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July 26, 2016

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

E-FILING

RE: TC16-044 Midcontinent Communications ETC Designation-Lifeline Support

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Midcontinent Communications ("Midco") requests from the Commission permission to withdraw its petition to expand its ETC Lifeline only status in several South Dakota communities. Its reasons for the withdrawal request are listed below.

Midco advertises Lifeline services in all its markets in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. In North Dakota and Minnesota, it is certified as an ETC-Lifeline only carrier in all its markets. In South Dakota, it is not. In those markets referenced in the Petition, Midco provides Lifeline benefits (both telephone and broadband) without reimbursement. This business decision is made as Midco believes its customers should have the same opportunities for Lifeline as those customers of its competitors. However, at some point in time to remain competitive, Midco believes reimbursement is necessary.

The Parties who have requested from the Commission Permission to Intervene have chosen to change the focus of this Docket from a simple ETC-Lifeline status change to a procedural focus concerning how all ETC applications in South Dakota should be addressed by the Commission. To support their request, they cite the recent FCC Lifeline Modernization Order. Midco does not believe this is the appropriate docket for that inquiry. That change would cause unnecessary expense and delay. The simple way to rectify that expansion is the withdrawal of the Petition. Therefore, Midco respectfully requests the withdrawal of the Petition in the present case be granted.

Please contact me if there are any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Mastel
Associate General Counsel
Midcontinent Communications

cc. Service list