BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF) VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE) FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF) FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATION

TC14-054

On June 30, 2014, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Venture Communications Cooperative (Company) requesting certification regarding its use of federal universal service support. The purpose of this filing was to provide information constituting the Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that the Company will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 254. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a), in order for an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to receive support pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) high-cost program, a state must file an annual certification with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the FCC stating that all federal high-cost support provided to the ETC "was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." On August 12, 2014, the Company responded to Staff's data requests.

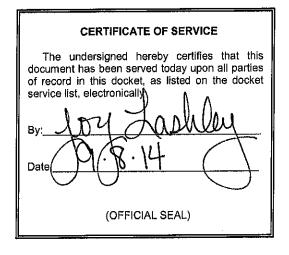
On July 3, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 18, 2014, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 2, 2014, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31 and 47 U.S.C. § 254. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the Company's request for certification. The Commission finds that the Company is eligible to receive federal support. The Commission finds that all federal high-cost support provided to the Company was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as all federal highcost support provided to the Company was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. It is further ORDERED, that the Commission approves the Company's request for certification.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this <u>5</u>M day of September, 2014.



BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

GARY HAN **SON**, Chairman

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

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KRISTIE FIÈGEN, Commissioner