

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**In the Matter of the Request of Qwest Corporation Docket No. TC19-039
dba CenturyLink QC for Certification Regarding
Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support
(Study Area: 395145)**

**QWEST CORPORATION DBA CENTURYLINK QC'S
RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION STAFF'S DATA REQUEST**

Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC ("CenturyLink"), for its response to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff's Data Request, states as follows:

- 2.1 During the September 3, 2019 Commission meeting, Commissioner Nelson requested that CenturyLink provide their 2019 CAF II deployment information.

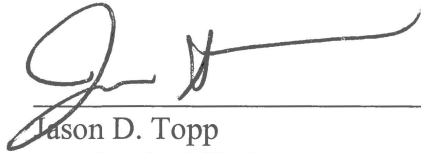
Response:

Since 2015, CenturyLink has been deploying broadband to meet its CAF II obligations. To minimize costs and maximize the deployment, CenturyLink enables broadband on an exchange by exchange basis. During 2019, CenturyLink is deploying broadband in the Lead, Deadwood and Rapid City exchanges. CenturyLink is building out 42 fiber to the node deployments, which will serve approximately 1,468 individual residents/businesses in eligible census blocks under CAF II. CenturyLink has not completed its plans for 2020, but currently expects to deploy broadband to 100% of its FCC commitment during 2020. As noted during the Commission meeting, if CenturyLink does not complete all locations during 2020, there is an opportunity to request a waiver from the FCC to complete the remaining locations during 2021. If the FCC denies the request, CenturyLink will have to repay the FCC for the number of locations it misses times the funding received times 1.89. The 1.89 factor was identified in an

effort to recognize that the lower cost locations were probably deployed and the locations that cost more than average were likely the ones that were not enabled.¹

Dated this 13th day of September, 2019.

QWEST CORPORATION DBA
CENTURYLINK QC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason D. Topp", written over a horizontal line.

Jason D. Topp
200 South Fifth Street, Room 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(651) 312-5364
Jason.topp@centurylink.com

¹ FCC-14-190A1, *Report and Order in the matter of the Connect America Fund*, paragraphs 30-44.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and accurate copies of Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC's Response to the SD Public Utilities Commission Staff's Data Request was delivered via e-mail on this 13th day of September, 2019, to the following parties:

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
patty.vangerpen@state.sd.us

Ms. Karen E. Cremer
Commission Attorney
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
karen.cremer@state.sd.us

Ms. Lorena Reichert
Staff Analyst
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
lorena.reichert@state.sd.us

Mr. Jason D. Topp
Assistant General Counsel
Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC
200 S. Fifth St., 2200
Minneapolis, MN 55402
jason.topp@centurylink.com



Dianne Barthel