

1. Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

SSTELECOM, Inc. [Company] hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2)¹ and South Dakota Administrative Rule 20:10:32:54.07. The Company's network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require. The Company maintains a contingency plan to prevent or minimize service interruptions due to the catastrophic loss of a central office switch, toll switching office, or tandem switching office, pursuant to South Dakota Administrative Rule 20:10:33:18. The plan is available for review upon request.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. As required by South Dakota Administrative Rule 20:10:33:19, the Company's central office can maintain 8 hours, plus or minus 15 percent, of battery reserve rated for peak traffic load requirements, and a permanent auxiliary power unit is installed. The Company has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites capable of

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

running for a minimum of 8 hours, plus or minus 15 percent, in compliance with the State rules. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as the Company has access to propane, natural gas or diesel fuel. The Company tests the batteries at least once per year.