

GUNDERSON, PALMER, NELSON & ASHMORE, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

TELEPHONE (605) 342-1078

www.gundersonpalmer.com

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

J. CRISMAN PALMER
JAMES S. NELSON
DANIEL E. ASHMORE
DONALD P. KNUDSEN
PATRICK G. GOETZINGER
TALBOT J. WIECZOREK
JENNIFER K. TRUCANO
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TERRI LEE WILLIAMS
SARA FRANKENSTEIN
AMY K. KOENIG
JASON M. SMILEY
MATTHEW E. NAASZ
QUENTIN L. RIGGINS
JEFFREY R. CONNOLLY
REBECCA L. MANN
WYNN A. GUNDERSON
Of Counsel

April 28, 2009

E-FILING

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

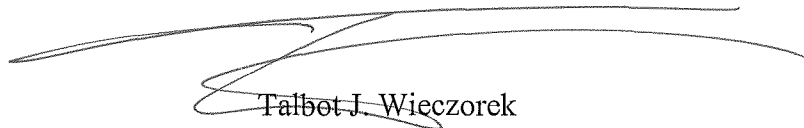
RE: Wireless Alliance, LLC - Petition to Relinquish ETC Designation
GPNA File No. 07401.0002

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On behalf of Wireless Alliance, LLC, enclosed you will find the Petition to Relinquish Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation with Exhibits A and B. I have also enclosed a Certificate of Service.

If you need any additional information on the Petition or its exhibits, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Talbot J. Wiczorek

TJW:klw

Enclosures

c: Stephen B. Rowell
Rich Coit
Darla P. Rogers
Service List

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	PETITION TO RELINQUISH ELIGIBLE
WIRELESS ALLIANCE, LLC D/B/A)	TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNICEL FOR RELINQUISHMENT OF)	DESIGNATION
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	
CARRIER DESIGNATION)	Docket No. TC09-_____

**NOTICE OF RELINQUISHMENT OF ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION**

Wireless Alliance, LLC (WALLC or Company), by and through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), 47 C.F.R. § 54.205 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:48, respectfully notifies the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of the relinquishment of its eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation.

In support of its relinquishment, WALLC states as follows:

1. WALLC is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) in South Dakota.

2. By Order dated June 6, 2005, in Docket No. TC03-193, the Commission granted WALLC's request for designation as an ETC in certain service areas within South Dakota.

3. On or about July 29, 2007, Rural Cellular Corporation, owner of a controlling interest in WALLC, and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger under which Verizon Wireless would acquire ownership and control of Rural Cellular Corporation and each of its subsidiaries, including WALLC. The transaction closed August 7, 2008.

4. WALLC has decided to relinquish its ETC designation in South Dakota. 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) states, in pertinent part:

A State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the State commission (or the Commission in the case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6)) shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunication carrier.

Id. (emphases added); *see also* 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a) and (b).

5. A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:48 states as follows:

A telecommunications company may relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation and accompanying universal service obligations as provided for below:

(1) A telecommunications company seeking to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation shall file a petition with the commission specifying the service area for which it seeks to relinquish its designation and the identity of any other eligible telecommunications carrier serving the service area. At the time of filing, a copy of the petition shall also be provided to each local service provider serving the area for which the petitioner seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation;

(2) The commission may permit a telecommunications company to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation if at least one other eligible telecommunications carrier serves the area for which the relinquishment is sought;

(3) The petitioning telecommunications company shall continue to meet its eligible telecommunications carrier obligations for the entire area for which it seeks to relinquish those obligations until the date specified in the commission's order approving the relinquishment; and

(4) Prior to permitting a telecommunications company designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the commission shall ensure that each customer served by the relinquishing carrier continues to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The commission shall establish

a time, not to exceed one year after the commission approves such relinquishment, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed.

Id.

PETITION AND NOTICE OF RELINQUISHMENT

6. In accordance with the foregoing requirements, WALLC provides the following information in support of its notice of ETC relinquishment.

7. WALLC seeks to relinquish its ETC designation throughout its entire South Dakota designated ETC service area. WALLC's designated service area was established by Commission Order dated June 6, 2005, in Docket No. TC03-193, and includes, without limitation, each of the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) wire centers and/or study areas set forth on **Exhibit A**.

8. As set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a) and (b), the approval of a competitive ETC's notice of relinquishment is mandatory. In any area served by at least one (1) other ETC, federal law requires the Commission to permit the relinquishment of an ETC designation. The Commission may also "ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served" by requiring "sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunication carrier." *Id.*; See also A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:48(4), which reiterates this obligation. These regulatory objectives are satisfied in this case.

9. Following relinquishment of its ETC designation, WALLC will continue to offer and provide wireless service throughout its licensed area in the State of South Dakota. WALLC customers choosing to remain with WALLC following the relinquishment will continue to maintain continuity of service.

10. Following relinquishment of WALLC's ETC designation, each of the ILEC wire centers identified on **Exhibit A** will also continue to be served by the incumbent ETC. To the

best of WALLC's knowledge, each of the ILECs within the designated area has been designated an ETC. In addition to the incumbent ETCs, these wire centers will also continue to be served by the following competitive ETCs; namely, Western Wireless, and Midcontinent Communications. As designated ETCs, the ILECs and wireless ETCs will be required to provide service either as a carrier-of-last-resort or in response to a reasonable request, including compliance with the multi-step service extension requirements set forth in Commission Rule 206.3(B) and fulfill any Lifeline service requirements.

11. To the best of WALLC's knowledge, none of the remaining ETCs will be required to purchase or construct additional facilities to continue providing service within the wire centers and/or study areas set forth on **Exhibit A**.

12. At least forty-five (45) days prior to the effective date of its relinquishment, WALLC will provide written notice by U.S. Mail to each of its then current Lifeline customers advising that WALLC will no longer provide service discounts as an ETC. The notice will inform customers that the monthly Lifeline credit will be discontinued. WALLC will offer each of these subscribers the option of continuing to receive service. The notice will further inform each customer that Lifeline discounted service may be obtained from one of the remaining ETC(s) in the area. Attached as **Exhibit B** is a sample copy of the notice WALLC intends to send to the Lifeline customers. In addition, upon approval of the instant petition, WALLC will not activate any new Lifeline subscribers.


CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, WALLC respectfully requests that the Commission approve the relinquishment of its ETC designation effective July 1, 2009¹.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 28th, 2009

GUNDERSON, PALMER, NELSON
& ASHMORE, LLP



Talbot J. Wiczorek
PO Box 8045
Rapid City SD 57709
Phone: 605-342-1078
Fax: 605-342-0480

Attorney for Wireless Alliance, LLC

¹ The designation relinquishment the subject of this notice shall have no effect on and does not relate to the existing and continued designation of Alltel Communications, LLC, successor of GCC License Corp. and WWC License, LLC, as an ETC. If there are any questions with respect to the designation of Alltel in the state of South Dakota, contact RaeAnn Kelsch at (701) 222-2176.

EXHIBIT A

**WIRE CENTERS AND/OR STUDY AREAS
SUBJECT TO RELINQUISHMENT**

ILEC	Wire Center	CLLI
BALTIC TELECOM COOP	BALTIC	BLTCSDXA
BALTIC TELECOM COOP	CROOKS	CRKSSDXA
BALTIC TELECOM COOP	HUDSON	HDSNSDXA
PRAIRIEWAVE COMM TEL	LENNOX	LNNXSDXA
PRAIRIEWAVE COMM TEL	WORTHING	LNNXSDXA
SPLITROCK TELECOM COOPERATIVE INC	BRANDON	BRNDSDXA
SPLITROCK TELECOM COOPERATIVE INC	GARRETSON	GRSNSDXA
SIOUX VALLEY TEL CO	COLTON	COTNSDXA
SIOUX VALLEY TEL CO	DELL RAPIDS	DLRPSDXA
SIOUX VALLEY TEL CO	HUMBOLDT	HMBLSDXA
SIOUX VALLEY TEL CO	VALLEY SPRINGS	VYSPSDXA
UNION TEL CO	HARTFORD	HRFRSDXA
UNION TEL CO	WALL LAKE	HRFRSDXS
QWEST	CANTON	CNTNSDCO
QWEST	HARISBGTEA	HRBGSDCO
QWEST	SIOUX FALLS	SXFLSDCO
QWEST	SIOUX FALLS	SXFLSDSE
QWEST	SIOUX FALLS	SXFLSDSW
QWEST	TEA	TEA SDCO

EXHIBIT B

NOTICE

Termination of Lifeline Service Discounts

Dear Unicel Lifeline customer:

Wireless Alliance, LLC d/b/a Unicel will be relinquishing its status as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in South Dakota, and we will no longer participate in the Lifeline program.

Effective [45 days from letter], Unicel will no longer offer Lifeline assistance discounts in South Dakota and you will no longer receive the \$8.25 credit on your monthly bill.

If you wish to continue receiving Lifeline assistance, you will need to contact another ETC service provider in your area. For more information on the ETC service providers in South Dakota, you may contact the Consumer Affairs Office of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 or look online at <http://puc.sd.gov/lifeline/>. If you choose to obtain Lifeline benefits from another service provider, you will not be subject to an early termination fee for cancelling your Unicel service.

If you would like to remain a valued Unicel customer under your current rate plan, there is nothing more for you to do. If you would like to review other Unicel rate plan options, please contact us directly at 1-800-450-2000 and our customer service team will be happy to assist you. You can also visit us online at www.unicel.com.

Unicel values your business and hopes to continue to serve your wireless needs.

Sincerely,

Tina Hiller
Consultant – Lifeline Compliance

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Filing of Wireless Alliance,
L.L.C., d/b/a Unicel for Relinquishment as an
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation

Docket No. TC 09 - _____

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 22nd day of April, 2009, I served a true and correct copy of the Wireless Alliance, L.L.C., d/b/a Unicel's Petition to Relinquish ETC Designation by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to:

Qwest Corporation
Colleen Sevold
125 South Dakota Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57194

Union Telephone Co. d/b/a Golden West
Telecomm
Denny Law, Local Manager
PO Box 460
Hartford, SD 57033-0460

Sioux Valley Telephone Co., d/b/a Golden
West Telecomm
Dennis Law, General Manager
PO Box 98
Dell Rapids, SD 57002

Splitrock Properties, Inc.
Don Snyders, General Manager
PO Box 349
Garretson, SD 57030

Knology Community Telephone, Inc. f/k/a
PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc.
Kathryn E. Ford, Director of Legal Affairs
1241 O.G. Skinner Drive
West Point, GA 31833

MidContinent Communications
W. Tom Simmons
Sr. V/P Public Policy
5112 N Louise Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57107

Baltic Telephone Cooperative
c/o Alliance Comm. Cooperative, Inc.
Don Snyders, General Manager
PO Box 349
Garretson, SD 57030

Alltel Communications, LLC
Tessie Kentner
Alltel Communications
One Allied Drive
Mail Stop B1F06
Little Rock, AR 72202


Talbot J. Wiczorek