



Steve Kolbeck, Chair  
Gary Hanson, Vice Chair  
Chris Nelson, Commissioner

## **SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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February 23, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher  
Vice President of the High Cost and Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW - Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Universal Service Administrative Company  
Customer Operations  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45,  
Designation and Certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

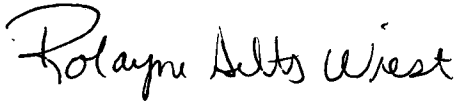
Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

Pursuant to section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended and 47 C.F.R. section 54.210, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) has designated Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for the Meckling, Summerset, Vermillion, Whitewood, and Yankton exchanges in South Dakota.

In addition, the SDPUC has also certified that Midcontinent 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. Midcontinent was designated as an ETC for the Meckling, Summerset, Vermillion, Whitewood and Yankton exchanges which are located in the non-rural service area of Qwest Corporation, the incumbent ETC. The SDPUC hereby states that Midcontinent has been certified to receive support pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305, 54.307 and/or 54.309, and/or part 36, subpart F. Midcontinent has shown to the SDPUC that it will use all federal high-cost support provided to it only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Act. Midcontinent's study area code is 399005.

Enclosed is the SDPUC's Order granting ETC designation and certification to Midcontinent. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rolayne Ailts Wiest".

ROLAYNE AILTS WIEST  
Commission Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Kathy Ford