

TO: COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORS
FROM: BRIAN ROUNDS
SUBJECT: TC13-026 – BIENNIAL CERTIFICATION OF STUDY AREA BOUNDARIES
DATE: APRIL 28, 2015

STAFF MEMORANDUM

In June of 2013, the Commission approved the study area boundaries (SABs) of incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) in South Dakota, and Staff filed those SABs with the FCC. On January 9, 2014, the FCC released an Order¹ clarifying that annual updates must be submitted by March 15 of each year, with biennial certifications required when no changes are made. In March of 2014, Staff requested the Commission delegate the authority to certify SAB changes with certain exceptions. The Commission granted Staff's request, and delegated the authority "to certify [SAB] changes with the exceptions that the Commission will certify the [SABs] biennially and if any ILEC disputes Staff's authority in this matter, it may petition the Commission for relief."²

Staff's intent was to file the most current SABs every March, while opening a docket every other January (beginning January of 2016) for the Commission to formally recertify the SABs. On March 12, 2015, the FCC released a Public Notice³ clarifying that their biennial recertification deadline will be May 26, 2015. On March 23, 2015, Staff uploaded and certified the current set of SABs to the FCC. According to FCC Staff⁴, the Commission has already met the biennial recertification deadline by filing annual updates, so the May 26 deadline is not relevant to South Dakota ILECs. However, to line up our biennial recertification with the FCC's (in odd years), Staff thought it was necessary to have the Commission certify the current SABs in 2015.

With the filing of this memorandum, Docket TC13-026 will be reopened, and all parties to the Commission's original certification will be served with this notice. Staff requests Commissioners and all parties review the current maps on the Commission's website⁵ for consideration at the May 26, 2015, Commission meeting.

Since the Commission originally approved the SABs in June of 2013, three changes have been made. A map of each change is listed below, with the red line showing the boundary as approved by the Commission in 2013.

¹ http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2014/db0109/DA-14-28A1.pdf

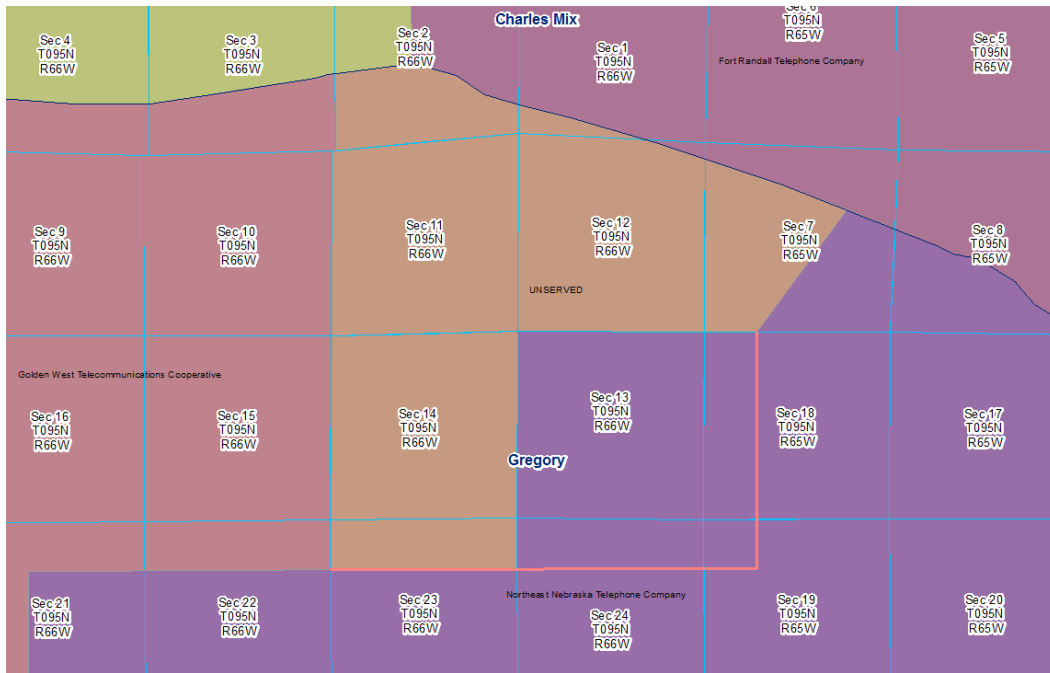
² <https://puc.sd.gov/commission/orders/telecom/2014/TC13-026.pdf>

³ https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-15-321A1.pdf

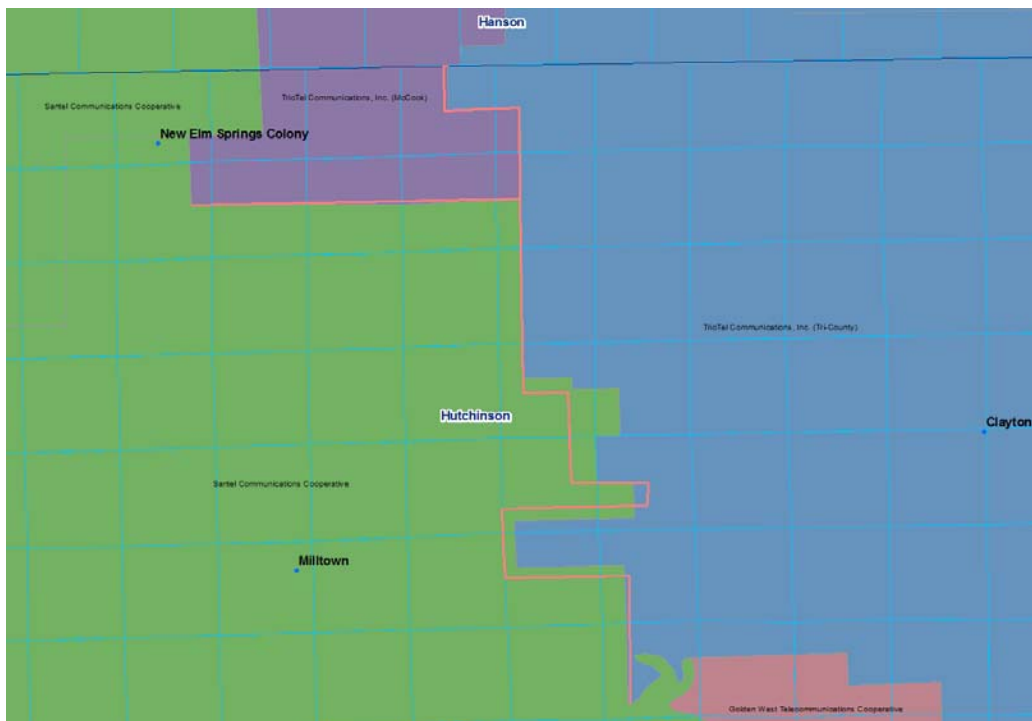
⁴ See email from John Emmett to Brian Rounds, attached as Exhibit A

⁵ Current maps are attached in shapefile format or can be found at the following address:
<http://arcgis.sd.gov/server/PUC/Telco/>

In this change, Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company extended a portion of their Bristow exchange into one of the two unserved areas in the state as the result of a new customer request.



The change below was a correction of the boundaries between TrioTel's Clayton exchange and Santel's Milltown exchange.



This change, between Swiftel and ITC, was approved by the Commission in Docket TC14-007.

