



Dustin Johnson, Chair
Steve Kolbeck, Vice-Chair
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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November 5, 2009

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

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

Universal Service Administrative Company
Customer Operations
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 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:

Pursuant to section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended and 47 C.F.R. section 54.210, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) has designated Northern Valley Communications, LLC (NVC) as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for the Aberdeen and Redfield exchanges in South Dakota. In addition, the SDPUC has also certified that NVC 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.

NVC was designated as an ETC for the Aberdeen and Redfield exchanges which are both non-rural service areas of Qwest Corporation. The SDPUC hereby states that NVC has 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. NVC has shown to the SDPUC that it will use all federal high-cost support provided to it 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 NVC. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rolayne Ailts Wiest". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ROLAYNE AILTS WIEST
Commission Attorney

Enclosure

cc: James Cremer
James Groft