

**BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)	
BROOKINGS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES D/B/A)	ANNUAL ETC
SWIFTEL COMMUNICATIONS FOR)	CERTIFICATION FILING
CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF)	
FEDERAL UNIVERSALSERVICE SUPPORT.)	

Brookings Municipal Utilities dba Swiftel Communications (the “Company”), by and through its attorney, makes this filing to seek certification from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) 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 high cost support provided to carriers will be made available only if the State Commission files the requisite annual certification with the FCC and USAC. The certification required specifically for rural carriers to receive federal high cost universal service support for all four quarters during calendar year 2022 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2021. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the State are eligible to receive federal high cost support during the 12 month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Swiftel relinquished its designation as an ETC in Study Area Code 399009 through SDPUC Docket TC20-060 effective January 31, 2021.

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

1. The Company is a rural telephone company which also provides Commercial Mobile Radio Service that has previously been designated by this Commission as an ETC. The Company provides wireless services, including all the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service within its established rural service area in South Dakota and are included on {Confidential} Exhibit C.

2. The provisions of ARSD §20:10:32:54 addressing the annual “Certification requirements” adopted by this Commission require a progress report on any previously filed service quality improvement plan. Thus, the Company files as Confidential Exhibit A hereto its progress report. The provisions of ARSD §20:10:32:54 in part ask for information on “how much universal service support was received” by the ETC. Accordingly, Confidential Exhibit A includes the Company’s 2020 federal universal service receipts and includes the Company’s 2021 federal universal service receipts up to the designated relinquishment date. This same Confidential Exhibit also shows total expenditures made by the Company in 2020 and shows 2021 total expenditures up to the designated relinquishment date relating to the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which universal service support is intended under federal law. In addition, to the extent that the Company’s actual capital investments in 2020 differ from the 2020 planned investment information previously provided to this Commission, the differences are noted in Confidential Exhibit A. Finally, Confidential Exhibit A, per the provisions of ARSD §20:10:32:54(2) includes additional information detailing progress made toward meeting 2020 service quality improvement plan targets, providing an

explanation regarding any network improvement targets that were not met.

3. The Company has not provided the Commission with a "two-year service quality improvement plan" as noted by ARSD §20:10:32:54(1) for expenditures for calendar years 2022 and 2023 due to the relinquishment of its designation as an ETC effective January 1, 2021. (See attached Confidential Exhibit B).

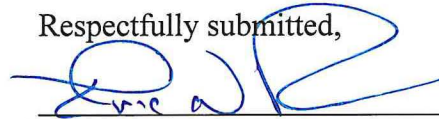
4. The Company is using federal high cost universal service support amounts thus far received in 2021 to meet the objectives identified in previously filed service quality improvement plans and will not receive universal service amounts in 2022. This use of federal universal service support will enable the Company to: (A) maintain rates for its services that are affordable and reasonably comparable to rates being charged for the same services in urban areas; and (B) upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements, including those related to broadband services, and maintain high quality service. The use of federal high cost universal service support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal service provisions.

5. Also attached is {Confidential} Exhibit C, a document containing the certifications required under the provisions of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:54(6) and 20:10:32:54(7). Consistent with the Commission's Order Waiving ETC Certification Requirements issued on April 13, 2021 in Docket AA21-001, the remaining ETC certification rule provisions found in ARSD §§ 20:10:32:54(8) and 20:10:32:54(9) have by Order been waived by this Commission. Lastly, attached Exhibit D is the Affidavit of the Company's Executive Vice President / General Manager submitted to support the Company's request for certification.

6. Based on all the foregoing information, including all information provided within Confidential Exhibits A, B, and C and Exhibit D (all attached hereto), the Company requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that the Company is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and that all federal high cost universal service support distributed through January 31, 2021 was appropriate.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



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