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PHOEBE ANNE GREYSON

**RECEIVED**

SEP 10 2002

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

September 9, 2002

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

*VIA OVERNIGHT CARRIER*

Re: In the Matter of the Request of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Commissioners:

I have enclosed the original and 11 copies of the *Request for Certification* in the above referenced matter. The Request includes Exhibit B, *Affidavit*, which is a facsimile of the original. I have included the facsimile version of the affidavit to meet time deadlines in this matter, and will submit the original affidavit to replace the facsimile version shortly.

Please return a date stamped copy of one of the documents to me in the envelope provided.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice E. Walker".

Alice E. Walker  
AEW/dav

enc.: Original & 11 - *Request for Certification*; SASE

cc: JD Williams

**BEFORE THE  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST  
OF THE CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX  
TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY  
FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING  
ITS USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL  
SERVICE SUPPORT**

DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RECEIVED**

SEP 10 2002

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION**

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (“CRST Telephone Authority”), by and through its attorneys, 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, the CRST Telephone Authority 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. *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, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 00-256, FCC 01-157 (rel. May 23, 2001) (“Fourteenth Report and Order”)* (codified in part at 47 C.F.R. § 54.314). The Fourteenth Report and Order establishes 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 this 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 all 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.” 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a). 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 54.307, and 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 Commission files the requisite annual certification pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314.

2. The certification required for rural carriers to receive federal universal service support for all four quarters during calendar year 2003 must be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2002. 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(d)(1). The certification may be presented to the FCC and USAC in the form of a letter from the Commission. The letter must “identify which carriers in the State are eligible to receive federal support during the applicable 12-month period, and must certify that those carriers will only use support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.” 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(c).

3. The CRST Telephone Authority is a rural telephone company that has previously been designated by this Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier. *In the Matter of the Filing by Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order and Notice of Entry of Order*, No. TC97-184 (SDPUC Dec. 17, 1997). The CRST Telephone Authority provides local exchange telephone services, including all of the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service, to approximately 3,483 access lines within its established rural service area in South Dakota.

4. The Commission has limited regulatory oversight over the CRST Telephone Authority and its provisioning of local exchange services. Under S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 49-31-5.1, the local exchange service rates charged by telecommunications cooperatives, municipal telephone systems, and independent telephone companies serving less than 50,000 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. Fourteenth Report and Order ¶ 188. Based on this filed plan, the Commission may make the appropriate certification to the FCC.

5. The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting the CRST Telephone Authority's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that the CRST Telephone Authority 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 (codified in scattered sections of 47 U.S.C.) the "universal service principles" established in 47 U.S.C. § 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, which include:

(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.

....

(4) All providers of telecommunications services should make an equitable and nondiscriminatory contribution to the preservation and advancement of universal service.

....

(5) There should be specific, predictable and sufficient Federal and State mechanisms to preserve and advance universal service.

....

(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 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.

*Ninth Report & Order and Eighteenth Order on Reconsideration*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 99-306, ¶ 96 (Nov. 2, 1999).

8. The FCC provided the above as examples that are not exhaustive of how support can be used consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). Other uses are appropriate provided that the Commission believes they are consistent with the federal universal service principles contained in 47 U.S.C. § 254.

9. The CRST Telephone Authority, 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 that the CRST Telephone Authority should receive in 2003 have not yet been identified by USAC. Included in Exhibit A, attached hereto, however, are estimated universal service support amounts for calendar year 2003.

10. The CRST Telephone Authority also provides in Exhibit A hereto estimates of the expenditures that it will incur in calendar year 2003 for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services that are supported by federal universal service. Consistent with the universal service principles set forth in the federal law and also the FCC orders referenced herein, the CRST Telephone Authority will use federal universal service amounts received in 2003 to offset a portion of the 2003 expenditures set forth in Exhibit A hereto. This use of federal universal service support will enable the CRST Telephone Authority 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

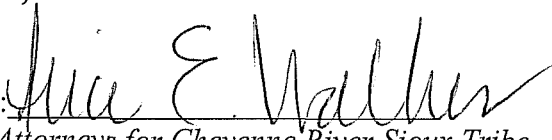
and maintain high quality service. The use of federal universal service support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal service provisions.

11. Based on all of the foregoing information and also the Affidavit of JD Williams, General Manager, attached hereto as Exhibit B, the CRST Telephone Authority requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that the CRST Telephone Authority is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support determined for distribution to the CRST Telephone Authority in 2003. In order to ensure that this certification is issued to the FCC prior to October 1, 2002, CRST Telephone Authority asks the Commission to expedite the process that is initiated based on this filing.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice E. Walker  
Greene, Meyer & McElroy, P.C.  
1007 Pearl St., Suite 220  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
(303) 442-2021

By:   
*Attorneys for Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Telephone Authority*



**EXHIBIT A**  
**CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY**

Estimated Year 2003 Federal Universal Service Receipts

High cost loop support	\$ 729,396
Local switching support	\$ 203,520
Safety Net Additive support	0
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 932,916</b>

Estimated Year 2003 Expenditures For Provision, Maintenance, and Upgrading of Facilities and Services Supported by Federal Universal Service Funding

**Estimated Plant Specific Operations Expenses**

Network support (Accts. 6610-16)	\$ 14,000
General support (Accts. 6120-24)	\$ 96,300
Central office (Accts. 6210-15)	\$ 317,000
Cable and wire facilities (Accts. 6410-41)	\$ 299,200
Network operations (Accts. 6530-35)	\$ 255,300
Depreciation and amortization (Accts. 6540-65)	\$1,207,451

Customer operations expenses

Customer services (Accts. 6620-33)	\$ 359,695
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Corporate operations expenses

Executive and planning (Accts. 6710-12)	\$ 276,486
General and administrative (Accts. 6720-28)	\$ 294,846

**Estimated Total Year 2003 Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment** **\$3,120,278**

Estimated Additions

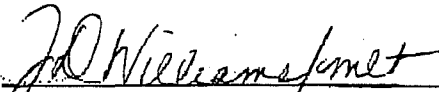
Switching (Acct. 2210, Column C)	\$ 31,898
Cable and wire (Acct. 2410, Column C)	<u>\$ 440,717</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 472,615</b>

**Estimated Total Year 2003 Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment** **\$3,592,893**

**EXHIBIT B**

**AFFIDAVIT**

As an authorized corporate officer of *CRST Telephone Authority*, I, J.D. Williams 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, and/or safety valve support and hereby affirm that any such support amounts received by *CRST Telephone Authority* 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).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J.D. WILLIAMS, GENERAL MANAGER

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

NOTARY PUBLIC



Commission expires 11-04-04

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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

**WEEKLY FILINGS**

For the Period of September 5, 2002 through September 11, 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**

**CT02-036 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Al Leibman, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, against Qwest Corporation Regarding a Billing Dispute.**

Complainant states that in May 2002, he requested service from Qwest to his residence. Although the service was connected by Qwest, he did not have dial tone service in his residence. Because he felt Qwest would be unable to fix the problem in an expedient amount of time, Complainant requested that the service be disconnected. Complainant was told by the Qwest representative that the account would be closed and that there would be no charges billed to the Complainant. Complainant has since been billed by Qwest for the service. Complainant requests that Qwest remove all charges from his account.

Staff Analyst: Mary Healy  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: N/A

**CT02-037 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Len Scherr on behalf of Sammy's Restaurant, Aberdeen, South Dakota, against McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc. Regarding a Contract Dispute.**

Complainant's representative states that when he agreed to phone service from McLeod, he was not told that he was signing a term agreement and believed that he was authorizing McLeod to be Complainant's phone provider. Complainant did not receive a copy of the McLeod contract until August 27, 2002. Complainant's representative believes that the McLeod representative filled in the terms of the contract after the contract had been signed. On more than one occasion Complainant's representative states that Complainant's phone service did not work. Complainant's representative requests that Complainant be released from its McLeod service without penalty.

Staff Analyst: Mary Healy  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 09/10/02  
Intervention Deadline: N/A

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**TC02-121 In the Matter of the Request of Beresford Municipal Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 5, 2002, Beresford Municipal Telephone Company (Beresford) provided information constituting Beresford's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Beresford 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: 09/05/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-122 In the Matter of the Request of Mount Rushmore Telephone Company and Fort Randall Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 5, 2002, Mount Rushmore Telephone Company and Fort Randall Telephone Company (Mt. Rushmore/Ft. Randall) provided information constituting Mt. Rushmore/Ft. Randall's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Mt. Rushmore/Ft. Randall 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: 09/05/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-123 In the Matter of the Request of Baltic Telecom Cooperative and East Plains Telecom, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 6, 2002, Baltic Telecom Cooperative and East Plains Telecom, Inc. (Baltic/East Plains) provided information constituting Baltic/East Plains' plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Baltic/East Plains 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: 09/06/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-124 In the Matter of the Request of Jefferson Telephone Co., Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 6, 2002, Jefferson Telephone Co., Inc. (Jefferson) provided information constituting Jefferson's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Jefferson 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: 09/06/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-125 In the Matter of the Request of Western Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 6, 2002, Western Telephone Company (Western) provided information constituting Western's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Western 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: 09/06/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-126 In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 6, 2002, Valley Telephone Company (Valley) provided information constituting Valley's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Valley 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: 09/06/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-127 In the Matter of the Request of Splitrock Telecom Cooperative, Inc. and Splitrock Properties, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 6, 2002, Splitrock Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Splitrock Properties, Inc. (Splitrock Cooperative/Splitrock Properties) provided information constituting Splitrock Cooperative/Splitrock Properties' plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Splitrock Cooperative/Splitrock Properties 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: 09/06/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-128 In the Matter of the Request of Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 6, 2002, Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. (Santel) provided information constituting Santel's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Santel 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: 09/06/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-129 In the Matter of the Request of Great Plains Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 6, 2002, Great Plains Communications, Inc. (Great Plains) provided information constituting Great Plains' plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Great Plains 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: 09/06/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-130 In the Matter of the Request of Brookings Municipal Telephone for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 6, 2002, Brookings Municipal Telephone (Brookings) provided information constituting Brookings' plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Brookings 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: 09/06/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-131 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of an Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and Black Hills FiberCom, L.L.C.**

On September 9, 2002, the Commission received for approval a Filing of Amendment for Internet Service Provider (ISP) Bound Traffic to the Interconnection Agreement between Black Hills FiberCom Inc. for the State of South Dakota, (Black Hills) and Qwest Corporation (Qwest). According to the parties, the Amendment is a negotiated agreement between Black Hills and Qwest which was originally approved by the Commission effective January 6, 1999, in Docket TC98-205. The purpose of the Amendment is to delete paragraphs 3.2.1 and 3.2.3 and replace them with language in 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 30, 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: 09/09/02  
Initial Comments Due: 09/30/02

**TC02-132 In the Matter of the Request of Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa d/b/a Hickory Tech Corporation for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa d/b/a HickoryTech (HickoryTech) provided information constituting HickoryTech's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that HickoryTech 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-133 - In the Matter of the Request of James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company (James Valley) provided information constituting James Valley's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that James Valley 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-134 In the Matter of the Request of Red River Telecom, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Red River Telecom, Inc. (Red River) provided information constituting Red River's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Red River 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-135 In the Matter of the Request of Faith Municipal Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Faith Municipal Telephone Company (Faith) provided information constituting Faith's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Faith 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-136 In the Matter of the Request of Kadoka Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Kadoka Telephone Company (Kadoka) provided information constituting Kadoka's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Kadoka 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-137 In the Matter of the Request of Union Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Union Telephone Company (Union) provided information constituting Union's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Union 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-138 In the Matter of the Request of Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Bridgewater-Canistota Telephone Company (Bridgewater) provided information constituting Bridgewater's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Bridgewater 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-139 In the Matter of the Request of Armour Independent Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Armour Independent Telephone Company (Armour) provided information constituting Armour's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Armour 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-140 In the Matter of the Request of Dakota Community Telephone, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Dakota Community Telephone, Inc. (Dakota) provided information constituting Dakota's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Dakota 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-141 In the Matter of the Request of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (Golden West) provided information constituting Golden West's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Golden West 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-142 In the Matter of the Request of McCook Cooperative Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, McCook Cooperative Telephone Company (McCook) provided information constituting



McCook's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that McCook 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-143 In the Matter of the Request of Midstate Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Midstate Communications, Inc. (Midstate) provided information constituting Midstate's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Midstate 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-144 In the Matter of the Request of Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. (Roberts County and RC) provided information constituting Roberts County and RC's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Roberts County and RC 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-145 In the Matter of the Request of RT Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, RT Communications (RT) provided information constituting RT's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that RT 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-146 In the Matter of the Request of Sioux Valley Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Sioux Valley Telephone Company (Sioux Valley) provided information constituting Sioux Valley's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Sioux Valley 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-147 In the Matter of the Request of Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company (Stockholm) provided information constituting Stockholm's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Stockholm 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-148 In the Matter of the Request of Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Sully Buttes) provided information constituting Sully Buttes' plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Sully Buttes 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-149 In the Matter of the Request of Tri-County Telcom, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Tri-County Telcom, Inc. (Tri-County) provided information constituting Tri-County's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Tri-County 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-150 In the Matter of the Request of Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc. (Valley) provided information constituting Valley's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Valley 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-151 In the Matter of the Request of Vivian Telephone Company d/b/a Golden West Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, Vivian Telephone Company (Vivian) provided information constituting Vivian's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Vivian 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-152 In the Matter of the Request of West River Telecommunications Cooperative for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, West River Telecommunications (West River) provided information constituting West River's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that West River 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-153 In the Matter of the Request of West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 9, 2002, West River Telecommunications (Mobridge) provided information constituting Mobridge's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Mobridge 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: 09/09/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-154 In the Matter of the Request of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 10, 2002, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (Cheyenne River) provided information constituting Cheyenne River's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to

otherwise verify that Cheyenne River 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: 09/10/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-155 In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation for Approval of Revisions to its Access Services Tariff.**

On September 11, 2002, Qwest Corporation filed changes to its Access Services Tariff. The purpose of the changes is to correct Pricing Flexibility USOCs for six transport rate elements. There are no rate changes proposed. Qwest requests an effective date as soon as possible.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney  
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer  
Date Docketed: 09/11/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/23/02

**TC02-156 In the Matter of the Request of WWC License LLC for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 11, 2002, WWC License LLC, a subsidiary of Western Wireless Corporation, verified that WWC License LLC 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: 09/11/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

**TC02-157 In the Matter of the Request of West River Cooperative Telephone Company for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.**

On September 11, 2002, West River Cooperative Telephone Company (West River) provided information constituting West River's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that West River 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: 09/11/02  
Intervention Deadline: 09/20/02

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# 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](http://www.state.sd.us/puc)

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

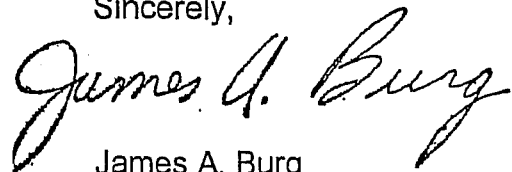
Debra Elofson  
Executive Director

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

TC02-154



BRUCE R. GREENE  
ELIZABETH MEYER  
SCOTT B. McELROY  
ALICE E. WALKER  
M. CATHERINE CONDON  
  
PATRICIA A. McEAHERN

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SEP 19 2002

OF COUNSEL  
PHOEBE ANNE GREYSON

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

September 18, 2002

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

VIA OVERNIGHT CARRIER

Re: In the Matter of the Request of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support  
Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Commissioners:

As stated in my letter of September 9, 2002, I have enclosed the original and 11 copies of the *Affidavit*, which is Exhibit B to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority's *Request for Certification* in the above referenced matter. The original enclosed herewith should replace the facsimile version of the *Affidavit* which was included with the Telephone Authority's *Request for Certification*, which was filed on September 10, 2002.

Please return a date stamped copy of the *Affidavit* to me in the envelope provided.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Alice E. Walker

AEW/dav

enc.: Original & 11 - *Affidavit*; SASE

cc: JD Williams

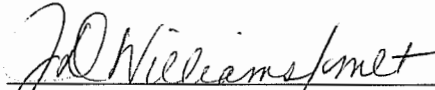
RECEIVED

EXHIBIT B

SEP 19 2002

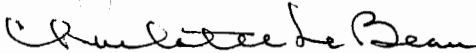
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION AFFIDAVIT

As an authorized corporate officer of *CRST Telephone Authority*, I, J.D. Williams 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, and/or safety valve support and hereby affirm that any such support amounts received by *CRST Telephone Authority* 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).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J.D. WILLIAMS, GENERAL MANAGER

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

NOTARY PUBLIC



Commission expires 11-04-04



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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF )	ORDER GRANTING
CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE )	CERTIFICATION
AUTHORITY FOR CERTIFICATION )	
REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL )	TC02-154
UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT )	

On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an Order concerning the federal universal service support mechanism for rural carriers.<sup>1</sup> 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 10, 2002, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (Company) regarding its Request for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support. The purpose of this filing was to provide information constituting

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<sup>1</sup>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.

Company's plan for the use 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 12, 2002, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 20, 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>	
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><i>Helaine Kalbo</i></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