

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)	
RCC MINNESOTA, INC. FOR)	
CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE)	DOCKET TC11-062
OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL)	
SERVICE SUPPORT)	

**PETITION TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF SOUTH DAKOTA
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION**

The South Dakota Telecommunications Association (“SDTA”) hereby petitions the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for intervention in the above captioned proceeding pursuant to SDCL § 1-26-17.1 and ARSD §§ 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.03 and 20:10:01:15.05. In support thereof, SDTA states as follows:

1. SDTA is an incorporated organization representing the interests of numerous cooperative, independent and municipal telephone companies operating throughout the State of South Dakota.

2. On September 3, 2010, the Commission received a Petition from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”), (Docket TC10-090) on behalf of its subsidiaries and affiliates offering commercial mobile radio services (“CMRS”) in the State of South Dakota (collectively, “Verizon Wireless”), to amend and consolidate the eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) designations currently held separately in the name of WWC License, LLC, (“WWC”), and RCC Minnesota, Inc. (“RCC”) in the State of South Dakota (collectively, the “ETC Designations”) to reflect Cellco and its affiliated legal entities as the designated entity. Verizon Wireless further requested partial relinquishment of its ETC status in the Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (“Golden West”) Study Area Code (“SAC”) 391659 to be

deemed effective immediately. The Commission approved the partial relinquishment by Order dated November 18, 2010.

3. SDTA sought and was granted intervention in that proceeding (*see* Order dated October 29, 2010) based on the interests of all of the SDTA member companies that operate as incumbent local exchange carriers and “rural telephone companies” in the service areas that would be covered by the requested amended, partially relinquished, or consolidated ETC status. All of those SDTA member companies have the potential to be “bound and affected favorably or adversely” by decisions made in that docket. (See ARSD § 20:10:01:15.05).

4. It is SDTA’s position that the current docket and Docket TC10-090 are inseparable. Verizon Wireless’ petition in Docket TC10-090 states that WWC and RCC now “operate and conduct business as Verizon Wireless.” In that docket Verizon Wireless is seeking a transfer of the prior designations of WWC and RCC to Verizon Wireless. The basis of SDTA’s objection to Verizon Wireless’ petition in Docket TC10-090 is that Verizon Wireless is seeking said transfer without any analysis by this Commission of Verizon Wireless’ network and eligibility for CETC designation. Prior to granting any competitive ETC designation, this Commission is required to undertake an analysis regarding whether the application is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. There are specific criteria at which the Commission must look pursuant to the established statutes and administrative rules, including benefits of increased consumer choice, the unique advantages and disadvantages of the applicant’s service offering, commitments made regarding the quality of the telephone service provided by the applicant, and the applicant’s ability to provide the supported services throughout the designated service area within a reasonable time frame. Further, the Commission must look at whether the designation of the applicant will have detrimental effects on the

provision of universal service by the affected incumbent local exchange carriers. (See ARSD § 20:10:32:43.07).

5. The current Request for Certification by RCC is premature at best, because the ruling of the Commission in Docket TC10-090 will clearly affect RCC's request in this docket. SDTA would request that the Commission hold in abeyance or delay granting certification to RCC in the current docket until after it renders a decision in Docket TC10-090.

6. Based on the foregoing, SDTA is an interested party in this matter and seeks intervening party status.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of June, 2011.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of South Dakota Telecommunications Association's Petition to Intervene dated June 17th, 2011, was served electronically, directed to the attention of:

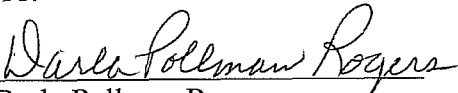
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Dated this 17th day of June, 2011.


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