BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

APPLICATION OF ASSURANCE WIRELESS USA, L.P., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER FOR THE PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE TO QUALIFIYING CUSTOMERS

Docket No. TC24-002

ASSURANCE WIRELESS' MOTION FOR PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Applicant Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. ("Assurance") hereby moves the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to set an expedited procedural schedule in this docket.

Assurance is currently providing service in South Dakota to low-income consumers through participation in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP").¹ Granting Assurance's petition will ensure that Assurance is able to continue providing affordable service to its existing low-income South Dakota customers, and will also offer a choice to other qualifying low-income South Dakota consumers. To this end, Assurance's petition requests that its Lifeline-only ETC designation become effective no later than May 1, 2024.

Assurance has conferred with the SDTA and understands that the SDTA does not intend to issue discovery requests to Assurance, request a hearing, or oppose Assurance's petition. Assurance is currently working on its responses to the IRs issued by Staff on February 2, 2024, and plans to file responses to those IRs well ahead of the March 5, 2024 due date, so as to conform with the proposed schedule set forth below.

¹ See <u>https://www.fcc.gov/acp</u>.

In order to maintain its intended ETC designation date, Assurance requests that the Commission include this matter on the agenda for its February 20, 2024 Commission meeting, for the purpose of discussing and issuing a procedural schedule for this matter. Assurance proposes that the scheduling order should establish that any information requests should be issued by March 1, 2024 and that any comments or opposition filings should be filed by March 15, 2024. These proposed dates are intended to allow the merits of its petition to be considered at the Commission's regularly scheduled March 19, 2024 meeting.

Assurance is authorized by the SDTA to state that the SDTA does not oppose this requested procedural schedule.

Dated this 9th day of February, 2024

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