



Gary Hanson, Chair  
Bob Sahr, Vice-Chair  
Dustin Johnson, Commissioner

## SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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November 18, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Karen Majcher  
Vice President of the High Cost and Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW – Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Designation and Certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

By letter dated August 2, 2005, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“SDPUC”) informed the FCC and USAC that the SDPUC designated RCC Minnesota, Inc. (“RCC”) and Wireless Alliance, L.L.C. (“WALLC”) as eligible telecommunications carriers (“ETCs”) for certain service areas in South Dakota.<sup>1</sup> For some of the rural service areas, the ETC designations were made contingent upon the FCC’s concurrence in redefinition of the service areas.

On August 3, 2005, the SDPUC submitted a Petition to the FCC requesting that it agree with the SDPUC’s redefinition of the service areas of certain rural telephone companies in South Dakota. In its notice seeking comments on the Petition, the Wireline Competition Bureau stated that if the FCC did not initiate a proceeding to consider the Petition by November 14, 2005, the “definition proposed by the SDPUC will be deemed approved by the Commission and shall take effect in accordance with state procedures.” No such proceeding was initiated by the FCC, thus the redefinitions as proposed by the SDPUC have been approved by the FCC.

In its order designating RCC and WALLC as ETCs, the SDPUC stated that the designation of RCC and WALLC in any service areas that require redefinition would not be effective until the FCC concurs in such redefinitions. Given that the FCC has now concurred with the redefinitions, the SDPUC is submitting this letter for designation and certification for RCC and WALLC in the service areas as listed below.

<sup>1</sup> For your convenience, we have included a copy of that letter.

For RCC, the ETC designations are for the following rural service areas:

- a. Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.: Astoria, Bradley, Brandt, Bryant, Castlewood, Clear Lake, Clark, Estelline, Florence, Gary, Goodwin, Hayti, Lake Norden, Raymond, Toronto, Waubay, Webster, and Willow Lake;
- b. James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company: Andover and Bristol;
- c. Venture Communications Cooperative: Britton, Langford, Pierpont, Roslyn, and Sisseton; Rosholt.


For WALLC, the ETC designations are for the following rural service areas:

- a. Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. (Baltic)<sup>2</sup>: Baltic and Crooks; Hudson;
- b. Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. (Splitrock): Brandon and Garretson;
- c. PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc.: Worthing and Lennox;
- d. Sioux Valley Telephone Company: Colton, Dell Rapids, and Humboldt; Valley Springs.

For the service areas as listed above, the SDPUC hereby states that RCC and WALLC have been certified to receive support pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305, 54.307, and/or 54.309, and/or part 36, subpart F. RCC and WALLC have shown to the SDPUC that they will use all federal high-cost support provided to them only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Act.

Enclosed is the SDPUC's Order granting ETC designation and certification to RCC and WALLC. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,



ROLAYNE AILTS WIEST  
SDPUC Attorney

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Talbot J. Wiczorek  
Mr. David A. LaFuria  
Ms. Darla Pollman Rogers  
Mr. Richard Coit  
Mr. James Cremer  
Ms. Meredith Moore

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<sup>2</sup> Alliance has two study areas, Baltic and Splitrock.