



Advocating for South Dakota's Rural Broadband Providers

November 4, 2014

Ms. Patty Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Ave.
State Capitol Building
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Docket TC1014-082, In the Matter of the Application of Talk America Services, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Local Exchange Services and Interexchange Long Distance Services in South Dakota

Dear Patty:

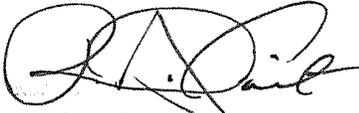
Last week, SDTA filed a Petition to Intervene in the above referenced Docket. That Petition was filed based on our then held belief that Talk America Services, LLC ("TAS") was seeking statewide authority to provide local exchange services. The Application for a Certificate of Authority filed by TAS was somewhat unclear as to the requested service area and, in addition, many if not most of the SDTA member rural carriers had received a "Notice of Application" from TAS pursuant to SDCL § 49-31-70 and ARSD § 20:10:32:04. The sending of these Notices by TAS suggested that the company was, in fact, seeking local service authority within all or certain rural telephone company service areas.

Since the filing of SDTA's Petition to Intervene, Commission Staff has informed us that TAS has specifically noted in response to a Staff Data Request, by letter dated October 14, 2014, that it is requesting "certification to provide services in the CenturyLink territories only." (Response 1-3). In addition, SDTA has contacted TAS legal counsel and has received confirmation directly that the company is not under its current Application seeking local service authority within any rural telephone company service areas.

Based on the referenced data request response and direct assurances from TAS regarding the limits of its Application, SDTA withdraws its earlier filed Petition to Intervene dated October 23rd, 2014. SDTA does not object to the granting of a COA for local service authority to TAS, provided the certification does not extend to any rural telephone company service areas in South Dakota.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter and thank you for your assistance in filing and distributing copies of the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Coit". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard D. Coit
SDTA Executive Director and General Counsel

cc: Docket "Service List"