

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)
FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY)
FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF)
FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)
(STUDY AREA 361389))**

**ORDER GRANTING
CERTIFICATION**

TC19-010

On May 1, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Farmers Mutual Telephone Company (Company) regarding its request for certification regarding its use of federal universal service 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." Farmers Mutual Telephone Company currently has 14 voice subscribers in the West Marietta exchange and believes the ETC certification process in South Dakota to be unduly burdensome and unnecessary for its 14 customers.

On May 2, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 17, 2019, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No parties sought intervention. On May 20, 2019, the Company responded to Commission staff's data request.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of May 28, 2019, 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 grant a five-year waiver pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:56. The Commission also unanimously voted to approve the Company's request for certification. The Commission finds that the Company is eligible to receive federal support. The Commission finds that all federal high-cost support provided to the Company 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 a five-year waiver pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:56 is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as all federal high-cost support provided to the Company 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 Company's request for certification.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31st day of May 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: Adam de Hueck

Date: 5/31/19

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner