

GUNDERSON, PALMER, GOODSSELL & NELSON, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

J. CRISMAN PALMER
G. VERNE GOODSSELL
JAMES S. NELSON
DANIEL E. ASHMORE
TERENCE R. QUINN
DONALD P. KNUDSEN
PATRICK G. GOETZINGER
TALBOT J. WIECZOREK
MARK J. CONNOT
JENNIFER K. TRUCANO
MARTY J. JACKLEY

ASSURANT BUILDING
440 MT. RUSHMORE ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 8045
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57709-8045

TELEPHONE (605) 342-1078 • FAX (605) 342-6300
www.gundersonpalmer.com

ATTORNEYS LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN
SOUTH DAKOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, NEBRASKA
COLORADO, MONTANA, WYOMING & MINNESOTA

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2006

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DAVID E. LUST
THOMAS E. SIMMONS
TERRI LEE WILLIAMS
PAMELA SNYDER-VARNS
SARA FRANKENSTEIN
AMY K. SCHULTZ
JASON M. SMILEY
SHANE C. PENFIELD

WYNNA GUNDERSON
Of Counsel

July 26, 2006

NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: RCC Minnesota, Inc. Request for Certification As an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC")
GPGN File No. 7401.040099

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On behalf of RCC Minnesota, Inc., enclosed you will find the original and ten copies of this letter requesting state certification of RCC Minnesota, Inc. for federal universal service support, and the Request for Certification executed by David Del Zoppo 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 that the above matter be filed and RCC Minnesota, Inc. be certified.

Please note that the various exhibits attached to the Request have been labeled "Confidential and Proprietary." The information is confidential under A.R.S.D. 20:10:1:39(4) and (5). Because of this, RCC requests confidential treatment of the marked exhibits pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:01:41 and that the material be held confidential for ten years and 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

Patricia Van Gerpen
July 25, 2006
Page 2

If you need any additional information on the Request or attachments, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Talbot J. Wieczorek'. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the top and a loop at the bottom.

Talbot J. Wieczorek

TJW:klw

Enclosures

c: Steve Otto
Elizabeth Koehler

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2006

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)
RCC MINNESOTA, INC.)
FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE)
OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

I, David Del Zoppo, being of lawful age and duly sworn, on my oath, state that I am the Senior Vice President, Finance and Accounting, and an officer of Rural Cellular Corporation and each of its affiliates, including RCC Minnesota, Inc. ("Company") and that I am authorized to execute this Affidavit on behalf of the Company, and the facts set forth in this Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

1. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:52 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54, this Affidavit is to act as an Annual Certification filing and Affidavit in Support of the Certification requirements.
2. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission designated RCC as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in certain non-rural telephone company exchanges and certain rural telephone company study areas in Application No. TC03-193 dated June 6, 2005. Pursuant to the designation order, Finding of Fact number 71 subparts (1), (2), and (3), RCC Minnesota and Wireless Alliance, L.L.C. filed the required compliance documents on July 30, 2005.
3. The Federal Universal Service support funds received by RCC, 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 RCC' 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.

4. The Company was not certified as an ETC until June 6, 2005. The initial certification was for Qwest wire centers and certain RLEC service areas. For all other RLEC wire centers where the company sought certification, certification did not occur until November 14, 2005. No Universal Service Support was received in 2005. Any Universal Service Support received in 2006 has been or will be directed to expand service and expand coverage areas. The expansion of coverage areas and capacities and use of the funds are detailed as set forth in the 2005 Service Improvement Plan update and 2006 and 2007 Service Improvement Plan attached as Exhibits A and B

5. The power outages suffered by the Company during the Fiscal Year 2005 are listed and detailed in Exhibit C attached hereto, entitled ETC Outages 2005.

6. Attached as Exhibit D, entitled Requests for Services, is a true and correct copy of the number of requests for service from potential customers within the service area that were not fulfilled during 2005.

7. The number of complaints received during that time during the previous calendar year where the Company was an ETC and resolution of those complaints are set forth is attached in Exhibit E.

8. The Company hereby certifies to the Public Utility Commission of South Dakota, pursuant to the requirements of Administrative Rule 20:10:32:43.03, that it has the ability to remain functional in emergency situations including reasonable back-up power supplies, the ability to reroute traffic, and the ability to manage traffic spikes.

9. The Company hereby certifies to the Public Utility Commission of South Dakota, pursuant to the requirements of ARSD 20:10:32:43.04 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(5), that it complies with service quality and consumer protection standards in the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Carriers.

10. The Company hereby certifies to the Public Utility Commission of South Dakota, pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43:06 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(8), that the FCC, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 332(c)(8), may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers within one of its Designated Areas in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access.

11. The Company hereby certifies to the Public Utility Commission of South Dakota, pursuant to the requirements of ARSD 20:10:32:54(7), that it offers rate plans with substantial local calling areas with varying levels of local usage, including plans with unlimited usage. Each rate plan includes, at a minimum, all of the supported services required by FCC Rule

54.101(a)(1)-(9) comparable to the service offerings of the incumbent LECs. Consistent with FCC Rule 54.202(a)(4), the amount of local usage available in RCC's generally available rate plans is comparable to that offered by the incumbent LECs in the Designated Areas.

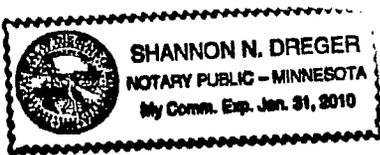
12. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:53, attached hereto as Exhibit F is an Affidavit certifying any information required under A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.01 to 20:10:32:43.06.

13. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:55, the Company, in calendar year 2005, notified its customers and potential customers of lifeline and link-up opportunities. Attached as Exhibit G, is a listing of the activities by the Company to notify its customers and potential customers of lifeline and link-up opportunities.

DATED this 25 day of July, 2006.

RCC Minnesota, Inc. (Company)
By: [Signature] (Name)
Its: 5 VP (Title)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 25 day of July, 2006.



[Signature]
Notary public in and for the State of Minnesota
My Commission Expires: 1/31/2010

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A – Service Improvement Plan Update for Calendar Year 2005 and coverage map for 2005 (Confidential)

EXHIBIT B – Two-Year Service Improvement Plan for Calendar Year 2006 and Calendar Year 2007 (Confidential)

EXHIBIT C – Wireless Alliance LLC Outages from June 2005 through December 2005 (time that Wireless Alliance LLC was an ETC) (Confidential)

EXHIBIT D – Unfulfilled Requests for Service (Confidential)

EXHIBIT E – Consumer Complaints Report (Confidential)

EXHIBIT F - Affidavit in Support of Requirements for Previously Designated ETCs pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:53 (not confidential)

EXHIBIT G – Lifeline and Link-up Advertising/Outreach efforts (not confidential)

CONFIDENTIAL

[\]



AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATION CARRIERS PURSUANT TO A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:53

I, David Del Zoppo, being of lawful age and duly sworn, on my oath, state that I am the Senior Vice President, Finance and Accounting, an officer of Rural Cellular Corporation and each of its affiliates, including RCC Minnesota, Inc. ("Company") and that I am authorized to execute this Affidavit on behalf of the Company, and the facts set forth in this Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

1. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.01, the Company hereby commits to providing service throughout its proposed designated service areas to all customers making a reasonable request for service. The Company shall provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Company's proposed designated service area where the Company's network already encompasses the potential customers premises.
2. The Company certifies that if a potential customer is within the designated service area but outside the existing network coverage area, it will within a reasonable period of time provide service by:
 - (a) Modify or replacing the requesting customer's equipment;
 - (b) Extending facilities;
 - (c) Adjusting the nearest cell tower;
 - (d) Adjusting network or customer's facilities;
 - (e) Reselling services from another carrier's facilities provide service; or
 - (f) Employing, leasing or constructing additional network facilities.

Such modifications will occur and service will be provided if the service does not impose an excessive or unreasonable cost.

2. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.02, the Company submitted is two-year plan (2006-2007) attached to its Request for Certification.
3. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:45.03, the Company has the ability to remain functional in emergency situations by maintaining reasonable backup power supplies and the ability to reroute traffic, including the management of traffic spikes.
4. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.04, the Company certifies that to satisfy consumer protection and service quality it will comply with the obligations of carriers under the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Carriers.
5. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.05, the Company certifies it provides a comparable local usage rate to the one offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier in the service areas where the Company has been designed an ETC.

6. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.06, the Company stands ready and certifies it will be able to provide equal access to long distance carrier if no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the service areas the Company serves.

DATED this 25 day of July, 2006.

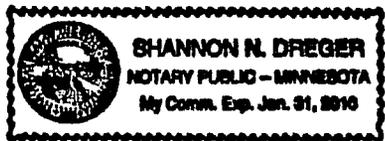
RCC Minnesota, Inc. (Company)

By: [Signature] (Name)

Its: SV (Title)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 25 day of July, 2006.

[Signature]
Notary public in and for the State of Minnesota



My Commission Expires: 1/31/2010

Lifeline and Link up Advertising/Outreach Efforts
RCC Minnesota, Inc.
June 6-December 31, 2005

* Note - RCC received its ETC designation on June 6, 2005 for a portion of its service area. On November 14, 2005, RCC became ETC eligible for additional portions of its service area that were awaiting RCC's petition for redefinition.

Newspaper	Distribution Area	Run Date
Watertown Public Opinion * see attached exhibit for sample	Codington, Grant, Roberts, Marshall, Day, Clark, Hamlin and Deuel Counties	9/19/2005
Posters Lifeline/Link Up posters * see attached exhibit for sample	At all retail locations	
Unicel Website	www.Unicel.com	
USAC Website	www.universal service.org	
Bill Messages * see attached	All RCC customers	Aug-05 and Nov-05

Additional Outreach Efforts		Dec-05
Mailed posters and cover letters to various social service offices and agencies:		
Codington Co. Public Health Alliance	Watertown	
Roberts Co. Public Health Alliance	Sisseton	
Grant Co. Public Health Alliance	Milbank	
NE SD Community Action Program	Sisseton	
Social Services	Watertown	
Lutheran Social Svc	Watertown	
Social Security Administration	Watertown	
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate	Agency Village	

South Dakota Bill Messages

August 2005

Lifeline and Link Up):

Unicel is an authorized provider of Lifeline and Link Up services in South Dakota. This government program provides credits of \$8.25 a month to income-qualified individuals on their telephone bill. Additional credits are available for qualified individuals living on federally recognized tribal reservations. You may be eligible if you participate in any of the following programs: Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, National School Free Lunch Program (NSL), Head Start, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Tribal National School Free Lunch Program, BIA General Assistance, or if your income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Level. To see if you qualify for Lifeline and Link Up, call 1-800-450-TALK or pick up an application at a Unicel retail location.

November 2005

Lifeline and Link Up

Unicel is an authorized provider of Lifeline and Link Up services in South Dakota. Lifeline provides credits of \$8.25 a month to income-qualified individuals on their telephone bill. Additional credits are available for qualified individuals living on federally recognized tribal reservations. You may be eligible if you participate in any of the following programs: Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, National School Free Lunch Program (NSL), Head Start, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Tribal National School Free Lunch Program, BIA General Assistance, or if your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Level. For more information or to sign up for Lifeline and Link Up, call 1-800-GO-CELLULAR or pick up an application at our retail locations.

UNICEL

Wireless service to fit your budget.

We support Lifeline & Link-Up Assistance Programs.
Call for more details and we'll help determine if you are qualified
to receive income-based benefits. See stores for details.

1-800-GO CELLULAR (442-5551)

www.unicel.com

Unicel is a service of Rural Cellular Corporation. Additional fees will be added to your bill for each line of service to help defray Unicel's costs of complying with federal and state regulatory obligations, as follows: 3.164% USF charge, 2.5% ND Gross Receipts fee (ND residents), 4.15% SD Gross Receipts Fee (SD residents), additional cost recovery fees of \$1.16 and, if roaming charges are incurred for roaming outside the calling plan area, roaming taxes as passed on by our roaming partners and a \$2.00 roamer administration charge. These fees are not taxes or government-required charges. Offer is subject to terms of wireless service agreement and calling plan details. Service activation requires \$30 one-time activation fee and credit check and may require security deposit. \$200 early cancellation fee applies to each line. Calls outside the local Unicel Network will incur additional toll and/or per-minute charges. Some eligible plans are toll- and roaming-restricted; on these plans, calls other than 911 calls cannot be made from outside the local Unicel Network. Digital features and service are not available in all areas and may vary due to atmospheric, topographical and other conditions. Federal, state and local taxes and surcharges apply. Must be at least 18 years old with positive ID and have user address in the local Unicel Network. Other restrictions apply; see store for details.

Lifeline and Link up Advertising/Outreach Efforts
RCC Minnesota, Inc.
June 6-December 31, 2005

* Note - RCC received its ETC designation on June 6, 2005 for a portion of its service area. On November 14, 2005, RCC became ETC eligible for additional portions of its service area that were awaiting RCC's petition for redefinition.

Newspaper	Distribution Area	Run Date
Watertown Public Opinion • see attached exhibit for sample	Codington, Grant, Roberts, Marshall, Day, Clark, Hamlin and Deuel Counties	9/19/2005
Posters Lifeline/Link Up posters • see attached exhibit for sample	At all retail locations	
Unicel Website	www.Unicel.com	
USAC Website	www.universal service.org	
Bill Messages * see attached	All RCC customers	Aug-05 and Nov-05

Additional Outreach Efforts

Dec-05

Mailed posters and cover letters to various social service offices and agencies:

Codington Co. Public Health Alliance	Watertown
Roberts Co. Public Health Alliance	Sisseton
Grant Co. Public Health Alliance	Milbank
NE SD Community Action Program	Sisseton
Social Services	Watertown
Lutheran Social Svc	Watertown
Social Security Administration	Watertown
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate	Agency Village

South Dakota Bill Messages

August 2005

Lifeline and Link Up):

Unicel is an authorized provider of Lifeline and Link Up services in South Dakota. This government program provides credits of \$8.25 a month to income-qualified individuals on their telephone bill. Additional credits are available for qualified individuals living on federally recognized tribal reservations. You may be eligible if you participate in any of the following programs: Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, National School Free Lunch Program (NSL), Head Start, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Tribal National School Free Lunch Program, BIA General Assistance, or if your income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Level. To see if you qualify for Lifeline and Link Up, call 1-800-450-TALK or pick up an application at a Unicel retail location.

November 2005

Lifeline and Link Up

Unicel is an authorized provider of Lifeline and Link Up services in South Dakota. Lifeline provides credits of \$8.25 a month to income-qualified individuals on their telephone bill. Additional credits are available for qualified individuals living on federally recognized tribal reservations. You may be eligible if you participate in any of the following programs: Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, National School Free Lunch Program (NSL), Head Start, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Tribal National School Free Lunch Program, BIA General Assistance, or if your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Level. For more information or to sign up for Lifeline and Link Up, call 1-800-GO-CELLULAR or pick up an application at our retail locations.

UNICEL

Wireless service to fit your budget.

We support Lifeline & Link-Up Assistance Programs.
Call for more details and we'll help determine if you are qualified
to receive income-based benefits. See stores for details.

1-800-GO CELLULAR (442-3364)

www.unicel.com

Unicel is a service of Rural Cellular Corporation. Additional fees will be added to your bill for each line of service to help defray Unicel's costs of complying with federal and state regulatory obligations, as follows: 3.164% USF charge, 2.5% ND Gross Receipts fee (ND residents), 4.15% SD Gross Receipts Fee (SD residents), additional cost recovery fees of \$1.16 and, if roaming charges are incurred for roaming outside the calling plan area, roaming taxes as passed on by our roaming partners and a \$2.00 roamer administration charge. These fees are not taxes or government-required charges. Offer is subject to terms of wireless service agreement and calling plan details. Service activation requires \$30 one-time activation fee and credit check and may require security deposit. \$200 early cancellation fee applies to each line. Calls outside the local Unicel Network will incur additional toll and/or per-minute charges. Some eligible plans are toll- and roaming-restricted; on these plans, calls other than 911 calls cannot be made from outside the local Unicel Network. Digital features and service are not available in all areas and may vary due to atmospheric, topographical and other conditions. Federal, state and local taxes and surcharges apply. Must be at least 18 years old with positive ID and have user address in the local Unicel Network. Other restrictions apply; see store for details.

UNICEL USE #65

STAY CONNECTED FOR LESS!

Unicel participates in the Lifeline/Link Up Telecommunication Assistance Program offering discounted wireless service plans to qualified low-income individuals.

How Do I Determine if I am Eligible?

If you are currently receiving: Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), National School Lunch Program's free lunch program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or your household income is at or below 135% of the Federally Recognized Poverty Guidelines.

Individuals who live on a federally recognized reservation may qualify for additional tribal Lifeline benefits if they receive assistance from one of the following programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start Programs (income eligible), or Tribal National School Free Lunch Program.

What Credits are Available?

Lifeline will provide credits of \$8.25/month. Link Up will provide a one-time credit of 50% off your service activation fee. Additional credits may be available for qualified consumers living on federally recognized reservations.

Toll Blocking

Toll blocking is available free of charge. Toll blocking restricts the ability to make long distance and roaming phone calls. Unicel will not collect a service deposit if eligible consumers elect toll blocking.

Visit your local Unicel retail store for more information.



Unicel is a service of Rural Cellular Corporation. Offer subject to terms of wireless service agreement and calling plan details. Additional charges will be included for each line of service to help Unicel defray its costs of complying with federal and state regulatory obligations, as follows: 2.907% USF charge (8.9% USF charge for international calls), 4.15% SD Gross Receipts Fee, additional cost recovery fees of \$1.16 and, if roaming charges are incurred, roaming taxes as passed on by our roaming partners and a \$2.00 roamer administration charge for roaming outside the calling plan area. These charges are not taxes or government-required charges. Service activation requires \$30 one-time activation fee; credit check and security deposit may be required if you elect toll capability or optional features with service. On toll-restricted plans, long distance calls and calls other than 911 calls cannot be made or received outside of Unicel's Network. Digital features and service not available in all areas and may vary due to atmospheric, topographical and other conditions. Federal, state and local taxes and surcharges apply. Requires use of approved wireless handset. Must be at least 18 years old with positive ID and have user address in Unicel's home area. Other restrictions apply. See store for details.

CONFIDENTIAL

[2]