



Jason D. Topp
Senior Corporate Counsel - Regulatory
(651)312-5364

October 11, 2013

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

Re: CenturyLink 2013 Federal ETC Filing

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On November 18, 2011 the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) released its *USF/ICC Transformation Order* in WC Docket No. 10-90 et al. With that Order, the FCC began a transition to a national framework for certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) and set forth a standard set of information that all ETCs must file with the FCC each year. The Order also required ETCs to provide the same information to the respective state commissions.

On June 10, 2013, the FCC granted a limited waiver of the July 1 filing deadline for the annual ETC reporting requirements for 2013, with one exception.¹ ETCs with voice service rates below the rate floor² were required to file by July 1 the voice rate information required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(h). That same Order also noted that the final requirements for 2013 and the new filing deadlines would be set in a subsequent Order following Paperwork Reduction Act approval of the FCC’s reporting requirements and proposed reporting form.

¹ See *In the Matter of Connect America Fund*, Order, WC Docket No. 10-90, DA 13-1348 (rel. June 10, 2013).

² Only ETCs that receive Federal High Cost Loop or High Cost Model Support are required to report residential basic rates below the rate floor.

Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director

Page 2

October 11, 2013

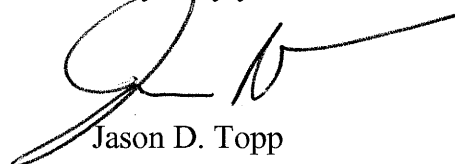
On August 6, 2013, the FCC released an Order, DA 13-707, identifying the reporting requirements contained in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 that are now approved and applicable in 2013 as well as setting October 15, 2013 as the deadline for ETCs to file the required information.³ The FCC also released the required reporting template, FCC Form 481, for use by all ETCs.

Attached is a complete copy of the FCC Form 481 for Qwest Corporation-South Dakota, which will be filed by CenturyLink with the FCC. CenturyLink is filing the confidential version of the FCC Form 481. The outage and Tribal engagement information provided in response to 47 C.F.R. §54.313 (a) (2) and (9), respectively, is confidential and will be filed confidentially with the FCC. CenturyLink requests this information be treated as such as provided by ARSD 20:10:01:41 and ARSD 20:10:01:39 (4). Also enclosed is a Request for Confidential Treatment of Information.

Consistent with past years, we request that you certify to the FCC as required by 47 C.F.R § 54.314 by the deadline of December 16, 2013 that Qwest Corporation-South Dakota should continue receiving Federal high cost support in South Dakota.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. D. Topp', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason D. Topp

JDT/bardm

Enclosures


³ See *In the Matter of Connect America Fund*, Order, WC Docket No. 10-90, DA 13-707 (rel. August 6, 2013).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 11th day of October, 2013, the 2013 Federal ETC Filing and Request for Confidential Treatment of Information was E-Filed upon the following party:

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
patty.vangerpen@state.sd.us

and copies sent electronically or via U.S. mail, addressed to the following:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne Barthel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dianne Barthel