

Docket Number: TC23-047
Subject Matter: First Data Request
Request to: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (CRSTTA)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: 10-2-2023
Responses Due: 10-6-2023

- 1-1. Explain, in detail, why CRSTTA did not file by the July 1 filing deadline and requested a waiver on short notice.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (“CRSTTA” or “Authority”) is in the process of working toward direct self-certification with the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) and the Universal Services Administration Company (“USAC”). To that end, CRSTTA has been working with both federal entities and our legal counsel at Big Fire Law to achieve the goal of self-certification. It became apparent, however, that given the timeline for this novel administrative process, it would be prudent for CRSTTA to request Annual ETC Certification with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“SD PUC”) this year. On the afternoon of September 28, 2023, USCA recommended CRSTTA move forward with certification with the SD PUC this year for purposes of preserving CRSTTA’s active ETC status during the petition process. The CRSTTA Board took action to proceed in this manner on September 29, 2023, and CRSTTA submitted its filings in this docket later that day.

CRSTTA continues to work with the FCC and USAC to pursue its goal of self-certification, but the Authority also wants to ensure that it is not penalized because of the technical complexity of this process by losing critical support while it pursues this new path forward.

Both the FCC and USAC are aware of the status of CRSTTA’s ETC Certification, and the agencies expressed support and willingness to advocate on behalf of the Authority to approve the SDPUC’s ETC Certification of the Authority without penalty for the delay in filing.

Once the FCC Petition for Declaratory Ruling is filed, CRSTTA will promptly provide a copy to the SDPUC. We anticipate filing the Petition this month.

- 1-2. Refer to the Attachment to Exhibit A. Explain why the projects specified were pushed out past 2022 and provide a status update on any project moved into 2023.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1-3. Approximately what percentage of CRSTTA's customers have fiber to the home?

100% of CRSTTA's customers have fiber to the home.

1-4. Refer to Exhibit C. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]