

**BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF                                 )**  
**RCC MINNESOTA, INC.   )**         **Docket No. TC11-\_\_**  
**FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE                                 )**  
**OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT                       )**

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION**

STATE OF GEORGIA         )  
   )  
COUNTY OF FULTON         )

I, Mark R. Smith, being of lawful age and duly sworn, on my oath, state that I am the Assistant Secretary, an officer of RCC Minnesota, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“RCC”)<sup>1</sup> and that I am authorized to execute this Affidavit on behalf of RCC, and the facts set forth in this Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

1. Pursuant to A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:52 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54, this Affidavit is to act as an Annual Certification filing and Affidavit in Support of the Certification requirements.

2. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission designated RCC as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in certain non-rural telephone company exchanges and certain rural telephone company study areas in an June 6, 2005 Order in Docket No. TC03-193. Pursuant to the designation order, Finding of Fact number 71 subparts (1), (2), and (3), RCC filed the required compliance documents on July 30, 2005. The Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) has assigned SAC 399003 to RCC’s designated service area in South Dakota. 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

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<sup>1</sup> As of August 6, 2008 Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless acquired Rural Cellular Corporation. *In the Matter of Applications of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and Rural Cellular Corporation for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses, Authorizations and Spectrum Manager Leases and Petitions for Declaratory Ruling that the Transaction Is Consistent with Section 310(b)(4) of the Communications Act*, WT Docket No. 07-208, File Nos. ISP-PDR-20070928-00011, ISP-PDR-20070928-00012, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Declaratory Ruling, FCC 08-181 (rel. Aug. 1, 2008).

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 be used to provide the following supported services, identified 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.

3. Any federal high-cost universal service support received in calendar year 2010 has been used for capital expenditures intended to expand service and expand coverage areas, and for operating and maintenance expenses.<sup>2</sup> Attached as **Confidential Exhibit A** is a spreadsheet detailing expenditures on capital improvement projects within the Designated Area, including projects not included in the original 2010 Service Improvement Plan.

4. Any federal high-cost universal service support RCC receives in calendar years 2011 and 2012 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. 20:10:32:54, a comprehensive two-year service improvement plan is provided. RCC's Designated Area

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<sup>2</sup> As of January 9, 2009 Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless acquired Alltel Corporation and its subsidiaries including Alltel Communications, LLC. *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 Leasing Arrangements*, WT Docket No. 08-95, File Nos. 003463892, *et al.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Declaratory Order, FCC 08-258 (rel. Nov. 10, 2008) (*Merger Order*). The *Merger Order* requires a phase down of high cost support over a five-year period following the closing of the transaction for any properties which Verizon Wireless retains. *Merger Order*, ¶¶ 192-197.

includes wire centers in which WWC License LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless has been designated as a competitive ETC. For administrative purposes, only one designated ETC reports the lines served in a common wire center, and the projected receipt and use of universal service support is reflected in only one ETC Annual Certification. Attached as **Confidential Exhibit B-1** is the detailed 2011 Service Improvement Plan and **Confidential Exhibit B-2** is the detailed 2012 Service Improvement Plan. Attached as **Confidential Exhibit B-3** is a coverage map consistent with A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:54. The projected expenditures in the Service Improvement Plan are based on the assumption that RCC will receive the amount of federal high-cost universal service support identified on **Confidential Exhibit B-4**. There are various factors that affect the total amount of support RCC may be expected to receive, including but not limited to, the per line support that is available, federal policy changes, USAC reconciliations, and other factors beyond RCC's control. If actual receipts are not as estimated in this report, RCC reserves the right to modify its projected capital and operating expenditures in the Designated Area.

5. 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 during calendar year 2010 is provided in attached **Confidential Exhibit C**. The 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, 2010. 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 re-evaluation 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.

6. Attached as **Exhibit D** is a report of the number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated area that were not fulfilled during 2010, including details of how RCC attempted to provide service.

7. The number of consumer complaints received during calendar year 2010 for the designated area and the resolution of those complaints is set forth in the attached **Confidential Exhibit E**.

8. RCC 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.

9. RCC 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.

10. RCC 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.

11. 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.

12. Pursuant to the requirements of A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:55, the Company, in calendar year 2010, notified its customers and potential customers of the availability of Lifeline and Link-Up opportunities. Attached **Exhibits F-1 to F-5** identify the Company's outreach efforts in calendar year 2010 designed to increase participation in the Lifeline and Link-Up assistance programs.

DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.

RCC Minnesota, Inc.

(Company)

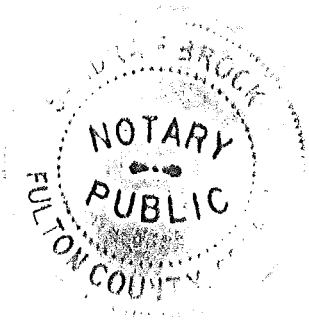
By: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name - Mark R. Smith)

Its: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Secretary

(Title)



SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 31 day of May, 2011.

Sandra F. Brock

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

Notary public in and for the State of Georgia

My Commission Expires: 9-8-2012

# **EXHIBITS**

## **RCC Request for Certification 2011**

Exhibit	A	2010 Service Improvement Plan Progress Report/Update – CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	B-1	2011 Service Improvement Plan – CONFIDENTIAL
	B-2	2012 Service Improvement Plan – CONFIDENTIAL
	B-3	2010 Coverage Map – CONFIDENTIAL
	B-4	2011 and 2012 Projected Support - CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	C	2010 ETC Outage Report – CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	D	2010 Requests for Service Report
Exhibit	E	2010 Consumer Complaints Report – CONFIDENTIAL
Exhibit	F-1	2010 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
	F-5	South Dakota Billing Message - Newly Activated Customers