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July 26, 2017

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Patrick Steffensen, Utility Analyst
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Docket TC17-041 - Midstate Communications, Inc.
ETC/USF Certification

Dear Mr. Paulson:

This letter is in response to the Information Request you issued in the above-referenced docket on July 12, 2017. Your questions will be responded to in the order in which they were posed in your initial request.

SAC 391670

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1-2. *Refer to the Operations Expense listed in Exhibit A – Progress Report. Explain the increased General Support expense and Cable and Wire Facilities expense from 2015 to 2016.*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1-4. *Provide specific examples of what upgrades and additions were made to improve the service quality, service coverage, and service capacity to customers.*

[REDACTED]

1-5. *Provide a list of the projects completed thus far in 2017. This should include location, dollar amount, and description of the project and a brief narrative of current broadband speeds in the ILEC territory.*

[REDACTED]

1-6. *Provide a list of the projects planned for the remainder of 2017, 2018, and 2019. This should include the location, dollar amount, projected start and completion dates, and description of the projects and a brief narrative of planned broadband speeds in the ILEC territory.*

RESPONSE:

2017

[REDACTED]

2018

[REDACTED]

2019

[REDACTED]

1-7. *Provide an explanation of any wire centers where Midstate believes improvements are not needed, including the basis for determination and a demonstration of how funding will otherwise be used to further the provision of supported services in that area.*



SAC 399011

- 1-8. *Provide a two-year plan, pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:54 and ARSD 20:10:32:43.02, for the Midstate CLEC territory.*



- 1-9. *Were any network improvements that were planned for 2016 not completed in 2016?
(Applies to both SACs)*



1-10. *Confirm that all new customers received Lifeline information within 30 days of receiving service.*

RESPONSE: All customers of Midstate Communications Inc. receive notice of the Lifeline/Link-Up program within 30 days of their taking service from Midstate Communications, Inc.


1-11. *Refer to the Lifeline Assistance Application and Certification Form and Lifeline Assistance Re-Certification Form provided with the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Annual Report. Has Midstate Communications updated the poverty guidelines displayed on these forms to the 2017 levels?*

RESPONSE: Midstate Communications Inc. has updated the poverty guidelines as set forth under the Lifeline/Tribal Link-Up Advertising/Outreach Annual Report for 2017. Updated Lifeline/Tribal Link-Up documentation by Midstate Communications Inc. has been attached and can be previewed on the SDPUC Lifeline Linkup Report.

As referenced in the cover letter to this filing, please consider the responses to Information Requests 1 through 9 to be confidential. Please treat the information contained in those responses accordingly. A redacted copy of Midstate's response has also been filed in this docket. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter or require any additional information or documentation, please feel free to contact me at your convenience at 605-335-4989. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

CUTLER LAW FIRM, LLP



Ryan J. Taylor
For the Firm

RJT:dah
cc: Mark Benton