



Advocating for South Dakota's Rural Broadband Providers

October 29, 2021

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
VIA Electronic Filing Only

Re: Docket TC21-113

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen,

PUC Staff requested I file the following information:

- 1) The stipulation SDTA and Allstream signed and filed with this Commission on 10/21/21 is intended to document the parties' agreement that any Certificate of Authority issued to Allstream (to provide local exchange service) shall exclude rural areas. SDTA sought out the stipulation as a result of Allstream's filing which requests a certificate of authority throughout the state of South Dakota. The stipulation is also intended to specify SDTA's particular interest in the docket.
- 2) The stipulation is intended to mimic the language the Commission includes in its orders when rural areas are excluded from certification. The stipulation is not intended to change the Commission's usual practice. Rather, due to the language in Allstream's Application, SDTA simply desired to clarify Allstream's intended service area.
- 3) It has been SDTA's historic practice to seek out agreements of this nature to assure rural areas are exempt from state-wide Certificates of Authority. The stipulation filed on 10/21/21 has the same historic purpose. It is, however, simplified and much shorter in length.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kara Semmler
General Counsel and Executive Director