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Filed Electronically

July 27, 2007

Ms. Patricia Vangerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
Capitol Building – 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

Dear Ms. Vangerpen,

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC, (“CTC MN”) respectfully files for a waiver of the Commission’s ETC filing requirements pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:56, on the ground that the reporting requirements in support of ETC certification are unduly burdensome and unnecessary. CTC MN also requests the Commission to certify CTC MN as an ETC in its annual ETC certification.

Under the FCC’s rules at 47 CFR § 54.314, State certification of support for rural carriers:

(b) Carriers not subject to State jurisdiction. A rural incumbent local exchange carrier not subject to the jurisdiction of a state or an eligible telecommunications carrier not subject to the jurisdiction of a state serving lines in the service area of a rural incumbent local exchange carrier that desires to receive support pursuant to Sec. Sec. 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307 and/or part 36, subpart F of this chapter shall file an annual certification with the Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

A portion of CTC MN’s Jasper, Minnesota exchange extends into South Dakota and serves 81 access lines in South Dakota. The Jasper exchange central office switch is located in Minnesota and the study area is under Minnesota jurisdiction. CTC MN completed an extensive ETC certification filing with the Minnesota Commission on June 1, 2007 and expects to receive re-certification. For the Commission’s reference, I attach a copy of our Minnesota filing.

Based on the above regulation, because the study area is subject to Minnesota jurisdiction it is at least arguable that CTC MN could self-certify to the Administrator (the Universal Service Administrative Company) and the FCC. However, out of an abundance of caution, CTC MN hereby requests certification from the South Dakota PUC for our 81 access lines in South Dakota.

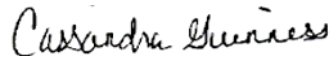
Completing a full ETC certification filing for South Dakota would be unduly burdensome because only .07% of the CTC MN customer base are South Dakota residents. The switches and vast majority of outside plant that supports the South Dakota customers are located within Minnesota. It is burdensome to extrapolate specific costs and projects specific to South Dakota customers.

CTC MN is attaching an affidavit stating it will only use the federal high-cost support it receives during 2008 for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended.

CTC MN been designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) by the Commission in the past and requests the Commission include CTC MN in its certification to the Universal Service Administrative Company and the Federal Communications Commission.

If there are any questions please feel free to call me at (585) 777-4557.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassandra Guinness". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Cassandra Guinness  
Mgr. Compliance  
Citizens Communications

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF MONROE

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, appeared Gregg C. Sayre, who deposed and said:

My name is Gregg C. Sayre. I am employed by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC, as its Assistant Secretary. I am an officer of the Company and am authorized to give this affidavit on behalf of the Company. This affidavit is being given to support the South Dakota Public Service Commission's certification as contemplated in 47 C.F.R. '54.314.

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC certifies that it will only use the federal high-cost support it receives during 2008 for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and service for which such support is intended.

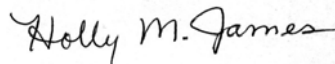
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregg C. Sayre

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
COUNTY OF MONROE ) ss:

Acknowledged before me this 27th day of July, 2007, by Gregg C. Sayre, who is personally known to me or produced identification and who did take an oath.



\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

Holly M. James  
Notary Public – State of New York  
Qualified in Monroe County  
My Commission Expires Nov. 30, 2010

Personally Known \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_  
Produced Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Identification Produced \_\_\_\_\_



COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS

180 S. Clinton Ave., 5th Floor, Rochester, NY 14646  
www.FrontierOnline.com

May 31st, 2007

Burl W. Haar, Ph.D.  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: In the Matter of Annual Certifications Related to Eligible Telecommunications  
Carrier's (ETCs) Use of the Federal Universal Service Support  
Docket No. P999/M-07-558

**Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc.**  
**Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC**

Dear Dr. Haar:

Enclosed for filing is an original plus 15 copies of an affidavit and supporting document by Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., and Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC for certification of federal USF support. Also included is documentation of projects from 2006-2007 and for 2007-2008, which include the original, and 9 copies of the non-public version, and the original and 6 copies of the public version.

Enclosed is an extra copy of this letter. Please file-stamp and return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

If you have any questions, please call me at (585) 777-1146.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel K. Thompson".

Rachel K. Thompson  
Compliance Analyst  
Governmental and External Affairs

Enclosures

cc: All Parties on Attached Service List

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
COUNTY OF MONROE )

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

Rachel K. Thompson, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the 31st day of May, 2007 she served the attached filings by:

Frontier Communications of Minnesota, Inc., and  
Citizens Telecommunications of Company of Minnesota, LLC

Related to Annual Certification of Use of Federal Universal Service Support,

by overnight service, to all persons at the addresses indicated on the attached lists (2).

Rachel K. Thompson

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2007

DEBORAH M. FASCIANO  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Monroe County  
No. 01FA5048034  
My Commission Expires 8/14/09

Deborah M. Fasciano  
Notary Public

CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF MINNESOTA, LLC.  
SERVICE LIST

Burl W. Haar (Original plus 15 Copies) \*\*  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Linda Chavez (4 Copies) \*\*  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

Jessica Palmer-Denig  
OAG-RUD  
900 NCL Tower  
445 Minnesota Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2130

Rick Johnson Public Version ONLY  
Moss & Barnett  
4800 Wells Fargo Center  
90 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-4129

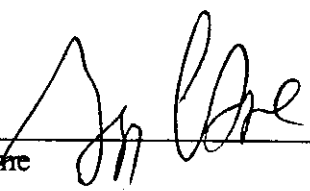
\*\* overnight mail

**AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
  )ss.  
COUNTY OF MONROE     )


1. My name is Gregg Sayre. I am employed by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC., (the "Company") as its Assistant Secretary. I am an officer of the Company and am authorized to give this affidavit on behalf of the Company. This affidavit is provided to support the request of the Company for certification by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission as contemplated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314.
  
2. During the year 2006, the Company received federal universal service support, as shown on Exhibit 1 to this Affidavit and had investments and expense relating to the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which any such support was intended as also shown on Exhibit 1. During the year 2006, the Company used the federal universal service support it received only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.
  
3. The Company hereby also certifies that it will only use the federal high-cost support it receives during 2008 for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended.
  
4. The Company also certifies that it is compliance with applicable rules on service quality; service provision in emergency situations and that we do provide equal access to long distance carriers.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
  )ss.  
COUNTY OF MONROE     )

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2007.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

HOLLY M. JAMES  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Monroe County  
My Commission Expires Nov. 30, 2010

BEFORE THE  
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC (Citizens) is seeking certification of eligibility from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in order to be eligible for support from the federal Universal Service fund.

The certification required for rural carriers to receive federal universal support for all four quarters during calendar year 2008 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2007. 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 clarify that the carrier listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Citizens is a rural incumbent telephone company that has previously been designated by the 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



121,433 access lines within its established rural service area in Minnesota.

Based on the information in this filing it is anticipated that the Commission will make the appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC.

Exhibit A provides details as to the expenditures that were incurred in 2006 and estimates of the expenditures for years 2007 and 2008 for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services supported by federal universal service. Consistent with the universal service principles set forth in the federal law and also the FCC orders referenced herein, Citizens will use federal universal service amounts received in 2007 and 2008 to offset a portion of 2007 and 2008 expenditures incurred within the accounts in Exhibit A. This use of federal universal service support will enable Citizens 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; (2) to continue to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements and maintain high quality service. The use of federal universal support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal provisions.

In Docket P-999/M-07-558 the Commission ordered companies seeking certification to comply with the annual filing requirements by the FCC in CC Docket 94-45, FCC 05-46 with the modifications that a report on a two-year service improvement plan is to be used instead of a five year plan and that the information may be filed on a service area basis instead of a wire-center basis. The following information is provided in compliance with this requirement.

Citizens service quality improvement plan calls for the maintenance of the high quality service that is currently being provided to all service areas of the company. As an incumbent local carrier the company upgrades and replaces facilities and equipment as necessary. Last year's ETC filing to the state provided a list of certain planned 2006-2007 projects. Attachment B reports the status of those projects. Attachment C details certain planned 2007-2008 construction projects.

We have not provided maps of the areas for which we provide service as those maps are on file with the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Department of Administration. If maps are still desired please contact us and we will be glad to provide them. Additional information required is provided as follows:

There were no outages reportable to the FCC in  
2006.

We were able to provide service to all potential customers that requested service during 2006 and at December 31, 2006 we had no unfilled requests for service.

The number of complaints of service quality per 1000 handsets or lines for 2006 was approximately 0.16.

The attached affidavit contains the required certifications as they pertain to an incumbent local exchange carrier.

Based on the foregoing information, the enclosed Attachment A, Attachment B, Attachment C and the Affidavit, Citizens requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC 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 2008.

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC.**

**Attachment A**

**Year 2006 Federal Universal Service Receipts Subject To Certification.**

1 High cost loop support	\$287,592
2 Local switching support	<u>\$303,072</u>
3 TOTAL	\$590,664

**Year 2006 Expenditures For Provision, Maintenance, and Upgrading Of Facilities and Services Supported By Federal Universal Service Funding**

<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>	<b>Actual 2006</b>	<b>Estimate 2007</b>	<b>Estimate 2008</b>
4 Network support (Accts. 6110-16)	\$30	\$30	\$30
5 General support (Accts. 6120-24)	\$4,581,617	\$4,581,617	\$4,581,617
6 Central office (Accts. 6210-6215)	\$2,470,343	\$2,470,343	\$2,470,343
7 Cable and wire facilities (Accts. 6410-6441)	\$4,380,521	\$4,380,521	\$4,380,521
8 Network operations (Accts. 6530-35)	\$4,590,593	\$4,590,593	\$4,590,593
9 Depreciation & amortization (Accts. 6560-65)	\$27,237,420	\$27,237,420	\$27,237,420
<b>10 Customer Operations Expenses</b>			
11 Customer services (Accts. 6620-23)	\$3,553,107	\$3,553,107	\$3,553,107
<b>Corporate Operations Expenses</b>			
12 Executive and planning (Accts. 6710-12)	\$1,012,346	\$1,012,346	\$1,012,346
13 General and administrative (Accts. 6720-28)	\$5,755,831	\$5,755,831	\$5,755,831
<b>14 Total Year 2006 Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>	<b>\$53,581,807</b>	<b>\$53,581,807</b>	<b>\$53,581,807</b>
<b>Additions</b>			
15 Total central office switching (Acct. 2210)	\$1,344,975	\$1,344,975	\$1,344,975
16 Total cable and wire (Acct. 2410)	\$8,539,658	\$8,539,658	\$8,539,658
17 TOTAL	\$9,884,633	\$9,884,633	\$9,884,633
<b>18 Total Year 2006 Supported Expenditures Before Return On Investment</b>	<b>\$63,466,441</b>	<b>\$63,466,441</b>	<b>\$63,466,441</b>

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TRADE SECRET DATA**

**HAS BEEN EXCISED**

Attachment B

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC  
Report on status of 2006-2007 Projects

{Trade Secret begins...

Exchange	Cost	Description

... Trade Secret ends}

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TRADE SECRET DATA**

**HAS BEEN EXCISED**

Attachment C

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC  
2007-2008 Projects

{Trade Secret begins...

Exchange	Cost	Description

... Trade Secret ends}