

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
BY MIDCONTINENT
COMMUNICATIONS FOR LIFELINE
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIER DESIGNATION WITHIN
CERTAIN RURAL SERVICE AREAS

TC 16- ____

Pursuant to ARSD § 20:10:32:43, Midcontinent Communications (“Midcontinent”) files this Petition seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier for Lifeline services only in the following service areas: Baltic, Crooks (Alliance Communications), Gayville, Lennox (PrairieWave/ VAST), Waubay, Webster (Interstate Telecom), Wolsey (Santel Communications), Bowdle, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby, and Java (Venture Communications).. For its Petition, Midcontinent states:

1. On January 8, 2004, Midcontinent filed its original petition for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), Docket No. TC04-003.

2. In its original petition, Midcontinent sought ETC designation in all U S WEST (n/k/a QWEST/CENTURYLINK) service areas except Arlington, Chamberlain, Colman, DeSmet, Elk Point, Flandreau, Hill City, Lake Preston, Morristown, Vermillion, Volga-Bruce, Whitewood, Yankton, North Sioux City, and North Valentine.

3. On June 29, 2004, the Commission granted Midcontinent Competitive ETC status in the following QWEST/CENTURYLINK service areas:

Aberdeen
Bath
Belle Fourche
Big Stone City
Black Hawk
Box Elder

Huron
Lead
Madison
McIntosh
Milbank
Miller

Redfield
Renner
St. Lawrence
Sioux Falls
Spearfish
Sturgis

Canton
Central City
Deadwood
Ellsworth AFB
Ft. Pierre
Harrisburg

Mina
Mitchell
Piedmont
Pierre
Rapid City
Rapid Valley

Tea
Timber Lake
Warner
Watertown
West Ortonville

4. On November 12, 2010, Midcontinent filed a petition for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), Docket No. TC10-099 to extend its designated service area to include the QWEST/CENTURYLINK service areas of Meckling, Summerset, Vermillion, Whitewood, and Yankton. The Commission approved Midcontinent’s ETC designation on February 23, 2011.

5. Midcontinent as an ETC designated carrier satisfies the requirements of 47 CFR § 54.201. Midcontinent provides all of the services enumerated in 47 CFR § 54.101, in the service areas of Baltic, Crooks, Gayville, Lennox, Waubay, Webster, Wolsey, Bowdle, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby, and Java, including (a) voice grade access to the public switched 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 consumers.

6. Midcontinent makes available Lifeline services to consumers that qualify for low-income assistance and will continue to advertise the availability of its local exchange services in media of general distribution. Booklets showing all products and prices are available to consumers and can be found on the Midcontinent website as well.

7. Midcontinent Communications is a general partnership.

8. Midcontinent’s designated contact person is Mary Lohnes, Regulatory Affairs Manager. Ms. Lohnes can be reached at (605) 357-5459. Midcontinent’s address is: 3901

North Louise Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57107. The general number for Midcontinent is (800) 888-1300. Midcontinent's fax number is (605) 339-4419. The general email address for Midcontinent is mcomm@midco.net.

9. The proposed effective date of the ETC designation is July 1, 2016 or upon approval of the Commission.

10. Midcontinent is an approved Competitive local exchange carrier in service areas of: Baltic, Crooks, Gayville, Lennox, Waubay, Webster, Wolsey, Bowdle, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby, and Java. Midcontinent's provision of service in these areas provides consumers with increased choices and competitive products and services. Midcontinent seeks designation as a Lifeline ETC in the rural service areas of Baltic, Crooks, Gayville, Lennox, Waubay, Webster, Wolsey, Bowdle, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby, and Java.

14. Pursuant to the requirements of ARSD § 20:10:32:46, a copy of this petition is being provided to all other telecommunications companies serving as eligible telecommunications carriers in the relevant service areas.

WHEREFORE, Midcontinent respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Petition and approve eligible telecommunications carrier lifeline status for Midcontinent in the rural service areas of Baltic, Crooks, Gayville, Lennox, Waubay, Webster, Wolsey, Bowdle, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby, and Java.

Dated this 6th day of July, 2016



Patrick J. Mastel
Associate General Counsel
Midcontinent Communications