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June 1, 2009

E-FILING

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")

GPNA File No. 09540.0003

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On behalf of RCC Minnesota, Inc., enclosed you will find the request for state certification of RCC Minnesota, Inc. for federal universal service support. The Request for Certification shows 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 request that the above matter be filed and RCC Minnesota, Inc. be certified.

Please note that various exhibits attached to the Request have been labeled "Confidential and Proprietary." The information contained in the exhibits is confidential under A.R.S.D. 20:10:1:39(4) and (5). Because of this, RCC requests confidential treatment of Exhibits A, B, D and E, 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. I have enclosed a list of all exhibits.

If you need any additional information on the Request or attachments, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Talbot J. Wieczorek

TJW:klw Enclosures

e: Steve Otto

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF T	HE REQUEST OF)
RCC MINNESOTA, INC)	
FOR CERTIFICATION)	
OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)
	REQUEST FOR CERTIF	ICATION
STATE OF GEORGIA)	

COUNTY OF FULTON

I, Mark R. Smith, being of lawful age and duly sworn, on my oath, state that I am the Assistant Secretary, an officer of Rural Cellular Corporation (RCC) 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, Inc. filed the required compliance documents on July 30, 2005.
- 3. The federal Universal Service high-cost support funds received by RCC 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 federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314. These funds will also be used to provide the following supported

services as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 4.101(a)(1)-(9) which are available throughout RCC's designated area.

- (a) voice grade access to the public switched telephone 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;
- (f) access to operator services;
- (g) access to interexchange service;
- (h) access to directory assistance; and
- (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income customers.
- 4. Any federal high-cost universal service support received by the Company in calendar year 2008 has been used for capital expenditures intended to expand service and expand coverage areas, and for operating and maintenance expenses. The expansion of coverage areas and capacities and use of the funds are detailed in the 2008 Service Improvement Plan Progress Report/Update attached as Confidential Exhibit A and the 2009/2010/2011 Service Improvement Plans are attached as Confidential Exhibit B.
- 5. The required information relating to outages of at least 30 minutes in duration affecting at least 10% of the end users served in a designated area or a 911 special facility encountered by the Company during calendar year 2008 are listed and detailed in attached Confidential Exhibit C.
- 6. Attached as Confidential Exhibit D is a report of the number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated area that were not fulfilled during 2008, including details of how the Company attempted to provide service.

- 7. The number of complaints received by the Company during calendar year 2008 for the designated area and resolution of those complaints is set forth in the attached Confidential Exhibit E.
- 8. The Company certifies it has the ability to function in emergency situations, including a reasonable amount of back-up power, an ability to reroute traffic around damaged transport facilities, and a capability to manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.03.
- 9. The Company certifies that it is complying with applicable service quality and consumer protection standards in the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Carriers pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.04.
- 10. The Company certifies that it acknowledges the FCC, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 332(c)(8), may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers within its designated area in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within the area.
- 11. The Company certifies that it is offering a local usage rate plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) in its designated area, including 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 the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:55, the Company, in calendar year 2008, notified its customers and potential customers of the availability of Lifeline and Link-Up

opportunities. Attached as Exhibit F is a listing of the Company's outreach efforts in calendar year 2008 designed to increase participation in the Lifeline and Link-Up assistance programs.

DATED this 29th day of May, 2009.

,	PCC Minnagata Ina	
	By: (Name – Mark R. Smith)	
	Its: Assistant Secretary (Title)	
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 29 day of May, 2009.		
SANDRA F. BROCK NOTARY PUBLIC FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 8, 2012	Notary public in and for the State of <u>GEORGIA</u> My Commission Expires: <u>9/8/2012</u>	

EXHIBITSRCC Request for Certification 2009

Exhibit	A	2008 Service Improvement Plan Progress Report/Update – CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	B-1	2009/2010/2011 Service Improvement Plan Wire Center Detail – CONFIDENTIAL
	B-2	2009 Service Improvement Plan – CONFIDENTIAL
	B-3	2010 Service Improvement Plan – CONFIDENTIAL
	B-4	2011 Service Improvement Plan - CONFIDENTIAL
	B-5	2009 Coverage Map – CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	C	2008 ETC Outage Report – CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	D	2008 Requests for Service Report – CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	E	2008 Consumer Complaints Report – CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	F-1	2008 Lifeline and Link Up Advertising/Outreach Efforts
	F-2	South Dakota Lifeline Newspaper Ad
	F-3	South Dakota Lifeline Poster
•	F-4	South Dakota Billing Message