



Jason D. Topp
Assistant General Counsel
(651) 312-5364

January 20, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

The attached letter serves as notice that, based on preliminary data, CenturyLink may not have reached the year-end 2020 Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) location deployment milestone of 100 percent in South Dakota. CenturyLink continues to deploy broadband to CAF II locations in South Dakota and remains committed to meeting its CAF II obligations.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Topp", written in a cursive style.

Jason D. Topp

JDT/bardm

Enclosure

200 South 5th Street, Room 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55402

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Via ECFS

January 15, 2021

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *In the Matter of Connect America Fund*; WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In August 2015, CenturyLink accepted Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II support to deploy broadband service to over one million locations in thirty-three states. Using that support, CenturyLink has now enabled broadband service at speeds of at least 10/1 Mbps to more than 1.1 million customer locations in CAF II census blocks in those states. On a state-by-state basis, CenturyLink's current year-end data reflect that it met or exceeded the program's December 31, 2020 milestone in ten states.

CenturyLink may not yet have reached the 100% deployment target in the other states. As required under section 54.320(d)¹ of the Commission's rules, CenturyLink provides this notice that, based on its preliminary year-end data, it may not have met the CAF Phase II 100% deployment milestone in twenty-three states. Those states are Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. CenturyLink continues to deploy service to CAF II locations under the program and is on track to satisfying its CAF II obligations consistent with section 54.320(d)(2) of the Commission's rules.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.320(d) states that "[e]ligible telecommunications carriers subject to defined build-out milestones must notify the Commission and USAC, and the relevant state, U.S. Territory, or Tribal government, if applicable, within 10 business days after the applicable deadline if they have failed to meet a build-out milestone."

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CenturyLink continues its process to review, validate and confirm the data. By March 1, we will provide the vetted requisite year-end 2020 status to the HUBB portal in accord with section 54.316. In accord with section 54.320(d), CenturyLink is also providing this notice to the Universal Service Administrative Company and to state commissions and relevant Tribal Governments in the impacted states.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey S. Lanning

cc: Alex Minard, FCC, alexander.minard@fcc.gov
hccerts@usac.org