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RECEIVED

AUG 25 2004

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

August 24, 2004

NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Pamela Bonrud
Executive Director
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre SD 57501

RE: Western Wireless Corporation's Request for Certification As an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

On behalf of WWC License LLC, a subsidiary of Western Wireless Corporation ("Western Wireless"), enclosed you will find the original and ten copies of Western Wireless' letter requesting state certification of Western Wireless Corporation for federal universal service funds, Affidavit of Gene DeJordy supporting certification and, Affidavit Exhibit A, providing financial information showing that all support received will be used "only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended." I would request the above matter be filed.

This request is filed to verify that Western Wireless will use all federal universal service support only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities for which the support is intended, as required with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and federal regulations promulgated therefrom. Please note that Gene DeJordy, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs of Western Wireless, has executed the request certifying that all funds received will be used in accordance with federal and state laws.

Please note that the financial information attached to the request, Affidavit Exhibit A, has been labeled "Confidential and Proprietary." The information is confidential under A.R.S.D. 20:10:1:39(4) and (5). Because of this, Western Wireless requests confidential treatment of Exhibit A of the request pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:01:41 and that the material be held confidential for ten years then destroyed. This information is confidential as the information is internal and proprietary, can be used adversely by competitors and the development and financial planning constitutes trade secrets as recognized by law. If there are any inquiries as to the confidential treatment, I may be contacted at the above address.

GUNDERSON, PALMER, GOODSSELL & NELSON, LLP

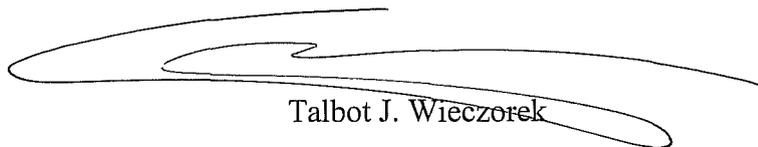
Pam Bonrud
August 24, 2004
Page 2

Please note that the affidavit was executed on July 20, 2004. The financial information being provided applies to those areas where Western Wireless had been designated as an ETC as of the date of the execution of the affidavit. As you know, the Commission has granted ETC designation to Western Wireless in the pending docket TC03-191 but a final order has not been issued. Upon the issuance of that order, Western Wireless will seek certification in those areas through either a supplemental submission to this request for certification or by filing a separate request for certification for those areas.

If you need any additional information on the Request for Certification or the request for confidential treatment please let me know.

Once the request is filed, please provide me with a date stamped copy of the Request for Certification. I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience.

Sincerely,



Talbot J. Wiczorek

TJW:klw

Enclosures

c: James Blundell
Gene DeJordy
Suzie Rao
RaeAnn Kelsch



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AUG 25 2004

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

August 20, 2004

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, First Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: State Certification of Western Wireless Corporation for Federal Universal Service Funds

Chairman Bob Sahr
Commissioner Gary Hanson
Commissioner Jim Burg

This letter is to request that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission notify the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that, as an eligible telecommunications carrier, WWC License LLC, a subsidiary of Western Wireless Corporation (Western Wireless), is eligible to receive federal high-cost support in accordance with 47 U.S.C 254(e).

The federal high-cost support Western Wireless will receive in 2005 will be used "only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended" as outlined in 47 USC 254(e). The attached affidavit shows that Western Wireless self-certifies that it will only use the federal high-cost support it receives for the intended purposes.

Western Wireless respectfully requests that the Commission notify the FCC and USAC prior to October 1 of this year that Western Wireless is eligible to receive federal high-cost support for 2005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rae Ann Kelsch'.

Rae Ann Kelsch
Manager, Government Compliance

Attachment

DESIGNATION OF COMMON CARRIERS)
AS ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)
CARRIERS (ETC) TO RECEIVE FEDERAL)
UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS PURSUANT)
TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS)
COMMISSION'S FOURTEENTH REPORT)
AND ORDER ADOPTING A STATE)
CERTIFICATION PROCESS)

SOUTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2004

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF KING

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Gene DeJordy of WWC License LLC, a subsidiary of Western Wireless Corporation ("Western Wireless"), who on his oath deposed and said:

1. My name is Gene DeJordy. I am employed by Western Wireless in the position of Vice President of Regulatory Affairs. In this position, I am personally familiar with the Federal Universal Service support received by Western Wireless and how the Company uses these funds.
2. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission designated Western Wireless as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in certain non-rural telephone company exchanges and certain rural telephone company study areas in Application No. TC98-146 dated October 18, 2001.
3. The Federal Universal Service support funds received by Western Wireless, to the extent any are applied for and received, will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities for which the support is intended, as designated by the Federal Communications Commission consistent with Section 254(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act. These funds will be used to provide the following supported

services as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 which are available throughout Western Wireless' designated service area.

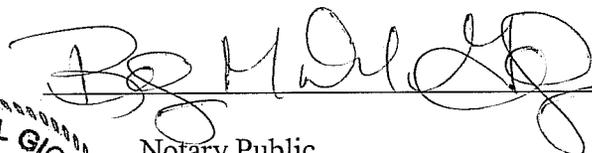
- (a) voice grade access to the public switched network;
- (b) local usage;
- (c) dual tone multi frequency signaling, or its functional equivalent;
- (d) single party service, or its functional equivalent;
- (e) access to emergency services, including 911 and enhanced 911 service;
- (f) access to operator services;
- (g) access to interexchange service;
- (h) access to directory assistance;
- (i) toll blocking for qualifying low income customers; and
- (j) toll control for qualifying low-income customers.

3. The matters addressed above are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.



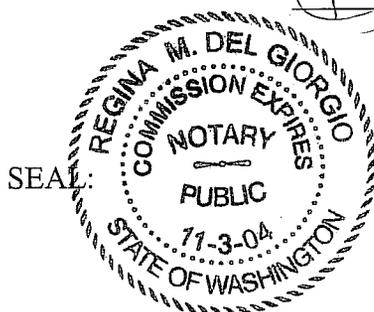
Gene DeJordy, Esquire

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this the 20th day of July, 2004.



Notary Public

State of Washington



CONFIDENTIAL

/

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of August 19, 2004 through August 25, 2004

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: 605-773-3201

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC04-184 In the Matter of the Request of Qwest Corporation for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On August 20, 2004, Qwest Corporation (Qwest) provided information constituting Qwest's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Qwest 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 Filed: 08/20/04
Intervention Deadline: 09/10/04

TC04-185 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and Granite Telecommunications, LLC.

On August 24, 2004, the Commission received a filing for approval of an Elimination of UNE-P and Implementation of Batch Hot Cut Process and Discounts Amendment between Qwest Corporation and Granite Telecommunications, LLC. Any party wishing to comment on the Amendment may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the Amendment no later than September 13, 2004. Parties to the Amendment may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Rolayne Ailts Wiest
Date Filed: 08/24/04
Initial Comments Due: 09/13/04

TC04-186 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc.

On August 25, 2004, the Commission received a Filing for Approval of a DC Power Measuring Amendment between Qwest Corporation and McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc. According to the parties, the amendment adds terms, conditions, and rates for DC Power Measuring. Any party wishing to comment on the Amendment may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the Amendment no later than September 14, 2004. Parties to the Amendment may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Rolayne Ailts Wiest

Date Filed: 08/25/04

Initial Comments Due: 09/14/04

**TC04-187 In the Matter of the Request of Western Wireless Corporation for Certification
Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On August 25, 2004, Western Wireless Corporation (Western) provided information constituting Western's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Western 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 Filed: 08/25/04

Intervention Deadline: 09/10/04

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You may subscribe or unsubscribe to the PUC mailing lists at <http://www.state.sd.us/puc>**



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

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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1-800-332-1782

September 24, 2004

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 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Annual State Certification of Support for Rural Carriers and Non-Rural Carriers

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby states that the following rural and non-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, 54.307, and/or 54.309 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 rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers:

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. (391642)
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, LLC (361123)
City of Brookings Municipal Telephone Department (391650)
City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company (391653)
Consolidated Telcom (381607)
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)

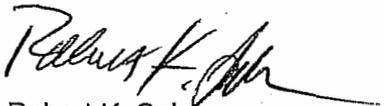
James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company (391664)
Jefferson Telephone Company (391666)
Kadoka Telephone Company (391667)
Kennebec Telephone Company (391668)
McCook Cooperative Telephone Company (391669)
Midstate Communications, Inc. (391670)
Mount Rushmore Telephone Company and Fort Randall Telephone Company (391660)
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (371576)
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)
Splitrock Properties, Inc. (391657)
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 (391686)
Western Telephone Company (391688)
Western Wireless Corporation (399002) (competitive ETC)
West River Cooperative Telephone Company (391689)
West River Telecommunications Cooperative (381637) (co. no. 4414)
West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) (391671)

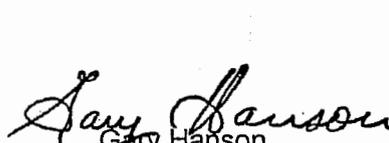
The Commission has granted certification to the following non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers:

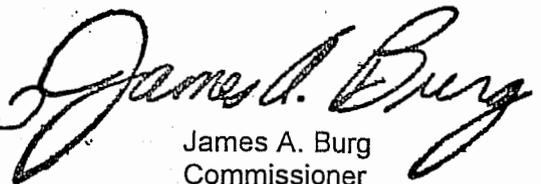
Qwest Corporation (395145)
Western Wireless Corporation (399002) (competitive ETC)

Enclosed are the Orders Granting Certification to the above-referenced rural and non-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

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)	ORDER GRANTING
WESTERN WIRELESS CORPORATION FOR)	CERTIFICATION
CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF)	
FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)	TC04-187

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 (ETC) providing service in rural service areas. Pursuant to such rule, a state that desires ETCs providing service in rural service areas 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. For ETCs serving lines in the service area of a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier a state commission must file certification pursuant to § 54.313.

The certification required for ETCs providing service in rural and non-rural service areas to receive federal universal support for all four quarters during calendar year 2005 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2004. 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 25, 2004, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Western Wireless Corporation (Company) regarding its Request for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support. The purpose of this filing was to provide information constituting Company's plan for the use of its federal

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.

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 26, 2004, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 10, 2004, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 14, 2004, 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 22nd day of September, 2004.

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>Nelsine Kolbo</i></u>
Date: <u>9/24/04</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