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OF COUNSEL:
Brian B. Meyer
Robert D. Hofer

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July 30, 2003

RECEIVED

JUL 30 2003

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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

Re: In the Matter of the Request of Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. for Certification regarding its use of Federal Universal Service Support

Dear Deb:

Please find enclosed herein original and ten copies of the Request of Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. for Certification regarding its use of Federal Universal Service Support for filing in the above docket.

Sincerely yours,



Darla Pollman Rogers
Attorney at Law

DPR/ph

Enclosures

CC: Pamela Harrington

JUL 30 2003

BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF *ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION and RC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.* FOR CERTIFICATION
REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL
SERVICE SUPPORT DOCKET NO. __

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION

Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. 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, *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* 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 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

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 Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001.

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 2004 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2003. 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. *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* are rural telephone companies that has previously been designated by this Commission as eligible telecommunications carrier. The Company provides local exchange telephone services, including all of the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service, to approximately 2,024 access lines within its established rural service area in South Dakota.

4. This Commission has limited regulatory oversight over *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* and its provisioning of local exchange services. Under SDCL § 49-31-5.1, the local exchange service rates charged by telecommunications cooperatives, municipal telephone systems, and independent telephone companies serving less than fifty thousand local exchange subscribers are not subject to the Commission's ratemaking authority. In cases where State Commissions have limited regulatory authority over rural carriers, the FCC has indicated that these carriers should themselves initiate the certification process by presenting a plan to ensure compliance with the requirement in 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) that universal service support will only be used for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support

is intended. Based on this filed plan, it is anticipated that the State Commission may make the appropriate certification to the FCC.²

5. The purpose of this filing is to provide information indicating *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.*'s use of federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC 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. § 254.

6. In the process of determining whether federal universal service support is used in a manner consistent with the Federal Communications Act, the "universal service principles" established in Section 254(b) are instructive. That Section states that the FCC shall base "policies for the preservation and advancement of universal service" on certain, specifically identified principles:

- (1) Quality services should be available at just, reasonable, and affordable rates.
- (2) Access to advanced telecommunications and information services should be provided in all regions of the Nation.
- (3) Consumers in all regions of the Nation, including low-income consumers and those in rural, insular, and high-cost areas, should have access to telecommunications and information services, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services, that are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas and that are available at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas. . . .
- (6) Elementary and secondary schools and classrooms, health care providers, and libraries should have access to [certain] advanced telecommunications services. . . .

7. The FCC has declined to dictate specifically how the states should ensure that carriers are using federal universal service support consistent with the federal law, but has offered examples of how the support can be used to appropriately further universal service goals. The FCC has stated:

[A] state could [use the federal support to] adjust intrastate rates, or otherwise direct carriers to use the federal support to replace implicit intrastate universal service support to high cost rural areas . . .

² Fourteenth Report and Order, ¶ 188.

A state could also require carriers to use the federal support to upgrade facilities in rural areas to ensure that services provided in those areas are reasonably comparable to services provided in urban areas of the state.³

8. The FCC provided the above examples as illustrative and not exhaustive examples of how support can be used consistent with Section 254(e). Other uses are appropriate provided the State Commission believes they are consistent with the federal universal service principles contained in Section 254.

9. *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* as designated eligible telecommunications carriers has received federal universal service support in the past and expects to receive support during calendar year 2004. As of this time, specific support amounts the Companies should receive in 2004 have not yet been identified by USAC. Included in Exhibit A attached hereto, however, are estimated universal service support amounts for such period.

10. *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* also provides in Exhibit A, attached hereto, estimates of the expenditures that will be incurred in year 2004 for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services supported by federal universal service. Consistent with the universal service principles set forth in the federal law and also the FCC orders referenced herein, *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* will use federal universal service amounts received in 2004 to offset a portion of 2004 expenditures incurred within the accounts referenced in Exhibit A. This use of federal universal service support will enable *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* 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

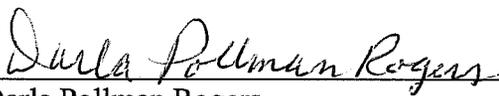
³ Ninth Report and Order and Eighteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45 (In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service), FCC 99-306, ¶ 96, November 2, 1999.

and maintain high quality service. The use of federal universal service support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal service provisions.

14. Based on the foregoing information, the attached Exhibit A and Exhibit B, Affidavit of *Pamela Harrington, Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.*, requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* are in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support determined for distribution to the Company in 2004. In order to ensure that this certification is issued to the FCC prior to October 1, 2004, *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.* would further ask the Commission to expedite the process that is initiated based on this filing.

Dated this 30th day of July, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



Darla Pollman Rogers
Riter, Rogers, Wattier & Brown, LLP
P. O. Box 280
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
Attorney for *Roberts County Telephone
and RC Communications, Inc.*

Exhibit A
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and
RC Communications, Inc.

Estimated Year 2004 Federal Universal Service Receipts

High cost loop support	\$ 214,000
Local switching support	\$ 183,500
Safety Net Additive support	\$ 0
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 397,500

Estimated Year 2004 Expenditures For Provision, Maintenance, and Upgrading Of Facilities and Services Supported By Federal Universal Service Funding

Estimated Plant Specific Operations Expenses

Network support (Accts. 6110-16)	\$ 3,000
General support (Accts. 6120-24)	\$ 34,000
Central office (Accts. 6210-6232)	\$ 40,000
Cable and wire facilities (Accts. 6410-6441)	\$ 195,000
Network operations (Accts. 6530-35)	\$ 293,000
Depreciation and amortization (Accts. 6560-65)	\$ 300,000

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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Customer operations expenses

Customer services (Accts. 6620-23)	\$ 208,000
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Corporate operations expenses

Executive and planning (Accts. 6710-6712)	\$ 94,000
General and administrative (Accts. 6720-28)	\$ <u>442,000</u>

**Estimated Total Recurring Year 2004
Supported Expenses, from above,
Before Return On Investment** **\$1,609,000**

Estimated Additions

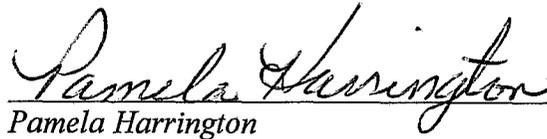
Switching (Acct. 2210)	\$105,000
Cable and wire (Acct. 2410)	\$ <u>325,000</u>
TOTAL	\$430,000

**Estimated Total Year 2004 Supported
Expenditures, Before Return On Investment** **\$2,039,000**

EXHIBIT B

AFFIDAVIT

As an authorized corporate officer of *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communciations, Inc.*, I, *Pamela Harrington* hereby affirm familiarity with and an understanding of the requirements of the Federal Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with respect to the receipt of any federal universal service funds received as high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support, and/or safety valve support and hereby affirm that any such support amounts received by *Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association* will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).


Pamela Harrington
Pamela Harrington

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 29~~th~~ day of July, 2003


NOTARY PUBLIC

Commission expires 4-3-2004

TC03-120

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August 1, 2003

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AUG 01 2003

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Harlan Best
Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Re: In the Matter of the Request of Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. for Certification regarding its use of Federal Universal Service Support

Dear Harlan:

Please find enclosed herein original and ten copies of Page 6 (Exhibit A) of the Request for Certification that Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. have filed in the above docket.

It is my understanding that Roberts County's consultant made a couple of errors on the exhibit, and you brought it to Pamela Harrington's attention. Pam sent me a revised and corrected Exhibit A, and requested that I file it.

Please replace the incorrect Exhibits with the enclosed page. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Darla Pollman Rogers
Attorney at Law

DPR/ph

Enclosures

CC: Pamela Harrington

CC: Pamela Bonrud

Exhibit A
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and
RC Communications, Inc.

Estimated Year 2004 Federal Universal Service Receipts

High cost loop support	\$ 214,000
Local switching support	\$ 183,500
Safety Net Additive support	\$ 0
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 295,500

Estimated Year 2004 Expenditures For Provision, Maintenance, and Upgrading Of Facilities and Services Supported By Federal Universal Service Funding

Estimated Plant Specific Operations Expenses

Network support (Accts. 6110-16)	\$ 3,000
General support (Accts. 6120-24)	\$ 34,000
Central office (Accts. 6210-6232)	\$ 40,000
Cable and wire facilities (Accts. 6410-6441)	\$ 195,000
Network operations (Accts. 6530-35)	\$ 293,000
Depreciation and amortization (Accts. 6560-65)	\$ 300,000

Customer operations expenses

Customer services (Accts. 6620-23)	\$ 208,000
------------------------------------	------------

Corporate operations expenses

Executive and planning (Accts. 6710-6712)	\$ 94,000
General and administrative (Accts. 6720-28)	\$ <u>442,000</u>

**Estimated Total Recurring Year 2004
Supported Expenses, from above,
Before Return On Investment** **\$1,609,000**

Estimated Additions

Switching (Acct. 2210)	\$105,000
Cable and wire (Acct. 2410)	\$ <u>325,000</u>
TOTAL	\$430,500

**Estimated Total Year 2004 Supported
Expenditures, Before Return On Investment** **\$2,039,500**

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of July 24, 2003 through July 30, 2003

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 report. Phone: 605-773-3705

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

CT03-120 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Pat Ammann, Bowdle, South Dakota, against S&S Communications/Alterna-Cell Regarding Loss of Long Distance Services.

Complainant represents that she purchased a seven-year prepaid long distance service plan on September 15, 1999. Service was terminated without notice in June of 2003. Complainant seeks to be reimbursed for the prepaid service not provided plus interest.

Staff Analyst: Jim Mehlhaff
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 07/24/03
Intervention deadline: N/A

CT03-121 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Neal Brakke on behalf of New Frontier Station, Presho, South Dakota, against S&S Communications/Alterna-Cell Regarding Loss of Long Distance Services.

Complainant's representative provided a copy of a seven-year prepaid long distance service plan purchased on April 13, 1999. Service was terminated without notice in early June of 2003. Complainant seeks to be reimbursed \$400.00 for each month remaining on the contract.

Staff Analyst: Jim Mehlhaff
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 07/25/03
Intervention deadline: N/A

CT03-122 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Lauren Langdeau, Presho, South Dakota, against S&S Communications/Alterna-Cell Regarding Loss of Long Distance Services.

Complainant represents that she purchased a ten-year prepaid long distance service plan on April 1, 1999. Service was terminated without notice in June of 2003. Complainant seeks to have the PUC prevent companies from selling prepaid service unless they are fully bonded and to have her service restored for the balance of the contract or to be reimbursed \$200.00 for each month remaining on the contract.

Staff Analyst: Jim Mehlhaff
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 07/25/03
Intervention deadline: N/A

CT03-123 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Jeff Bumpous, Aberdeen, South Dakota, against S&S Communications/Alterna-Cell Regarding Loss of Long Distance Services.

Complainant represents that he purchased a seven-year prepaid long distance service plan in August of 1999. Service was terminated without notice in June of 2003. Complainant seeks to be reimbursed for the prepaid service not provided.

Staff Analyst: Jim Mehlhaff
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 07/25/03
Intervention deadline: N/A

CT03-124 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Rodney and Suzanne Gepper, Chamberlain, South Dakota, against S&S Communications/Alterna-Cell Regarding Loss of Long Distance Services.

Complainants represent that they purchased a seven-year prepaid long distance service plan. In early June service was terminated without notice. Complainants seek to be reimbursed for the prepaid service not provided.

Staff Analyst: Jim Mehlhaff
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 07/28/03
Intervention deadline: N/A

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC03-118 In the Matter of the Sale by MJD Services Corp. of the Stock of Union Telephone Company, Armour Independent Telephone Company, Including its Wholly Owned Subsidiary Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company and Kadoka Telephone Company to Golden West Telephone Properties, Inc.

On July 25, 2003, MJD Services Corp. and Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary Golden West Telephone Properties, Inc. applied to the Public Utilities Commission for approval of the sale of stock of Union Telephone Company, Armour Independent Telephone Co., Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Co., and Kadoka Telephone Co. to Golden West Telephone Properties, Inc. MJD Services Corp. currently owns 100 percent of the stock of Union Telephone Company and Kadoka Telephone Co. MJD Services Corp. and Union Telephone Company currently own 100 percent of the stock of Armour Independent Telephone Co. and Armour Independent Telephone Co. owns 100 percent of the stock of Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Co. Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., the parent company of Golden West Telephone Properties, Inc., will be the ultimate controlling entity.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Docketed: 07/25/03
Intervention Deadline: 08/15/03

TC03-119 In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On July 29, 2003, Interstate Telecommunications Coop., Inc. (Interstate) provided information constituting Interstate's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Interstate 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 E. Cremer
Date Docketed: 07/29/03
Intervention Deadline: 08/15/03

TC03-120 In the Matter of the Request of Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On July 30, 2003, Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. provided information constituting Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc.'s plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC 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 E. Cremer

Date Docketed: 07/30/03

Intervention Deadline: 08/15/03

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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
ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE)	CERTIFICATION
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION AND RC)	
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR)	TC03-120
CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF)	
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 2004 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2003. 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 July 30, 2003, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. (Company) regarding its Request for Certification Regarding its Use

¹CC 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.

of Federal Universal Service Support. The purpose of this filing 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 July 31, 2003, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 15, 2003, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 19, 2003, 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 28th day of August, 2003.

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>Alaine Kalbo</u>
Date:	<u>8/29/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner



Bob Sahr, Chair
Gary Hanson, Vice-Chair
Jim Burg, Commissioner

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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(605) 773-3225 fax

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

September 24, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street S.W., Room TW-A306
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

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. Dortch 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, consistent with section 254(e) of the Communications Act. The Commission has granted certification to the following companies:

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. (Baltic) (391642)
Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. (Splitrock Properties, Inc.) (391657)
Armour Independent Telephone Company (391640)
Beresford Municipal Telephone Company (391649)
Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company (391640) (co. no. 0158)
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (391647)
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. (361123)
City of Brookings Municipal Telephone (391650)
City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company (391653)
Consolidated Telcom (381607)
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc. (381611) (co. no. 1681)
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (381611) (co. no. 1611)

Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (391659)
Great Plains Communications, Inc. (371577)
Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa d/b/a Hickory Tech Corporation (351096)
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (391654)
James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company (391664)
Jefferson Telephone Company (391666)
Kadoka Telephone Company (391667)
Kennebec Telephone Company (391668)
McCook Cooperative Telephone Company (391669)
Midstate Communications, Inc. (391670)
Mount Rushmore Telephone Company and Fort Randall Telephone Company (391660)
Nebcom, Inc.
PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc. (391652)
Red River Telecom, Inc. (381631)
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. (391674)
RT Communications, Inc. (512251)
Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. (391676)
Sioux Valley Telephone Company (391677)
Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company (391679)
Three River Telco (371525)
Tri-County Telcom, Inc. (391682)
Union Telephone Company (391684)
Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. (391685)
Valley Telephone Company (361495)
Venture Communications Cooperative (391680)
Vivian Telephone Company d/b/a Golden West Communications, Inc. (391686)
Western Telephone Company (391688)
Western Wireless Corporation (399002)
West River Cooperative Telephone Company (391689)
West River Telecommunications Cooperative (381637) (co. no. 4414)
West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) (391671)

Also enclosed are the Orders Granting Certification to the above-referenced rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Sahr
Chairman



Gary Hanson
Commissioner



James A. Burg
Commissioner