

**BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF )  
RCC MINNESOTA, INC. )  
FOR CERTIFICATION FOR 2012 REGARDING )  
USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE )  
SUPPORT )**

**Docket No. TC12-\_\_**

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION FOR 2012**

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 RCC Minnesota, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“RCC”) and that I am authorized to execute this Affidavit on behalf of RCC, and the facts set forth in this Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

1. This Affidavit provides information to demonstrate RCC’s compliance with ETC requirements and provides the information required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:52, 20:10:32:54, and 20:10:32:55.
  
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 (the “Designated Area”) in a June 6, 2005 Order in Docket No. TC03-193. Pursuant to that designation order, Finding of Fact number 71 subparts (1), (2), and (3), RCC filed the required compliance documents on July 30, 2005. The Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) has assigned SAC 399003 to RCC’s Designated Area in South Dakota.

3. RCC certifies that all federal high-cost universal service support received in 2011 was used in the preceding calendar year 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. § 54.7. Attached as **Confidential Exhibit A** is a spreadsheet detailing expenditures on capital improvement projects within the Designated Area in 2011, including projects not included in the original 2011 Service Improvement Plan.

4. RCC certifies that any federal high-cost universal service support RCC has received and will receive for the calendar year 2012 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. § 54.7. As required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(1), attached as **Confidential Exhibit B-1** is the detailed 2012 Service Improvement Plan.<sup>1</sup> Attached as **Confidential Exhibit B-2** is a coverage map consistent with A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54. The projected expenditures in the 2012 Service Improvement Plan are based on the assumption that RCC will receive the amount of federal high-cost universal service support identified on **Confidential Exhibit B-3**. There are various factors that affect the total amount of support RCC may be expected to receive, including but not limited to, federal policy changes, USAC reconciliations, and other factors beyond RCC's control. If actual receipts are not as estimated in this report, RCC reserves the right to modify its projected capital and operating expenditures in the Designated Area.

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<sup>1</sup> RCC's Designated Area includes wire centers in which WWC License LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless has been designated as a competitive ETC. For administrative purposes, only one designated ETC reports the lines served in a common wire center and the projected receipt and use of universal service support is reflected in only one ETC Annual Certification.

5. RCC does not anticipate receiving federal high-cost universal service support in 2013.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, RCC does not seek certification pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:52 and 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for 2013. In the absence of any high-cost universal service support for 2013, RCC is not required to identify any facility construction projects or any operating, maintenance, and provisioning expenses for 2013 for which federal high-cost universal service support will be used.

6. The information required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(3), relating to any 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 during calendar year 2011, is provided in attached **Confidential Exhibit C**. The services affected by an outage are dependent upon the capabilities of the particular facility affected by the outage. The number of customers affected by an outage is estimated based on the number of customers with a billing address in each affected wire center as of December 31, 2011. Each network outage is examined on a case by case basis. The outage is analyzed for the particular cause of the outage. When the outage is due, for example, to equipment failure, the equipment is replaced or repaired and tested for proper performance. Additionally, the manufacturer or vendor is notified if the failure appears to be in the design or manufacture of the equipment. If the vendor or manufacturer fails or refuses to remedy the deficiency, then a replacement source is determined. When the outage is due to, for example, weather or other natural occurrence, the probability of a repeat occurrence is considered and evaluated and is considered in planning the repair, replacement or rebuild of the equipment or location. Outages due to human error or a faulty process or practice will result in appropriate re-evaluation of the

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<sup>2</sup> See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., *Order*, DA 12-298 (rel. Feb. 27, 2012) at ¶ 7 (Based on its merger commitments, “Verizon Wireless will not receive high-cost competitive ETC support after 2012”).

source of error and the need to either correct, discipline or revise the person or practice, as applicable. The outages reported above were not determined to require extraordinary measures other than application of the above.

7. As required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(4), attached as **Exhibit D** is a report of the number of requests for service from potential customers within the Designated Area that were not fulfilled during 2011, including details of how RCC attempted to provide service.

8. As required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(5), the number of consumer complaints received during calendar year 2011 for the Designated Area and the resolution of those complaints is set forth in the attached **Confidential Exhibit E**.

9. As required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(6), RCC 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. As required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(7), RCC certifies it has the ability to function in emergency situations, including a reasonable amount of back-up power, the ability to reroute traffic around damaged transport facilities, and the capability to manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations, all pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.03.

11. As required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(8), RCC certifies that it is offering a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent local exchange carriers ("LECs") in its Designated Area. RCC offers rate plans with substantial local calling areas with varying levels of local usage, as well as plans with unlimited usage. The amount of local usage available in RCC's generally available rate plans is comparable to that offered by the incumbent LECs.

12. As required by A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54(9), RCC certifies that it acknowledges the Federal Communications Commission, 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.

13. Pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:55, the Company, in calendar year 2011, notified its customers and potential customers of the availability of Lifeline and Link-Up opportunities. Attached Exhibits F-1 to F-5 identify and provide examples of the Company's outreach efforts in calendar year 2011 designed to increase participation in the Lifeline and Link-Up assistance programs.

DATED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

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RCC Minnesota, Inc.  
(Company)  
By: Mark R. Smith  
(Name - Mark R. Smith)  
Its: Assistant Secretary  
(Title)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

Sandra F. Brock

SANDRA F. BROCK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

Notary public in and for the State of Georgia  
My Commission Expires: 8 Sept 2012