

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)	ORDER GRANTING
ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE)	CERTIFICATION
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION AND RC)	
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR CERTIFICATION)	TC14-037
REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL)	
UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)	

On June 26, 2014, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc., including RC Communications dba RC Services, (Companies) requesting certification regarding use of federal universal service support. The purpose of this filing was to provide information constituting the Companies' plan for the use of federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that the Companies will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 254. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a), in order for an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to receive support pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) high-cost program, a state must file an annual certification with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the FCC stating that all federal high-cost support provided to the ETC "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." On July 16 and August 8, 2014, the Companies responded to Staff's data requests.

On July 3, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 18, 2014, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 2, 2014, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31 and 47 U.S.C. § 254. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the Companies' request for certification. The Commission finds that the Companies are eligible to receive federal support. The Commission finds that all federal high-cost support provided to the Companies 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.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Companies are eligible to receive federal support as all federal high-cost support provided to the Companies 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. It is further

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the Companies' request for certification.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of September, 2014.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.	
By:	<u>Joy Lashley</u>
Date:	<u>9.5.14</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner