

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY) TC16-044
MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS FOR)
LIFELINE ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS) VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS
CARRIER DESIGNATION WITHIN CERTAIN) COOPERATIVE'S PETITION TO
RURAL SERVICE AREAS) INTERVENE

Venture Communications Cooperative (“Venture”), by and through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, petitions this Commission for leave to intervene in the above entitled proceeding.

IN SUPPORT THEREOF, Petitioner does state and declare as follows:

1. Venture is a South Dakota cooperative corporation headquartered in Highmore, South Dakota. Venture presently operates twenty-nine (29) local telephone exchanges serving approximately 12,450 access lines in the State of South Dakota. Venture is also a “rural telephone company” as defined in 47 U.S.C. 153(37) and SDCL 49-31-1(22).

2. On July 16, 2016, Midcontinent Communications (“Midcontinent”) filed a Petition with this Commission to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) for lifeline services only, in the following service areas: Baltic, Crooks (Alliance Communications), Gayville, Lennox (Prairie Wave/VAST), Waubay, Webster (Interstate Telecom), Wolsey (Santel Communications), Bowdle, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby, and Java (Venture Communications).

3. Venture is the incumbent local exchange carrier in the Bowdle, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby and Java rural exchange areas. Pursuant to the provisions of SDCL 1-26-17.1 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:01:15.02, Venture is requesting “Intervener Status” in the above entitled

proceeding because it currently is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier in these exchanges.

4. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.101(a) and (b), SDCL 49-31-73 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43 this Commission is vested with the authority to grant or deny Midcontinent's Petition.

5. Venture has a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding as this Commission's decision may, directly or indirectly, impact the telecommunications services provided by Venture to its customers. Venture has concerns about the completeness of the Application and whether or not the requested designation is in the public interest.

6. Venture desires to intervene in order that it may fully review the application, receive documents, comment, present testimony, cross-examine witnesses and produce evidence either seeking to clarify or oppose Midcontinent's Petition, to the extent that such actions are required in the above entitled proceeding. Venture seeks to make certain that Midcontinent's Petition fully complies with all legal requirements and Commission orders.

WHEREFORE, Venture respectfully requests that the Commission grant as follows:

A. Venture's Petition to Intervene in the above entitled proceeding with full rights to participate as a formal party; and

B. Such other relief as the Commission may deem proper.

Dated this 21 day of July, 2016.



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