

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

**In the Matter of Long Lines Wireless, LLC)
Petition to Relinquish its Designation)
as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier)**

Docket # _____

**LONG LINES WIRELESS, LLC PETITION TO PARTIALLY RELINQUISH ITS
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

1. Long Lines Wireless, LLC (Long Lines) hereby submits this petition for partial relinquishment of its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for the areas within its designated ETC area in South Dakota, pursuant to Section 214(e)(4) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended in 1996 (the "Act"), Part 54 of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) rules and regulations governing universal service, and South Dakota Administrative Code (the "Code") Rule 20:10:32:48.
2. Long Lines is authorized by the FCC as a wireless carrier in the states of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. On August 26, 2008, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) approved Long Lines request for ETC designation as originally filed in docket TC06-184.
3. In its designated ETC areas, Long Lines provides wireless voice, data and internet access services through its own wireless network in addition to providing nationwide service through a number of roaming partners. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has assigned the Study Area Code of 399016 to Long Lines for the state of South Dakota.
4. In Long Lines initial filing, a request was made for ETC status servicing wire centers in eastern and western South Dakota, where Long Lines had been awarded wireless spectrum. To date, Long Lines has built out it's wireless network to

service customers in the majority of the ETC territory in eastern South Dakota, however, due to market conditions, the expansion of the territory into the remaining wire centers in eastern South Dakota has been limited and Long Lines has sold its spectrum in western South Dakota and no longer intends to build out its network in that area. Therefore, this petition seeks to amend the scope of Long Lines ETC designation so as to exclude those areas where the company does not intend to build out its network. The designated service areas for which Long Lines seeks to relinquish its ETC status are described in Exhibit A (non-rural wireline centers), Exhibit B (rural service areas) and Exhibit C (rural service areas that required redefinition by the FCC). The areas in which Long Lines seeks to retain ETC status are listed in Exhibit D hereto.

5. Pursuant to §214(e)(4) of the Act and Rule 20:10:32:48 of the Code, the relinquishment of ETC designation requires the approval of the Commission and the Commission “shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as (an ETC) in any areas served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier.” Rule 20:10:32:48 further states that “(p)rior 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 Commission shall ensure that all customers serviced 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”

6. As demonstrated herein, Long Lines meets the requirements of §214(e) (4) and Rule 20:10:32:48. First, each of the areas to be relinquished pursuant to this petition (listed in Exhibits A, B and C by Service area) is currently served by at least one incumbent local exchange carrier with an approved ETC designation. Those incumbent local exchange carriers are listed on each of the exhibits. Second, as ETC’s and Telecommunications carriers, these companies are required to provide service to everyone in their service areas, which would be all of the customers that Long Lines would provide service to if the network were built out in those areas.

7. It is respectfully submitted that the public interest would be served by allowing Long Lines to relinquish ETC status along wire center lines. Long Lines is already serving the areas for which it is retaining ETC status. Long Lines has legitimate operational reasons to continue operations in the retained area, which includes its telephone service area and immediately surrounding rural communities.

8. In light of the following, Long Lines respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Petition to Relinquish Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation and issue an Order amending the scope of Long Lines Wireless designation as an ETC to exclude the areas and centers listed in Exhibits A, B and C, while retaining ETC status in the wire centers identified in Exhibit D.

Respectfully submitted,

LONG LINES WIRELESS, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Bergmann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Bergmann
Chief Operating Officer

Counsel:

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Dated August 26, 2011