

July 15, 2024

**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  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
(605) 335-4950 main  
(605) 335-4989 direct  
(605) 335-4961 fax

Re: Docket No. TC24-027  
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 11, 2024. The questions will be addressed in the order in which they were posed in the original Data Request.

1-1. Refer to Exhibit A for study area 391670.

- a. Confirm the discrepancy between the \$578,664 listed for Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation on Exhibit A and the \$500,232 listed on the USAC website is due to a timing difference in reporting practices.
- b. When does Midstate expect each of the cable and wire projects that were delayed in 2023 to get completed?
- c. When does Midstate expect each of the transmission projects that were delayed in 2023 to get completed?
- d. Provide justification for using grant funding on projects that are already receiving Federal Universal Service support.

**RESPONSE 1-1(a):** The discrepancy is due to a timing difference in reporting practices.

**RESPONSE 1-1(b):**



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**RESPONSE 1-1(c):** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**RESPONSE 1-1(d):** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 1-2. Confirm the Company sets aside any high-cost support received but not spent in that calendar year in an account dedicated specifically for upgrades necessary to meet the relevant high-cost requirements in accordance with paragraph 186 of the May 25, 2016, FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in FCC 16-64 In the Matter of Connect America Fund ETC Annual Reports and Certifications Rural Broadband Experiments.

**RESPONSE 1-2:**

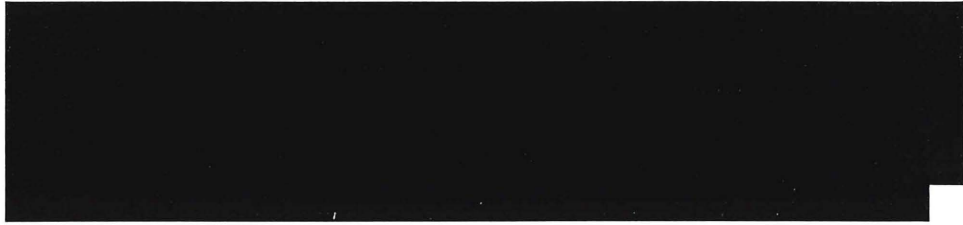
[REDACTED]

- 1-3. Refer to Exhibit B for study area 391670. Why does Midstate project more transmission additions and less cable and wire additions in 2025 compared to what was projected in last year's docket?

**RESPONSE 1-3:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



As referenced in the cover letter to this filing, please consider the responses to 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 large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ryan J. Taylor  
For the Firm

Attachments

cc: Chad Mutziger  
Kathy Taylor