

July 8, 2021

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Patrick Steffensen
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5050

FROM THE DESK OF
RYAN J. TAYLOR

CUTLER LAW FIRM, LLP
140 N Phillips Avenue
4th Floor
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605) 335-4950 main
(605) 335-4989 direct
(605) 335-4961 fax

Re: Docket No. TC21-068
Midstate Communications, Inc. ETC/USF Certification

Dear Mr. Steffensen:

This letter is in response to the Data Request issued to Midstate Communications, Inc. (the "Company") in the above-referenced docket on July 6, 2021. The questions will be addressed in the order in which they were posed in the original Data Request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 1-5. Explain in detail how Midstate used/plans to use the grant funding it received from the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

RESPONSE 1-5: The Company has used the grant funding received by it from GOED primarily to install fiber optic cable to serve the area in the vicinity of the George Mickelson Shoreline Drive in Oacoma, South Dakota. The George Mickelson Shoreline Drive runs north of Oacoma along the west shoreline of Lake Francis Case. The newly installed fiber serves several new housing developments, campgrounds, and other businesses that have developed in the area. The remainder of the GOED grant funding has been used to provide service to newly constructed homes in the Company's service area.

- 1-6. Did receiving the state grant for broadband change Midstate's previously submitted plans for capital additions and/or improvements? Are the areas Midstate used/plans to use the grant funding different from the areas Midstate uses the Federal Universal Service support? Explain.

RESPONSE 1-6: Midstate had planned to provide service to these areas prior to receiving the grant funds from GOED. All of the grant funds were used in areas in which the Company requests Federal Universal Service

support. The majority of the GOED grant funds were used in the area in which the Company operates as a CLEC. A far smaller portion of the funds was utilized in the area in which the Company operates as the ILEC.

As referenced in the cover letter to this filing, please consider the responses to questions 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 of the Data Request to be confidential. A copy of this filing with confidential areas redacted is being filed in conjunction with this letter. Please treat the information in accordance with Midstate Communications' request for confidentiality.

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 matter.

Sincerely,

CUTLER LAW FIRM, LLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan J. Taylor", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan J. Taylor
For the Firm

Attachments

cc: Chad Mutziger
Kathy Taylor