

KB/HB

DOCKET NO. _____

In the Matter of IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF _____
 DICKEY RURAL TELEPHONE _____
 COOPERATIVE FOR CERTIFICATION _____
 REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL _____
 UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT _____

Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

DATE	MEMORANDA
9/3 02	Filed and Recketed;
9/5 02	Weekly Filing;
9/27 02	Order Granting Certification;
9/27 02	Recket Closed.



Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc.
Dickey Rural Services, Inc.
Dickey Rural Access, Inc.

TC02-117

August 30, 2002

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED

SEP - 3 2002

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

RE: USF Certification For
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
And
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc.

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed for filing in accordance with the filing requirements for USF Certification is a request for certification and an accompanying affidavit as Exhibit A. In making this filing, the undersigned company certifies the use of Federal Universal Service support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren D. Moser", is written over a horizontal line.

Darren D. Moser
General Manager

DDM/seb

Enc.

BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

RECEIVED

SEP - 3 2002

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF
DICKEY RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
FOR CERTIFICATION
REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL
SERVICE SUPPORT

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. _____

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (Company) by and through its attorney hereby submits a Request for Certification to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") seeking certification from the Commission pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314. In support of this Request, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative offers the following:

1. On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an Order relative to the federal universal service support mechanism for rural carriers.¹ This Order (hereafter referenced as the "Fourteenth Report and Order"), in part, codifies at 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, a requirement for States to provide a certification regarding federal universal service support that is received by rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or other eligible telecommunications carriers providing service in rural service areas. Pursuant to such rule, states that desire rural carriers within their jurisdiction to receive future federal universal service support must file an annual certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") stating that federal high cost support provided to such carriers within that State will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. This certification requirement applies to various categories of federal universal service support, including support provided pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307, and/or 47 C.F.R. Part 36, Subpart F (high-cost loop support, local

¹ CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001.

switching support, safety net additive support, safety valve support, and ICLS). Support provided under these FCC rule provisions will only in the future be made available if the State Commission files the requisite certification pursuant to § 54.314.

2. The certification required for rural carriers to receive federal universal service support for all four quarters during calendar year 2003 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2002. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the State are eligible to receive federal support during the 12-month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

3. Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative is a rural telephone company that has previously been designated by this Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier. The Company provides local exchange telephone services, including all of the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service, to approximately forty-six (46) access lines in parts of 4 exchanges within its established rural service area in South Dakota.

4. This Commission has limited regulatory oversight over Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative and its provisioning of local exchange services. Under SDCL § 49-31-5.1, the local exchange service rates charged by telecommunications cooperatives, municipal telephone systems, and independent telephone companies serving less than fifty thousand local exchange subscribers are not subject to the Commission's ratemaking authority. In cases where State Commissions have limited regulatory authority over rural carriers, the FCC has indicated that these carriers should themselves initiate the certification process by presenting a plan to ensure compliance with the requirement in 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) that universal service support will only be used for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the

support is intended. Based on this filed plan, it is anticipated that the State Commission may make the appropriate certification to the FCC.²

5. The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative 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.

6. In the process of determining whether federal universal service support is used in a manner consistent with the Federal Communications Act, the “universal service principles” established in Section 254(b) are instructive. That Section states that the FCC shall base “policies for the preservation and advancement of universal service” on certain, specifically identified principles:

- (1) Quality services should be available at just, reasonable, and affordable rates.
- (2) Access to advanced telecommunications and information services should be provided in all regions of the Nation.
- (3) Consumers in all regions of the Nation, including low-income consumers and those in rural, insular, and high-cost areas, should have access to telecommunications and information services, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services, that are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas and that are available at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas. . . .
- (6) Elementary and secondary schools and classrooms, health care providers, and libraries should have access to [certain] advanced telecommunications services. . .

7. The FCC has declined to dictate specifically how the states should ensure that carriers are using federal universal service support consistent with the federal law, but has offered

² Fourteenth Report and Order, ¶ 188.

examples of how the support can be used to appropriately further universal service goals. The FCC has stated:

[A] state could [use the federal support to] adjust intrastate rates, or otherwise direct carriers to use the federal support to replace implicit intrastate universal service support to high cost rural areas . . .

A state could also require carriers to use the federal support to upgrade facilities in rural areas to ensure that services provided in those areas are reasonably comparable to services provided in urban areas of the state.³

8. The FCC provided the above examples as illustrative and not exhaustive examples of how support can be used consistent with Section 254(e). Other uses are appropriate provided the State Commission believes they are consistent with the federal universal service principles contained in Section 254.

9. Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative as a designated eligible telecommunications carrier has received federal universal service support in the past and expects to receive support during calendar year 2003. As of this time, specific support amounts the Company should receive in 2003 have not yet been identified by USAC. The Company, however, offers the following estimates concerning the support it expects to receive⁴:

The information presented represents the entire company of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative with customers in both North and South Dakota.

High-Cost Loop Support	\$947,000
Local Switching Support (DEM Weighting)	\$160,000
Safety Net Additive Support	\$0
Safety Valve Support	\$0

³ Ninth Report and Order and Eighteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45 (In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service), FCC 99-306, ¶ 96, November 2, 1999.

⁴ It should be noted that Long Term Support amounts are not referenced because the FCC has indicated that it will deal with certification under 47USC Section 254(e) for these amounts. See 14th Report and Order footnote number 446.

ICLS

\$123,324

10. For calendar year 2003, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative intends to make the following network facility and equipment investments:

The information presented represents the entire company of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative with customers in both North and South Dakota.

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative has historically committed on average over \$500,000 annually in plant upgrades over the past 5 years. In addition to this figure are capital costs for electronics upgrades and switching upgrades, both of which are done on the basis of growth and technology needs and customer demands.

11. In providing local exchange telecommunications services, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative will also incur other costs. In 2003, these costs will include:

The information presented represents the entire company of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative with customers in both North and South Dakota.

The other costs that Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative expects to incur are as follows:

Plant and Related Expenses	\$700,000
Depreciation	\$1,900,000
Customer/Corporate Operations	\$1,100,000

12. Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative estimates that the total costs described above relating to its planned network facility and equipment investments and other expenses to be incurred in providing local exchange telecommunications services will exceed \$4,000,000.

13. Consistent with the universal service principles set forth in the federal law and also the recent FCC orders referenced herein, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative will use federal

universal service amounts received in 2003 (estimated in paragraph 9 herein) to offset a portion of these total costs. This use of federal universal service support will enable Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative to: (1) maintain rates for its local exchange services that are affordable and reasonably comparable to rates being charged for the same services in urban areas; and (2) to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements and maintain high quality service. The use of federal universal service support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal service provisions.

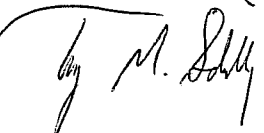
14. Based on all of the foregoing information and also the Affidavit of Darren D. Moser, attached as Exhibit A, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support determined for distribution to the Company in 2003. In order to ensure that this certification is issued to the FCC prior to October 1, 2002, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative would further ask the Commission to expedite the process that is initiated based on this filing.

Dated this th 29 day of August, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Scallon, Attorney

 Notary Public

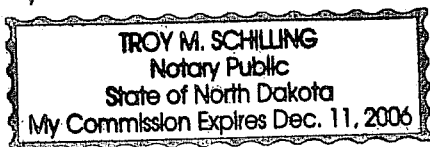
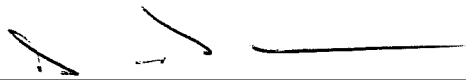


EXHIBIT A

AFFIDAVIT

As an authorized corporate officer of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative, I, Darren D. Moser hereby affirm familiarity with and an understanding of the requirements of the Federal Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with respect to the receipt of any federal universal service funds received as high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support, safety valve support, and/or ICLS and hereby affirm that any such support amounts received by Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).

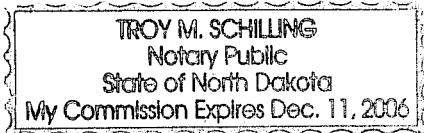


Darren D. Moser

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 30 day of August, 2002.

NOTARY PUBLIC 

Commission expires _____



South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of August 29, 2002 through September 4, 2002

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact
Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this report. Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

CT02-035 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Sharon and Robert Herrick, Emery, South Dakota, against Sprint Communications Company L.P. Regarding Unauthorized Switching of Services.

Complainants state that their service was switched without their authorization. Sprint has indicated in its informal response to the complaint that the switch was made over the internet by Robert. Complainants state that they did not switch service over the internet and that the social security number and date of birth for Robert are incorrect. Complainants request \$1,000.00 allowed under South Dakota law.

Staff Analyst: Mary Healy
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 09/03/02
Intervention Deadline: N/A

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC98-146 In the Matter of the Filing by GCC License Corporation for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

On October 18, 2001, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) granted eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation to GCC License Corporation (GCC) in select study areas of rural telephone companies upon GCC's compliance with certain conditions as stated in the Commission's order. By letter dated January 20, 2000, the Commission was notified that GCC License L.L.C. had changed its name to WWC License L.L.C. Pursuant to the Commission's order which designated WWC License LLC, a subsidiary of Western Wireless Corporation (Western Wireless), as an ETC in South Dakota, Western Wireless on August 29, 2002, submitted its compliance filing with the Commission.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/25/98
Intervention Deadline: N/A

TC02-113 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of Statement of Generally Available Terms and Conditions for Interconnection, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Services and Resale of Telecommunications Services between Qwest Corporation and New Edge Network, Second Revision.

On August 29, 2002, the Commission received for approval a Filing for Approval of Statement of Generally Available Terms (SGAT) and Conditions for Interconnection, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Services and Resale of Telecommunications Services between Qwest Corporation (Qwest) and New Edge Network (New Edge), Second Revision. According to the parties this SGAT sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which Qwest will offer and provide to any requesting CLEC network Interconnection, access to unbundled network elements, ancillary services, and telecommunication services available for resale within the geographical areas in which Qwest is providing local exchange service at the time and for which Qwest is the incumbent local exchange carrier within the state of South Dakota for purposes of providing local telecommunication services. Any party wishing to comment on the agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than September 18, 2002. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 08/29/02
Initial Comments Due: 09/18/02

TC02-114 In the Matter of the Request of Kennebec Telephone Company For Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On August 30, 2002, Kennebec Telephone Company (Kennebec) provided information constituting Kennebec's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Kennebec 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. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Docketed: 08/30/02
Intervention Deadline: 09/13/02

TC02-115 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and Ionex Communications North, Inc.

On September 3, 2002, the Commission received for approval a Filing of Bill and Keep Compensation Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Ionex Communications North, Inc. for South Dakota (Ionex) and Qwest Corporation (Qwest). According to the parties, this is an Amendment to the negotiated interconnection agreement between Ionex and Qwest which was approved by the Commission on September 14, 1999, and is made to utilize the Bill and Keep Compensation Mechanism as set forth in Attachment 1, attached to the

Amendment. Any party wishing to comment on the agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than September 23, 2002. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier

Date Docketed: 09/03/02

Initial Comments Due: 09/23/02

TC02-116 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and Level 3 Communications, LLC.

On September 3, 2002, the Commission received for approval a Filing of Single Point of Presence (SPOP) Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Level 3 Communications, LLC (Level 3) and Qwest Corporation (Qwest). According to the parties, this is an Amendment to the negotiated Interconnection Agreement between Level 3 and Qwest which was approved by the Commission on June 17, 2002, in Docket No. TC02-060. The Amendment is made in order to add terms and conditions for SPOP in the LATA as set forth in Attachment 1 and Exhibit A, attached to the Amendment. Any party wishing to comment on the agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than September 23, 2002. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier

Date Docketed: 09/03/02

Initial Comments Due: 09/23/02

TC02-117 In the Matter of the Request of Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On September 3, 2002, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (Dickey Rural Cooperative) provided information constituting Dickey Rural Cooperative's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Dickey Rural Cooperative 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. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best

Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer

Date Docketed: 09/03/02

Intervention Deadline: 09/13/02

TC02-118 In the Matter of the Request of Dickey Rural Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On September 3, 2002, Dickey Rural Communications, Inc. (Dickey Rural Communications) provided information constituting Dickey Rural Communications's plan for the use of its federal

universal service support and to otherwise verify that Dickey Rural Communications 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. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Docketed: 09/03/02
Intervention Deadline: 09/13/02

TC02-119 In the Matter of the Request of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On September 3, 2002, Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (Interstate) provided information constituting Interstate's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Interstate 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. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Docketed: 09/03/02
Intervention Deadline: 09/13/02

TC02-120 In the Matter of the Application of Inter-Tel NetSolutions, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.

Application by Inter-Tel NetSolutions, Inc. to provide resold interexchange telecommunications services in South Dakota. The applicant intends to provide services only to business customers of its affiliates and its parent Inter-Tel and residential services to its employees and employees of its customers, affiliates and Inter-Tel.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 09/04/02
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)	ORDER GRANTING
DICKEY RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE)	CERTIFICATION
FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE)	
OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE)	TC02-117
SUPPORT)	

On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an Order concerning the federal universal service support mechanism for rural carriers.¹ This Order (hereafter referenced as the "Fourteenth Report and Order"), in part, codifies at 47 § C.F.R. 54.314, a requirement for States to provide a certification regarding federal universal service support that is received by rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers providing service in rural service areas. Pursuant to such rule, a state that desires rural carriers within its jurisdiction to receive future federal universal service support must file an annual certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) stating that federal high cost support provided to such carriers within that State will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. This certification requirement applies to various categories of federal universal service support, including support provided pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307, and/or 47 C.F.R. Part 36, Subpart F (high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support, and safety valve support). Support provided under these FCC rule provisions will only be made available in the future if the State Commission files the requisite certification pursuant to § 54.314.

The certification required for rural carriers to receive federal universal support for all four quarters during calendar year 2002 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2002. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the state are eligible to receive federal support during the 12-month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

On September 3, 2002, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (Company) regarding its Request for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support. The purpose of this filing was to provide information constituting Company's plan for the use

¹CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 00-256, *Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256*, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001.

of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that 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. As a part of its plan, Company listed estimates of the support it expected to receive from USAC as well as its estimated costs for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services. An Affidavit was attached to the Request for Certification.

On September 5, 2002, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 13, 2002, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 24, 2002, the Commission considered this matter.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-31, and 47 U.S.C. § 254. The Commission found that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as it states it will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The Commission unanimously voted to approve Company's Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as it states it will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission approves Company's Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of September, 2002.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>Melanie Kalbo</u>
Date:	<u>9/27/02</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

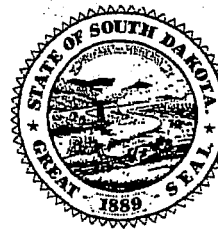
James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070



September 27, 2002

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Ms. Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20037

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001

Annual State Certification of Support for Rural Carriers

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby states that the following rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers within its jurisdiction have been certified to receive support pursuant to 47 CFR §§ 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307 and/or part 36, subpart F. The carriers listed below filed requests for certification with the Commission which support their affirmations that all federal high-cost support provided to them will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Communications Act. The Commission has granted certification to the following companies:

Armour Independent Telephone Company (391640)
Baltic Telecom Cooperative and East Plains Telecom, Inc. (391642)
Beresford Municipal Telephone Company (391649)
Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company (391640) (co. no. 0158)
Brookings Municipal Telephone (391650)
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (391647)
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, Inc. (361123)
City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company (391653)

Capitol Office
Telephone (605)773-3201
FAX (605)773-3809

Transportation/
Warehouse Division
Telephone (605)773-5280
FAX (605)773-3225

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

TTY Through
Relay South Dakota
1-800-877-1113

Internet Website
www.state.sd.us/puc

♦
Jim Burg
Chairman
Pam Nelson
Vice-Chairman
Bob Sahr
Commissioner

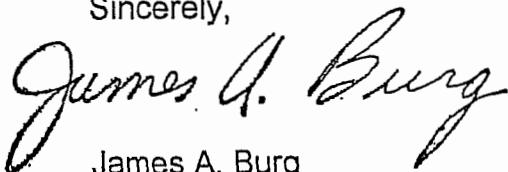
Debra Elofson
Executive Director

Harlan Best
Martin C. Bettmann
Karen E. Cremer
Tina Douglas
Christopher W. Downs
Terry Emerson
Michele M. Farris
Marlette Fischbach
Heather K. Forney
Kelly D. Frazier
Mary Giddings
Tom Graham
Mary A. Healy
Terri Iverson
Lisa Hull
Dave Jacobson
Amy Kayser
Bob Knadle
Delaine Kolbo
Gregory A. Rislov
Keith Senger
John Smith
Rolayne Ailts Wiest
♦

Dakota Community Telephone, Inc. (391652)
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc. (381611) (co. no. 1681)
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (381611) (co. no. 1611)
Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (391659)
Great Plains Communications, Inc. (371577)
Heartland Telecommunication Company of Iowa d/b/a Hickory Tech Corporation (351096)
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (391654)
James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company (391664)
Jefferson Telephone Co., Inc. (391666)
Kadoka Telephone Company (391667)
Kennebec Telephone Company (391668)
McCook Cooperative Telephone Company (391669)
Midstate Communications, Inc. (391670)
Mount Rushmore Telephone Company and Fort Randall Telephone Company (391660)
Red River Telecom, Inc. (381631)
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. (391674)
RT Communications, Inc. (512251)
Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. (391676)
Sioux Valley Telephone Company (391677)
Splitrock Telecom Cooperative, Inc. and Splitrock Properties, Inc. (391657)
Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company (391679)
Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (391680)
Three River Telco (371525)
Tri-County Telecom, Inc. (391682)
Union Telephone Company (391684)
Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. (391685)
Valley Telephone Company (361495)
Vivian Telephone Company d/b/a Golden West Communications, Inc. (391686)
Western Telephone Company (391688)
West River Cooperative Telephone Company (391689)
West River Telecommunications Cooperative (381637) (co. no. 4414)
West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) (391671)

Also enclosed are the Orders Granting Certification to the above-referenced rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.


Sincerely,



James A. Burg
Chairman



Pam Nelson
Commissioner



Robert K. Sahr
Commissioner