

BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF VENTURE) TC19-014
COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE FOR)
CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL) CONFIDENTIAL RESPONSES
UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT.) TO STAFF'S DATA REQUESTS
(STUDY AREA 391680)

Venture Communications Cooperative ("Venture") by and through its attorney, responds to Staff's Data Request as follows:

1.1. Resubmit the copy of Exhibit D, Affidavit, so that the notary seal is legible.

Response: See Attachment 1.

1.2. Explain why SAC 391688 is not applying for recertification when it appears that the SAC has received funds on its behalf on the USAC High Cost Disbursement Tool.

Response: Venture's June 18, 2019 Annual ETC Certification filing included information regarding the Venture Study Area and the former Western Study Area in a combined filing, as the Western Study Area ceased to exist as of December 11, 2018. Western Telephone Company was acquired by Venture as a wholly-owned subsidiary in July of 2008 and was subsequently merged into the surviving parent company (Venture Communications) in January of 2015. The company has operated as a single corporate cooperative entity since the merger. On December 11, 2018, the FCC issued an Order merging the Venture Study Area (391680) and the Western Study Area (391688) (See Exhibit 1.2A). Accordingly, at present and on a go-forward basis, Venture has only one study area, 391688.

The former Western Study Area did, however, receive federal universal service high cost support in 2018, as well as a few true-up payments in 2019. As a result, and out of an abundance of caution, at the request of Staff, we have amended Venture's Annual ETC Certification filing for 2019 to include the Western Study Area. See Amended Annual Certification Filing filed on this date.

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DATED this 28 day of June, 2019.

RITER, ROGERS, WATTIER &
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

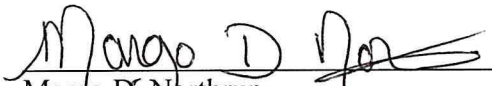
The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of Confidential Response to Staff's Data Request was sent by electronic notice to the following:

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