C Olsen Thielen

Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

Depend on our people. Count on our advice.³⁰⁴

October 16, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW Washington, D.C. 20554

Ms. Karen Majcher Vice President- High Cost Low Income Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20036

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission 500 East Capital Ave Pierre, SD 57501

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90: Annual Reporting Requirements for High-Cost Recipients §54.313 (a)(2) through (a)(6) and (h)

Dear Ms. Dortch, Ms. Majcher:

Pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(2) through (a)(6) and (h) of the Federal Communications Commission's rules, enclosed are the 2012 annual reporting requirements and certifications for Q (d)a) add/felephone Company, Study Area Code 391660

Should you have any questions, please contact me via email at tcampbell@otcpas.com or by phone at (651) 621-8511.

Sincerely,

Those and here

Thomas W. Campbell, Consultant

Enclosures

CC: Fort Randall Telephone Company



Via Electronic Filing

May 25, 2012

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: In the Matter of the Request of Fort Randall Telephone Company for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support Docket No.:

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed by e-filing please find the Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support by Fort Randall Telephone Company (the "Company").

The Company requests confidential treatment of Exhibits A and B, which are submitted as a separate Confidential document pursuant to the requirements of ARSD § 20:10:01:41. These Exhibits contain financial information with independent economic value which is not generally known to, and not readily ascertainable to, competitors of the Company which could obtain economic value from disclosure. The Company maintains the information as secret. The Company requests that such information be maintained as confidential by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in perpetuity.

Also enclosed is the Company's Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Annual Report for 2012.

Very truly yours,

Richard J. Johnson Attorney At Law (612) 877-5275 JohnsonR@moss-barnett.com

RJJ/keb Enclosures cc: Bruce Hanson

1996560v1

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)	
FORT RANDALL TELEPHONE)	
COMPANY FOR CERTIFICATION)	ANNUAL ETC CERTIFICATION
REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL)	FILING
UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)	

Fort Randall Telephone Company (the "Company"), by and through its attorney, makes this filing to seek certification from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") as is required under 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 and to comply with the provisions of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:52 and 20:10:32:54 of the Commission's rules pertaining to eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs").

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, federal universal service support provided to carriers pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305 and/or 54.307 and/or Part 36, Subpart F (high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support and safety valve support) will be made available only if the State Commission files the requisite annual certification with the FCC and USAC. The certification required specifically for rural carriers to receive federal universal service support for all four quarters during the calendar year 2013 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2012. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the State are eligible to receive federal support during the 12-month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

As part of its annual request to the Commission for certification, the Company provides the following information:

1. The Company is a rural telephone company that has previously been designated by this Commission as an ETC. The Company provides local exchange telephone services, including all of the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service, to approximately 5,510 access lines within its established rural service area in South Dakota.

The provisions of ARSD § 20:10:32:54 addressing the annual "Certification 2. requirements" set forth by this Commission indicate in part that the ETC must show "how much universal service support was received." Accordingly, attached hereto as Exhibit A is information indicating "Year 2011 Federal Universal Service Receipts" received by the Company. This same Exhibit also shows total expenditures of the Company in 2011 related to the provision, maintenance and upgrading of the facilities and services that are supported by Federal Universal Service Funding and further estimates these same expenditures for calendar year 2013. The Company does not maintain records to separate universal service support received with respect to South Dakota access lines from universal service support received with respect to Minnesota access lines. Accordingly, the information contained on Exhibit A reflects an allocation of total amounts in each category by the respective number of access lines in South Dakota and Minnesota. Consistent with federal universal service principles, the Company will use federal universal service amounts received in 2013 to offset a portion of these 2013 expenditures. This use of federal universal service support will enable the Company to: (1) maintain rates for its local exchange services that are affordable and reasonably comparable to rates being charged for the same services in urban areas; and (2) to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements and maintain high quality service. The use of federal universal service support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal service provisions.

3. In addition to the information included in <u>Exhibit A</u>, the following information is provided to meet the Commission's "Certification requirements" set forth in ARSD § 20:10:32:54:

- The Company's service quality improvement plan is to continue to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements and maintain high quality service throughout its service area. As an incumbent local exchange carrier and the carrier of last resort in its service area, the Company upgrades and replaces facilities and equipment as necessary. The Company believes that its planned capital additions will improve the reliability of switched calls for its customers, increase the Company's network capacity to serve remote customers and provide customers with state-of-the-art telecommunications service. In furtherance of its service quality improvement plan, the Company will use any high-cost universal service amounts received by it to offset expenditures incurred as it continues to upgrade and replace facilities and equipment. A progress report on the Company's two-year service quality improvement plan, required under the provisions of ARSD § 20:10:32:54, is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- During calendar year 2011, the Company did not experience service outages affecting at least 10 percent of its end user customers, for a period lasting longer than 30 minutes.
- The Company was able to provide service to all potential customers that requested service during 2011, and as of December 31, 2011, the Company has no unfulfilled requests for service.

- During 2011, the Company's customer service department received zero complaints from consumers.
- Also attached as <u>Exhibit C</u> is a document containing other certifications, including those required under the provisions of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:54(5), 20:10:32:54(6), 20:10:32:54(7) and 20:10:32:54(8).

4. Based on all of the foregoing information, including the information provided on <u>Exhibits A</u>, <u>B</u> and <u>C</u>, the Company requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that Fort Randall Telephone Company is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support determined for distribution to the Company in 2013. In order to ensure that this certification is issued to the FCC prior to October 1, 2012, the Company would further ask the Commission to expedite the process that is initiated based on this filing.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Johnson Attorney for the Company

EXHBIT C – AFFIDAVIT

)) ss.

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

COUNTY OF KANDIYOHI

- 1. I am the Treasurer of Fort Randall Telephone Company and am authorized to give this affidavit on behalf of the Company. This affidavit is provided to support the Company's Request for Certification to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission as contemplated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314.
- 2. As an authorized representative of the Company, I hereby affirm familiarity with and an understanding of the requirements of the Federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, with respect to the receipt of any federal universal service funds received as high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support and/or safety valve support.
- 3. During 2011, the Company received federal universal service support as shown on Exhibit A to this affidavit and had investment and expenses relating to the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support was intended as also shown on Exhibit A. During 2011, the Company used the federal universal service support it received only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support was intended consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).
- 4. The Company certifies that it will use the federal universal service support it receives during 2013 only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).
- 5. The Company certifies that it (i) is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules; (ii) is able to function in emergency situations; (iii) provides a flat-rated local exchange service free of per minute charges; and (iv) provides equal access to long distance carriers.

Bruce Hanson, Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21^{the} day of May, 2012.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 1-13-2014

Annual Reporting Requirements pursuant to § 54.313(a)(2)-(6), (h) WC Docket No. 10-90

§ 54.313(a)(2) - Outage Reporting

My company collected this information pursuant to state utility commission requirement. A copy of the submitted report is attached.

§ 54.313(a)(3) - Unfulfilled Service Requests

My company collected this information pursuant to state utility commission requirement. A copy of the submitted report is attached.

§ 54.313(a)(4) - Customer Complaints per 1,000 Connections

My company collected this information pursuant to state utility commission requirement. A copy of the submitted report is attached.

§ 54.313(a)(5) - Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules

I certify that the reporting carrier is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules.

§ 54.313(a)(6) - Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

I certify that the reporting carrier can function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 CFR §54.202(a)(2). Specifically, the reporting carrier has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to re-route traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

§ 54.313(h) - Local Rate Floor Data

I certify that the reporting carrier receives or is projected to receive High Cost Support in 2012 and has no monthly residential rates (plus charges as defined) less than \$10.

I am authorized to make this certification on behalf of the reporting carrier and to the best of my knowledge the information reported on this form is accurate. This certification is for the study area(s) listed below.

	Company Name	State	Study Area Code	
	Fort Randall Telephone Company	SD	391660	
<	[Signature of Corporate Officer]	C	Date: October 16, 2012	
	Bruce Hanson	_т	reasurer	_
		r.		

[Printed Name of Corporate Officer]

[Title of Corporate Officer]