customer operations expenses		
Customer services (Accts. 6620-33)	\$ 629,298	Pg. 5
 Corporate operations expenses		
Executive and planning (Accts. 6710-6712)	\$ 463,318	Pg. 5
General and administrative (Accts. 6720-28)	\$ <u>4,121,021</u>	Pg. 5
 Total Year 2000 Supported Expenses, Before Return On Investment	 \$ 19,105,932	
<hr/>		
Additions		
		MN Schedule 4
Switching (Acct. 2210, Column C)	\$ 2,559,102	Pg. 2
Cable and wire (Acct. 2410, Column C)	\$ 0	Pg. 3
TOTAL	\$ <u>2,559,102</u>	
 Total Year 2000 Supported Expenditures, Before Return On Investment	 \$ 21,665,034	

¹ "Total Year 2000" for Citizens Telecommunications operations in Minnesota is September 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000.

² "Safety Net Additive" support and the "Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment" were not available in 2000.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of August 16, 2001 through August 22, 2001

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact
Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing. Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

CE01-002 **In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Dale Riedlinger, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, against Xcel Energy Regarding Poor Maintenance Service.**

Complainant states that on or about May 21, 2001, Xcel Energy had a tree trimming company come to their area of town and trim trees. Complainant states that when the company trimmed their tree in the front yard of their home, the tree was destroyed by cutting the tree half off. Complainant states that there are only two customers in his neighborhood that do not have buried cable. Complainant inquired about the line being buried and was told that he would have to pay \$7,500.00. Complainant states that Xcel Energy does not have an easement to have the utility pole on his property. Complainant requests that Xcel Energy bury their lines at no cost or a reasonable cost to the customer. Complainant does not feel he should replace his tree because he believes that the problem will occur again when the tree trimming service happens again.

Staff Analyst: Mary Healy
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: N/A

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC01-111 **In the Matter of the Request of Baltic Telecom Cooperative and East Plains Telecom, Inc for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Baltic Telecom Cooperative and its subsidiary East Plains Telecom, Inc.'s plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Baltic Telecom Cooperative and its subsidiary East Plains Telecom, Inc. will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/16/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-112 **In the Matter of the Request of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/17/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-118 In the Matter of the Request of Kadoka Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Kadoka Telephone Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Kadoka Telephone Company will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-119 In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Valley Telephone Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Valley Telephone Company will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-120 In the Matter of the Request of Mount Rushmore Telephone Company and Fort Randall Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Mt. Rushmore Telephone Company and Fort Randall Telephone Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Mt. Rushmore Telephone Company and Fort Randall Telephone Company will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-121 In the Matter of the Request of Sanborn Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and SANCOM, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Sanborn Telephone Cooperative, Inc./Sancom, Inc.'s plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Sanborn Telephone

Cooperative will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-126 In the Matter of the Request of West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting West River Telecommunications Cooperative's (Mobridge) plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-127 In the Matter of the Request of Midstate Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Midstate Communications, Inc.'s plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Midstate Communications, Inc. will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-128 In the Matter of the Request of Tri-County Telecom, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Tri-County Telecom, Inc.'s plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Tri-County Telecom, Inc. will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-129 In the Matter of the Request of McCook Cooperative Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting McCook Cooperative Telephone Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that McCook Cooperative Telephone

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Sioux Valley Telephone Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Sioux Valley Telephone Company will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/21/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-134 In the Matter of the Request of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/22/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-135 In the Matter of the Request of Dickey Rural Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Dickey Rural Communications, Inc.'s plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Dickey Rural Communications, Inc. will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/22/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-136 In the Matter of the Request of Farmers Mutual Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Farmers Mutual Telephone Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Farmers Mutual Telephone Company will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/22/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

TC01-137 In the Matter of the Request of RT Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting RT Communications, Inc.'s plan for the use of its

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer

Date Docketed: 08/22/01

Intervention Deadline: 08/31/01

You may receive this listing and other PUC publications via our website or via internet e-mail.
You may subscribe or unsubscribe to the PUC mailing lists at <http://www.state.sd.us/puc/>

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)	ORDER GRANTING
CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	CERTIFICATION
COMPANY OF MINNESOTA, INC. FOR)	
CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF)	TC01-140
FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)	

On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an Order concerning the federal universal service support mechanism for rural carriers.¹ This Order (hereafter referenced as the "Fourteenth Report and Order"), in part, codifies at 47 § C.F.R. 54.314, a requirement for States to provide a certification regarding federal universal service support that is received by rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers providing service in rural service areas. Pursuant to such rule, a state that desires rural carriers within its jurisdiction to receive future federal universal service support must file an annual certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) stating that federal high cost support provided to such carriers within that State will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. This certification requirement applies to various categories of federal universal service support, including support provided pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307, and/or 47 C.F.R. Part 36, Subpart F (high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support, and safety valve support). Support provided under these FCC rule provisions will only be made available in the future if the State Commission files the requisite certification pursuant to § 54.314.

The certification required for rural carriers to receive federal universal support for all four quarters during calendar year 2001 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2001. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the state are eligible to receive federal support during the 12-month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

On August 22, 2001, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. (Company) regarding its Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support. On September 17, 2001, the Commission received an amended filing

CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001.

from Company. The purpose of these filings was to provide information constituting Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Company will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 254. As a part of its plan, Company listed estimates of the support it expected to receive from USAC as well as its estimated costs for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services. An Affidavit was attached to the Request for Certification.

On August 23, 2001, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 31, 2001, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 18, 2001, the Commission considered this matter.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-31, and 47 U.S.C. § 254. The Commission found that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as it states it will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The Commission unanimously voted to approve Company's Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as it states it will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission approves Company's Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 25th day of September, 2001.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By	<u><i>Nelmine Kello</i></u>
Date	<u>9/25/01</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

South Dakota
Public Utilities Commission

State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070



September 25, 2001

Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20037

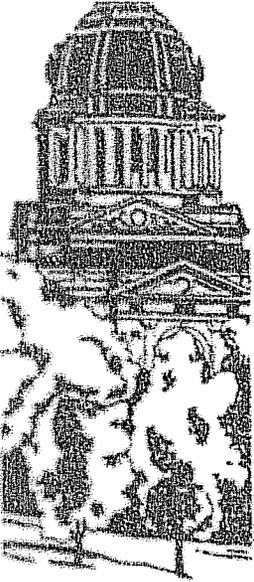
RE: CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001

Annual State Certification of Support for Rural Carriers

Dear Ms. Salas and Ms. Flannery:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby states that the following rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers within its jurisdiction have been certified to receive support pursuant to 47 CFR §§ 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307 and /or part 36, subpart F. The carriers listed below filed requests for certification with the Commission which support their affirmations that all federal high-cost support provided to them will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The Commission has granted certification to the following companies:

Armour Independent Telephone Company
Baltic Telecom Cooperative and East Plains Telecom, Inc.
Beresford Municipal Telephone Company
Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc.
City of Brookings Municipal Telephone
Consolidated Telcom
Dakota Community Telephone



Capitol Office
Telephone (605)773-3201
FAX (605)773-3809

Transportation/
Warehouse Division
Telephone (605)773-5280
FAX (605)773-3225

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

TTY Through
Relay South Dakota
1-800-877-1113

Internet Website
www.state.sd.us/puc/

Jim Burg
Chairman
Pam Nelson
Vice-Chairman

Debra Elston
Executive Director

Harlan Best
Martin C. Bettmann
Sue Cichos
Karen E. Cremer
Christopher W. Downs
Terry Emerson
Michela M. Farris
Marilyn Fischbach
Heather K. Forney
Kelly D. Frazier
Mary Giddings
Lynn Healy
Mary Healy
Lisa Hull
Dave Jacobson
Amy Kayser
Jennifer Kirk
Bob Knadlie
Debra Kolbo
Charlene Lund
Gregory A. Rislov
Keith Sanger
Rebecca Aita Wiest

7001-140

Meyer & Rogers

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
P.O. BOX 1117 • 320 EAST CAPITOL • PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-1117 • TELEPHONE 605-224-7889 • FACSIMILE 605-224-9060

BRIAN B. MEYER
DARLA POLLMAN ROGERS

September 17, 2001

Deb Elofson
Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Re: Citizens Telecommunications Company

Dear Ms. Elofson:

Please be advised that I am South Dakota counsel for Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. ("Citizens"). I filed a Request for Certification on behalf of Citizens, and the case was on the agenda of the Commission's meeting of September 7, 2001.

At that meeting, the Commission requested clarification of language in Paragraph 3, Page 2, of the Request. Specifically, there was a question as to whether Jasper's South Dakota customers were across the Missouri River in South Dakota.

The Request for Certification should be amended to strike the words "across the Missouri River." The third sentence of Paragraph 3, Page 2, of the Request for Certification would thus read as follows:

Access lines connected to the Jasper, Minnesota, switch are used to provide service to approximately 25 customers in South Dakota.

The significant boundary is the state line, not a river. There is a river running close to the South Dakota border (which I believe is a branch of the Big Sioux River), but the location of that river is not definitive of the location of Citizens' South Dakota customers. The 25 customers are located across the Minnesota state line and reside in South Dakota.

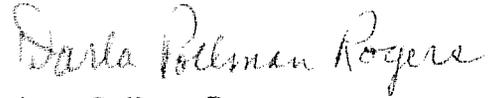
RECEIVED

SEP 17 2001

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darla Pollman Rogers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Darla Pollman Rogers
Attorney at Law

DPR/ph

Enclosure

CC: Kevin Saville
