

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

|                                           |   |                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>IN THE MATTER OF QWEST</b>             | ) | <b>TC26-_____</b>                |
| <b>CORPORATION D/B/A CENTURYLINK QC</b>   | ) |                                  |
| <b>(SOUTH DAKOTA)'S REQUEST FOR</b>       | ) | <b>QWEST CORPORATION D/B/A</b>   |
| <b>CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF</b> | ) | <b>CENTURYLINK QC (SOUTH</b>     |
| <b>FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT</b>  | ) | <b>DAKOTA)'S 2026 ANNUAL ETC</b> |
|                                           | ) | <b>CERTIFICATION FILING</b>      |

Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (South Dakota) ("CenturyLink") makes this filing to seek certification from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") as is required under 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 and to comply with the provisions of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:52 and 20:10:32:54 of the Commission's rules pertaining to eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs").

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, states that desire eligible telecommunications carriers to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within that State was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

As part of its annual request to the Commission for certification, CenturyLink provides the following information:

1. CenturyLink is a local exchange carrier that has previously been designated by this Commission as an ETC. CenturyLink provides local exchange telephone services, within its local exchange service areas in South Dakota.
2. As required by 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.422, CenturyLink has filed FCC Form 481 (Lifeline only) on the USAC efile portal. A copy of the Form 481 filing is available on the USAC efile portal website.
3. In response to the requirements of §§ 20:10:32:54(1) and 20:10:32:54(2), see Confidential Attachments A, B, C and H.
4. Confidential Attachments D and E provides the information associated with §§ 20:10:32:54(3) (detailed information on any outages), 20:10:32:54(4) (number of unfilled requests for service) and 20:10:32:54(5) (number of complaints).
5. Certifications as required under the provisions of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:43.01 (demonstration of commitment to provide service), 20:10:32:54(6) (complying with service quality standards and consumer protection rules) and 20:10:32:54(7) (ability to function in emergency situations) are included in Attachment F, Affidavit of Kenneth W. Buchan.

6. §§ 20:10:32:54(8) and 20:10:32:54(9) were waived in their entirety as part of Docket AA19-001.

7. The Lifeline and Link-up advertising requirements in § 20:10:32:55 were provided to customers in 2025 through a bill insert in CenturyLink's South Dakota consumer bills, which provided customers with information on Lifeline and Link Up Telephone Assistance Programs in South Dakota. Information on Telephone Assistance Plans is also available at [www.centurylink.com/TAP](http://www.centurylink.com/TAP). A copy of the South Dakota Lifeline application can be printed from [www.centurylink.com/lifeline](http://www.centurylink.com/lifeline). See Attachment G for the following items.

- Bill Insert
- Mockup of lifeline newspaper notice
- Newspaper notice invoices
- List of newspapers in which the notice was published
- Lifeline webpage

8. Based on all of the foregoing information, including the information provided on Attachments A-H, CenturyLink requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that CenturyLink is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support determined for distribution to CenturyLink in 2027. In order to ensure that this certification is issued to the FCC prior to October 1, 2026, CenturyLink would further ask the Commission to expedite the process that is initiated based on this filing.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2026.

/s/ Rick Gutierrez

Ricardo L. Gutierrez  
(303)992-5828  
[rick.gutierrez@lumen.com](mailto:rick.gutierrez@lumen.com)