



Jason D. Topp
Assistant General Counsel
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August 25, 2022

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capital Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: In the Matter of the Request of Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC for Certification regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support (Study Area: 395145) Docket No. TC22-044

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

This letter follows up on questions asked by Commissioner Nelson during the August 18, 2022 Commission meeting about two South Dakota construction projects. The timing of both projects is dependent on a variety of variables such as weather, supply chain and other unexpected surprises. Nonetheless, this letter provides the status of each project and the expected timeframe for completion.

Valentine Fiber Project

Commissioner Nelson first asked about the status of our fiber build in Valentine. On that project, the company is completing the engineering of the project to account for additional homes recently identified as underserved. We will put the project out for bid for construction. While some work may begin this year, we expect the primary construction to start and be completed in 2023.

Deadwood

We believe Commissioner Nelson's second question related to a project that is underway in the Deadwood area north of Rapid City. In June of 2022, we decided to install a hybrid fiber/copper solution to serve the area with a Broadband Digital Loop Carrier (BBDLC). We expect engineering for this project to be complete in early September. We expect it will take six weeks or more to obtain necessary materials and secure financing for the project. We hope to start construction in late October and complete the project by the end of the year.

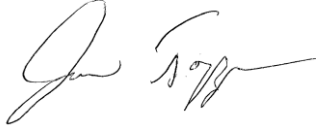
Patricia Van Gerpen

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We hope this response addresses the questions that arose during the Commission meeting. If the Commission needs any additional information, please reach out to me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason D. Topp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason D. Topp

JDT/bardm

cc: Service List (via e-mail)