

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

IN THE MATTER OF CLARIFICATION)
OF THE COMMISSION'S ETC)
CERTIFICATION PROCESS)
)
)
)
)

**ORDER WAIVING ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIERS' CERTIFICATION
REQUIREMENTS**

AA21-001

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) annually provides certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that all federal high-cost support provided to eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the upcoming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In its *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, the FCC set forth new annual reporting requirements for recipients of federal high-cost support.¹ Some of these requirements are identical or similar to the Commission's ETC annual certification requirements. All recipients of high-cost support must comply with the FCC's annual reporting requirements by July 1 of each year. The Commission's ETC certification requirements are required to be filed by June 1 of each year.

In Docket TC13-027, the Commission waived certain ETC requirements for years 2013, 2014, and 2015, in response to the FCC's changes in annual reporting requirements. Since 2016, this clarification process has been decided in dockets AA16-002, AA17-001, AA18-001, AA19-001, and AA20-001. In Docket AA20-001, the Commission voted to continue the waivers of ARSD 20:10:32:54 (8) and (9) for 2020, as well as waive the June 1 filing deadline as set forth in ARSD 20:10:32:52 and allow ETCs to file their annual certifications on or before July 1. On March 9, 2021, Commission staff filed a letter opening this docket and requested clarification as to how the companies should proceed in 2021.

On March 11, 2021, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment on the clarification of the ETC certification process had until March 26, 2021, to do so. No comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31, specifically SDCL 49-31-3, 49-31-78, and ARSD 20:10:32:52 through 20:10:32:54.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2021, this matter came before the Commission for consideration and action. The Commission voted unanimously to grant waivers of ARSD 20:10:32:54 (8) and (9), and a waiver of the June 1 filing deadline found in ARSD 20:10:32:52 and to allow ETCs to file their annual certification petitions on or before July 1, 2021. It is therefore

ORDERED, that ETCs shall submit information as required by ARSD 20:10:32:54 with the exception of ARSD 20:10:32:54 (8) and (9) which are hereby waived. It is further

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.313.

ORDERED, that the June 1 deadline in ARSD 20:10:32:52 is waived and ETCs shall file their annual certification petitions on or before July 1, 2021.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of April 2021.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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.
By: <u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>04/19/21</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Siegen

KRISTIE SIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner