

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF RED )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING WAIVER</b>
<b>RIVER RURAL TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION )</b>	<b>OF ARSD 20:10:32:56(1) AND</b>
<b>DBA RED RIVER COMMUNICATIONS STUDY )</b>	<b>GRANTING CERTIFICATION</b>
<b>AREA: 381631 FOR CERTIFICATION )</b>	
<b>REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL )</b>	<b>TC17-039</b>
<b>UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT )</b>	

On June 29, 2017, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Red River Rural Telephone Association dba Red River Communications (Company) regarding its request for certification regarding its use of federal universal 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 July 6, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 21, 2017, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No parties sought intervention. On August 8, 2017, the Company responded to Commission staff's data request and requested a waiver of the requirement to submit a two-year service quality improvement plan on grounds that it does not have any customers within its South Dakota wire center.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 29, 2017, 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 grant a one-year waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:54(1). The Commission also 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 a one-year waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:54(1) is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as 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 further

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the Company's request for certification.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1st day of September, 2017.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.</p> <p>By: <u>Adam de Hueck</u></p> <p>Date: <u>9/1/17</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
---

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner