

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

IN THE MATTER OF CENTURYLINK QC'S) TC16-_____
REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION)
REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL) CENTURYLINK QC'S 2016 ANNUAL
UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT) ETC CERTIFICATION FILING
)

CenturyLink QC ("CenturyLink") makes this filing to seek certification from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("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, 54.307, 54.312, 54.800 through 54.809 and/or 54.901 through 54.904 and/or Part 36, Subpart F (local switching support, interstate access support, interstate common line support, support provided to competitive eligible telecommunications carriers, Connect America Fund support, high-cost loop 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.

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

1. CenturyLink is a local exchange carrier that has previously been designated by this Commission as an ETC. CenturyLink provides local exchange telephone services, including all of the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service, within its local exchange service areas in South Dakota.
2. As required by 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.422, CenturyLink filed FCC Form 481 with the Commission. See Confidential Attachment K.
3. Certifications as required under the provisions of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:43.01 (demonstration of commitment to provide service), 20:10:32:54(6) (complying with service quality standards and consumer protection rules) and 20:10:32:54(7) (ability to function in emergency situations) are included in Attachment A, Affidavit of David M. Cole.
4. In response to the requirements of §§ 20:10:32:54(1) and 20:10:32:54(2), see Confidential Attachments B, C and D.
5. Confidential Attachments E and F provide the certifications associated with §§ 20:10:32:54(3) (detailed information on any outages meeting the definition of 47 C.F.R. § 4.5), 20:10:32:54(4) (number of unfilled requests for service) and 20:10:32:54(5) (number of complaints).

6. §§ 20:10:32:54(8) and 20:10:32:54(9) were waived in their entirety as part of Docket TC13-027.

7. The Lifeline and Link-up advertising requirements in § 20:10:32:55 were provided to customers in July of 2015 through a bill insert in CenturyLink's South Dakota consumer bills, which provided customers with information on Lifeline and Link Up Telephone Assistance Programs in South Dakota. (See Attachment G)

Attachment H contains a mockup of a Lifeline newspaper notice and a list of newspapers in which the notice was published.

Information on Telephone Assistance Plans is available at www.centurylink.com/TAP. A copy of the South Dakota Lifeline application can be printed from this site (See Attachment I). The consumer is also provided a link to the USAC web site, where the program is described in greater detail.

8. Pursuant to the Commission's Order dated May 20, 2015 in Docket TC13-027, attached as Confidential Attachment J is a copy of the FCC Form 477 as filed by CenturyLink.

9. Based on all of the foregoing information, including the information provided on Attachments A-J, CenturyLink requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that CenturyLink is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support determined for distribution to CenturyLink in 2017. In order to ensure that this certification is issued to the FCC prior to October 1, 2016, CenturyLink would further ask the Commission to expedite the process that is initiated based on this filing.

Dated this 1st day of July, 2016.

CENTURYLINK QC



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