

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS FOR AN )  
AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO )  
PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE IN )  
DEFINED CENSUS BLOCKS WITHIN RURAL )  
AREAS IN MOODY, DAVISON, MINNEHAHA, )  
HANSON, BEADLE, KINGSBURY AND )  
CODINGTON COUNTIES AND FOR A WAIVER )  
OF ARSD 20:10:32:15 )**

**ORDER GRANTING  
AMENDED CERTIFICATE  
OF AUTHORITY**

**TC18-058**

On October 22, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition from Midcontinent Communications (Midco) for an amended certificate of authority to provide local exchange service in certain census blocks in South Dakota as well as requesting a waiver of ARSD 20:10:32:15. Midco has been awarded Connect America Fund II (CAF II) funding from the Federal Communications Commission and is required to obtain eligible telecommunications carrier status in all of the census blocks in which Midco was awarded CAF II funding (CAF II Census Blocks).

On October 25, 2018, Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline November 9, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On November 9, 2018, the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) filed a Petition to Intervene and Venture Communications Cooperative (Venture), Santel Communications Cooperative (Santel), and Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ITC) filed a Joint Petition to Intervene (collectively, "Intervenors"). On November 29, 2018, intervention was granted to the Intervenors. On January 4, 2019, a Joint Stipulation for Settlement and a settlement agreement between the Intervenors and Midco was filed with the Commission.

On January 18, 2019, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for an Amended Certificate of Authority. The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and 49-31-69 and ARSD 20:10:32:03. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Midco's request for an Amended Certificate of Authority in order to provide local exchange service in certain census blocks in South Dakota and to grant Midco's request for ETC designation pursuant to the Intervenor's and Midco's Joint Stipulation for Settlement. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Midco's request for an Amended Certificate of Authority is hereby granted except as to any overlap areas that may extend into the rural telephone company study areas of Santel, Venture, or ITC. It is further

ORDERED, that Midco's request for ETC designation is granted except as to any overlap areas that may extend into the rural telephone company study areas of Santel, Venture, or ITC.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2019.

**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: Karen E. Cremer

Date: 01/23/19

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner