

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF)	JOINT STIPULATION
TRUCONNECT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S)	
PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF A)	TC24-004
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)	
IN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR)	
THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF PROVIDING)	
LIFELINE SERVICE TO QUALIFYING)	
CUSTOMERS)	

JOINT STIPULATION

WHEREAS, TruConnect Communications, Inc., the South Dakota Telecommunications Association, and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff (collectively, “the Parties”) stipulate as follows:

1. This matter is a contested case according to SDCL 1-26-1(2), and each party understands that they, therefore, have a right to an evidentiary hearing. However, no party desires to have an evidentiary hearing in this matter.
2. As a means of creating an official record of this case upon which the Commission may base its decision, the Parties hereby waive their right to an evidentiary hearing and agree to the following terms:
 - a. The Parties have been afforded an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with SDCL 1-26-16. The Parties have waived their opportunity to request a formal evidentiary hearing.
 - b. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) may consider whether or not to grant TruConnect Communications, Inc.’s Petition for Approval of a Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Dakota for the Limited Purpose of Providing Lifeline Service to Qualifying Customers at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting.
 - c. The record in this contested case shall consist of (a) all documents filed by any party in Docket TC24-004, and (b) oral communication, including but not limited to all questions, answers, discussion, or arguments, that has occurred or will occur during any Commission meetings where the Commission has addressed, or will address, this Petition, as recorded on the Commission’s audio recordings of its meetings. The Parties understand and agree that the contents of this record shall be the basis for the Commission’s decision, and the Commission may enter findings of fact and conclusions of law based off this stipulated record.
3. The Parties understand that the Commission has the right to require an evidentiary hearing at its own discretion should the Commissioners so desire.
 - a. Should the Commission choose to require an evidentiary hearing, this stipulation shall be null and void unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties.
4. The Parties understand that when this matter comes before the Commission, the Commission may ask questions of any party.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2024

Debra McGuire Mercer

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Dated this 18 day of September, 2024

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Dated this 18th day of September, 2024

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