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Chris Nelson, Vice Chairperson  
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*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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October 30, 2014

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

USAC  
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No. 14-58, Designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier;  
Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier; and State Certification of Support for New Eligible  
Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.201, 54.205, and 54.314

Pursuant to section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) designated Clarity Telecom, LLC (Clarity) as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for the service areas served by Knology Community Telephone, Inc. and Knology of the Black Hills. The list of exchanges is attached to the enclosed SDPUC Order. As set forth in the SDPUC Order, Clarity agreed to purchase the assets of Knology Community Telephone, Inc. (study area code 391652) and Knology of the Black Hills, Inc. (study area code 399006). Knology Community Telephone, Inc. is a rural incumbent local exchange carrier designated as an ETC in rural service areas. Knology of the Black Hills, LLC is a competitive ETC designated as an ETC in non-rural service areas. No service areas were redefined. The designation is effective upon closing of the transaction. On October 28, 2014, Clarity informed the SDPUC that the transaction was closed on September 30, 2014.

The SDPUC also granted the relinquishment of the ETC designations of Knology Community Telephone and Knology of the Black Hills, effective upon the closing of the sale. In addition, pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the SDPUC hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company that Clarity is eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the program years cited. The SDPUC certifies that all federal high-cost support provided to Clarity will be used this year and in the coming calendar year (2015) only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Enclosed is the SDPUC's Order granting ETC designation and certification to Clarity and granting relinquishment of ETC designation for Knology of the Black Hills and Knology Community Telephone. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,

*Rolayne Ailts Wiest*

ROLAYNE AILTS WIEST  
Commission Attorney

Enclosure