

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF) NORTHEAST NEBRASKA TELEPHONE) COMPANY FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING) ITS USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE) SUPPORT (STUDY AREA: 371576))	ORDER GRANTING WAIVER OF ARSD 20:10:32:56 AND GRANTING CERTIFICATION TC18-021
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On June 7, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (Company) regarding its request for certification regarding its use of federal universal support. The purpose of this filing was to provide information constituting the Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that the Company 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." The Company also requested a waiver of the filing requirements pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:56 on grounds that the certification process is unduly burdensome and unnecessary as the Company only has 9 subscribers in South Dakota. The Company offered to submit copies of its documentation filed with the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

On June 14, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 29, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No parties sought intervention. On June 15, 2018, the Company responded to Commission staff's data request.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, 47 U.S.C. § 254, and ARSD 20:10:32:56.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 10, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to waive, until the Commission otherwise orders, ARSD 20:10:32:56 and to approve the Company's request for certification. The Commission finds that the Company is eligible to receive federal support. It is therefore

ORDERED, until such time as the Commission otherwise orders, that the request for a waiver of the annual filing requirements of ARSD 20:10:32:56 is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the Company's request for certification.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12th day of July 2018.

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 or by mail.
By: <u>Karen E. Bremer</u>
Date: <u>07/12/18</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

<u>Kristie Fiegen</u> KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson
<u>Gary Hanson</u> GARY HANSON, Commissioner
<u>Chris Nelson</u> CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner