

Cremer, Karen

From: Best, Harlan
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2005 8:44 AM
To: Cremer, Karen
Subject: FW: Hills Telephone company/Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Snyders [mailto:don@alliancecom.net]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2005 8:39 AM
To: Best, Harlan
Subject: RE: Hills Telephone company/Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.

Harlan,

As we had discussed, Hills Telephone Company, Inc. purchased the three exchanges of Valley Springs, East Valley Springs and North Larchwood from Sioux Valley Telephone on June 1, 2005. These three exchanges are still owned by Hills Telephone and are in their own South Dakota study area 280D. FYI, Hills Telephone is a subsidiary company of the parent company Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Don Snyders
General Manager

-----Original Message-----

From: Harlan.Best@state.sd.us [mailto:Harlan.Best@state.sd.us]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2005 7:15 AM
To: don@alliancecom.net
Cc: Karen.Cremer@state.sd.us
Subject: Hills Telephone company/Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.

Don--In TC04-213 Swiftel Communications is requesting ETC designation. On December 1, 2005, Swiftel filed a response to Rolayne Wiest's questions regarding this designation. As a part of its response Swiftel wrote the following:

Q #2. The revised Exhibit D now has Hills Telephone Company listed on it for the exchanges of N. Larchwood and Valley Springs. Previously these changes were listed under Sioux Valley Telephone Company. Do Hills Telephone and Sioux Valley have separate study areas or are they in the same study area? Also, are the two wire centers listed the only wire centers that Hills Telephone Company serves? If Hills Telephone is a separate study area and there are additional exchanges that Swiftel does not intend to serve, then have you done a creamskimming analysis for Hills Telephone? On the other hand, if Hills telephone is a separate serve area from Sioux Valley and there are only the two exchanges, should Hills Telephone be listed on Exhibit C?

Response: When Swiftel originally prepared its petition it properly listed the N. Larchwood and Valley Springs exchanges as part of Sioux Valley Telephone Company's study area. On October 27, 2005, Petitioner was informed by Commission staff that these two

exchanges has been sold to Hills Telephone Company, and per staff request, Petitioner made the change on its Exhibit D accordingly. Since that time, Petitioner has learned that those two exchanges have been sold again to Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. Therefore, based on what Petitioner has learned from Commission staff, these two wire centers are now part of Alliance, which also owns other wire centers in the state. As a result, we are submitting a further revised Exhibit D with this letter to reflect this latest change. As you will note in our response question number 8 below, some of Alliance's wire centers have since been redefined to become individual service areas. Since N. Larchwood and Valley Springs were not part of the recently granted redefinition petition, these two wire centers will ultimately need to be redefined and, as such, continue to appear on Exhibit D to the subject Petition. The creamskimming/population

density data for these wire centers was submitted on its original Exhibit F to Petitioner's application, only the name of the carrier has subsequently changed.

Would you review this response and let me know if it is accurate?

Thanks Don.

Harlan
605-773-3203