

SDTA ANSWER TO PUC STAFF FIRST DATA REQUEST

Docket Number: TC24-005
Subject Matter: First Data Request
Request to: South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: 1/21/2025
Responses Due: 2/04/2025
Response Filed: 1/23/2025

REQUEST 1-1: Refer to the stipulation between SDTA and TracFone filed 6/3/24, response to TracFone's DR1-13, and Exhibit 5 to TracFone's response to DR1. SDTA's stipulation includes language that states, "The Parties agree any ETC designation to result from this docket shall be limited to South Dakota CenturyLink wire centers and shall not extend into any rural service area served by an SDTA member company." Does SDTA mean in this stipulation that this ETC Petition by Tracfone is limited to CenturyLink areas only or every area in South Dakota with the exception of SDTA member territories?

ANSWER: The Stipulation, signed by both SDTA and TracFone, is intended to address all rural areas in the state of South Dakota. ARSD 20:10:32:42 requires the Commission make a "public interest" determination regarding ETC designation in areas served by a rural provider. Some of these rural areas are served by non-SDTA member companies. However, that fact is irrelevant because the stipulation is designed as responsive to the administrative rule to address all areas served by a rural provider, regardless of whether that rural provider is an SDTA member. The stipulation is not limited to SDTA member service areas.

The language of the stipulation itself reflects this intent:

- In Recital 3 the parties acknowledge that many, but not all rural ILECS are members of SDTA.
- Agreement Paragraph 1 has two separate parts. That is: (i) ETC designation is limited to CenturyLink wire centers **AND** (ii) ETC designation shall not extend into any rural service area served by an SDTA member company.

Exhibit 5, as submitted by TracFone violates the stipulation as follows:

- Page 1 of Exhibit 5 includes wire centers outside of the CenturyLink wire center.
- The Beresford exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The McLaughlin exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Mobridge exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Claire City exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The New Effington exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Southshore exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Stockholm exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Revillo exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Cresbard exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Faulkton exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Orient exchange is served by an SDTA Member.
- The Spencer exchange is served by an SDTA Member.