

# GUNDERSON, PALMER, NELSON & ASHMORE, LLP

J. CRISMAN PALMER  
JAMES S. NELSON  
DANIEL E. ASHMORE  
DONALD P. KNUDSEN  
PATRICK G. GOETZINGER  
TALBOT J. WIECZOREK  
JENNIFER K. TRUCANO  
DAVID E. LUST  
THOMAS E. SIMMONS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
ASSURANT BUILDING  
440 MT. RUSHMORE ROAD  
POST OFFICE BOX 8045  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57709-8045  
  
TELEPHONE (605) 342-1078  
www.gundersonpalmer.com  
ATTORNEYS LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN  
SOUTH DAKOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, NEBRASKA  
COLORADO, WYOMING & MINNESOTA

TERRI LEE WILLIAMS  
SARA FRANKENSTEIN  
AMY K. KOENIG  
JASON M. SMILEY  
MATTHEW E. NAASZ  
QUENTIN L. RIGGINS  
JEFFREY R. CONNOLLY  
REBECCA L. MANN  
  
WYNN A. GUNDERSON  
*Of Counsel*

May 27, 2010

## E-FILING

Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: RCC Minnesota, Inc. Request for Certification As an Eligible  
Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") GPNA File No. 09540.0003


Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On behalf of RCC Minnesota, Inc., enclosed you will find the request for state certification of RCC Minnesota, Inc. for federal universal service support. The Request for Certification shows that all support received will be used "only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support is intended." I request that the above matter be filed and RCC Minnesota, Inc. be certified.

Please note that various exhibits attached to the Request have been labeled "*Confidential and Proprietary*." The information contained in the exhibits is confidential under A.R.S.D. 20:10:1:39(4) and (5). Because of this, RCC requests confidential treatment of Exhibits A, B, D and E, pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:01:41 and that the material be held confidential for ten years and then destroyed. This information is confidential as the information is internal and proprietary, can be used adversely by competitors, and the development and financial planning constitutes trade secrets as recognized by law. If there are any inquiries as to the confidential treatment, I may be contacted at the above address. I have enclosed a list of all exhibits.

If you need any additional information on the Request or attachments, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Talbot J. Wieczorek

TJW:klw  
Enclosures  
c: Steve Otto

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF )  
RCC MINNESOTA, INC. )  
FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE )  
OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT )

STATE OF GEORGIA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF FULTON )

3. The federal Universal Service high-cost support funds received by RCC 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 federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314. These funds will also be used to provide the following supported

services as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(1)-(9) which are available throughout RCC's designated area:

- (a) voice grade access to the public switched telephone network;
- (b) local usage;
- (c) dual tone multi-frequency signaling, or its functional equivalent;
- (d) single-party service, or its functional equivalent;
- (e) access to emergency services;
- (f) access to operator services;
- (g) access to interexchange service;
- (h) access to directory assistance; and
- (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income customers.

4. Any federal high-cost universal service support received by the Company in calendar year 2009 has been used for capital expenditures intended to expand service and expand coverage areas, and for operating and maintenance expenses.<sup>1</sup> Attached as **Confidential Exhibit A** is a spreadsheet detailing spend for each of the capital improvement projects within the Designated Area including projects not included in the original 2009 Service Improvement Plan.

5. Any federal high-cost universal service support the Company receives in calendar years 2010 and 2011 will be used for capital expenditures intended to expand service and expand coverage areas, and for operating and maintenance expenses. As required by A.R.S.D.

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<sup>1</sup> As of January 9, 2009 Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless acquired Alltel Corporation and its subsidiaries. *In the Matter of Applications of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and Atlantis Holdings LLC for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses, Authorizations and Spectrum Manager and De Facto Transfer Leasing Arrangements*, WT Docket No. 08-95, File Nos. 003463892, et al., Memorandum Opinion and Order and Declaratory Ruling, FCC 08-258 (rel. Nov. 10, 2008) (*Merger Order*). The *Merger Order* requires a phase down of high cost support for any properties which Verizon Wireless retains over a five-year period following the closing of the transaction. *Merger Order*, ¶¶ 192-197. Verizon Wireless and the Universal Administrative Company (USAC) are in the process of implementing this requirement.

20:10:32:54, the Company is providing a comprehensive two-year service improvement plan. Attached as **Confidential Exhibit B-1** is the detailed 2010 Service Improvement Plan and **Confidential Exhibit B-2** is the detailed 2011 Service Improvement Plan. Attached as **Confidential Exhibit B-3** is a coverage map showing progress in the Company's service improvement plan and approximate location of expected future service improvements.

6. The required information relating to any outages of at least 30 minutes in duration affecting at least 10% of the end users served in a designated area or a 911 special facility of the Company during calendar year 2009 are listed and detailed in attached **Confidential Exhibit C**. The particular services affected by an outage are dependent upon the capabilities of the particular facility affected by the outage. The number of customers affected by an outage is estimated based on the number of customers with a billing address in each affected wire center as of December 31, 2009. Each network outage is examined on a case by case basis. The outage is analyzed for the particular cause of the outage. When the outage is due, for example, to equipment failure, the equipment is replaced or repaired and tested for proper performance. Additionally, the manufacturer or vendor is notified if the failure appears to be in the design or manufacture of the equipment. If the vendor or manufacturer fails or refuses to remedy the deficiency then a replacement source is determined. When the outage is due to, for example, weather or other natural occurrence, the probability of a repeat occurrence is considered and evaluated and is considered in planning the repair, replacement or rebuild of the equipment or location. Outages due to human error or a faulty process or practice will result in appropriate reevaluation of the source of error and the need to either correct, discipline or revise the person or practice, as applicable. The outages reported above were not determined to require extraordinary measures other than application of the above.

7. Attached as **Confidential Exhibit D** is a report of the number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated area that were not fulfilled during 2009, including details of how the Company attempted to provide service.

8. The number of consumer complaints received by the Company during calendar year 2009 for the designated area and the resolution of those complaints is set forth in the attached **Confidential Exhibit E**.

9. The Company certifies it has the ability to function in emergency situations, including a reasonable amount of back-up power, the ability to reroute traffic around damaged transport facilities, and the capability to manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.03.

10. The Company certifies that it is complying with applicable service quality and consumer protection standards in the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Carriers pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43.04.

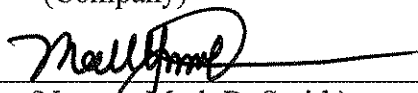
11. The Company certifies that it acknowledges the FCC, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(8), may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers within its designated area in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within the area.

12. The Company certifies that it is offering a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) in its designated area, including rate plans with substantial local calling areas with varying levels of local usage, and plans with unlimited usage. Each rate plan includes, at a minimum, all of the supported services required by FCC Rule 54.101(a)(1)-(9) comparable to the service offerings of the incumbent LECs. Consistent with FCC Rule 54.202(a)(4), the amount of local usage available in RCC's generally available rate plans is comparable to that offered by the incumbent LECs in the designated areas.

13. Pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:55, the Company, in calendar year 2009, notified its customers and potential customers of the availability of Lifeline and Link-Up opportunities. Attached **Exhibits F-1 to F-4** identify the Company's outreach efforts in calendar year 2009 designed to increase participation in the Lifeline and Link-Up assistance programs.

DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.

RCC Minnesota, Inc.  
(Company)

By:   
(Name - Mark R. Smith)

Its: Assistant Secretary  
(Title)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.



Notary public in and for the State of Georgia

My Commission Expires: 8 Sept 2012

SANDRA F. BROCK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

# **EXHIBITS**

## **RCC Request for Certification 2010**

Exhibit A      2009 Service Improvement Plan Progress Report/Update – CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit B-1    2010 Service Improvement Plan – CONFIDENTIAL

                 B-2    2011 Service Improvement Plan – CONFIDENTIAL

                 B-3    2009 Coverage Map – CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit C      2009 ETC Outage Report – CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit D      2009 Requests for Service Report – CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit E      2009 Consumer Complaints Report – CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit F-1    2009 Lifeline and Link Up Advertising/Outreach Efforts

                 F-2    South Dakota Lifeline Newspaper Ad

                 F-3    South Dakota Lifeline Brochure

                 F-4    South Dakota Billing Message