



Attachment 1

March 14, 2018

North Dakota Public Service Commission  
Attn: Executive Secretary  
Capital Building-12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck ND 58505-0480

Re: Request for Potential Boundary Change to Serve Individuals Requesting Service from West River Telephone Cooperative

West River Telecommunications Cooperative (WRT) has received requests for broadband service from eight individuals (ten locations) residing close, but just outside of our exchange boundaries in North Dakota. These individuals are currently in areas served by CenturyLink but do not receive broadband access from CenturyLink. WRT is ready to proceed with constructing facilities and provide service to these individuals conditioned upon approval by both the North Dakota Commission and the FCC, and adequate cost recovery for those facilities.

Given the high cost to serve these locations, a business case to do so cannot be made without federal high cost universal service support. In order to receive federal high cost universal service support, WRT must file and the FCC must grant a petition for a study area waiver.

One of the FCC standards for evaluating petitions for a study area waiver is that the state commission having regulatory authority over the transferred exchanges does not object to the transfer. WRT provides the information on the attached for the Commission's consideration.

Sincerely,

Troy Schilling  
CEO/GM  
West River Telecommunication Cooperative

email: WRT@westriv.com • phone: 701.748.2211 • fax: 701.748.6800  
web: www.westriv.com • social: www.facebook.com/myWRT  
mail: PO Box 467 (101 Main St W), Hazen, ND 58545

Offices: Hazen & Beulah, ND • Mobridge, SD

Attachment 1

Attachment

West River Telecommunication Cooperative (WRT) has received requests for service at the locations identified on the attached maps. CenturyLink has agreed to release these areas to WRT if an exchange boundary change is approved by the Commission and by the FCC. The exchange boundaries that would be modified are Mandan (CenturyLink)/St. Anthony (WRT) and Morristown (CenturyLink)/Elgin (WRT) as set forth on the attached map.

The following individuals have requested services from WRT at the locations identified on the map: [REDACTED]

A major consideration for WRT is whether we will receive adequate cost recovery for the transferred lines. It is also important to note there could likely be two separate paths at the FCC in determining whether an exchange area boundary is granted. There is likely to be a separate process for those locations in CAF II auction census blocks and one for those locations outside of CAF II census blocks.

In order to serve locations within the CAF Phase II census blocks, the FCC could require WRT to participate in the CAF Phase II auction. If WRT participates in the CAF Phase II auction and wins, WRT would be required to serve additional locations beyond those identified above. The cost of participating in the auction and serving additional locations may cause WRT to reconsider serving those locations. The locations not in the CAF Phase II census blocks will be subject to the FCC's study area waiver process.

WRT requests conditional approval to serve the locations identified above.

Please call me to discuss any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Troy Schilling CEO/GM  
West River Telecommunications Cooperative

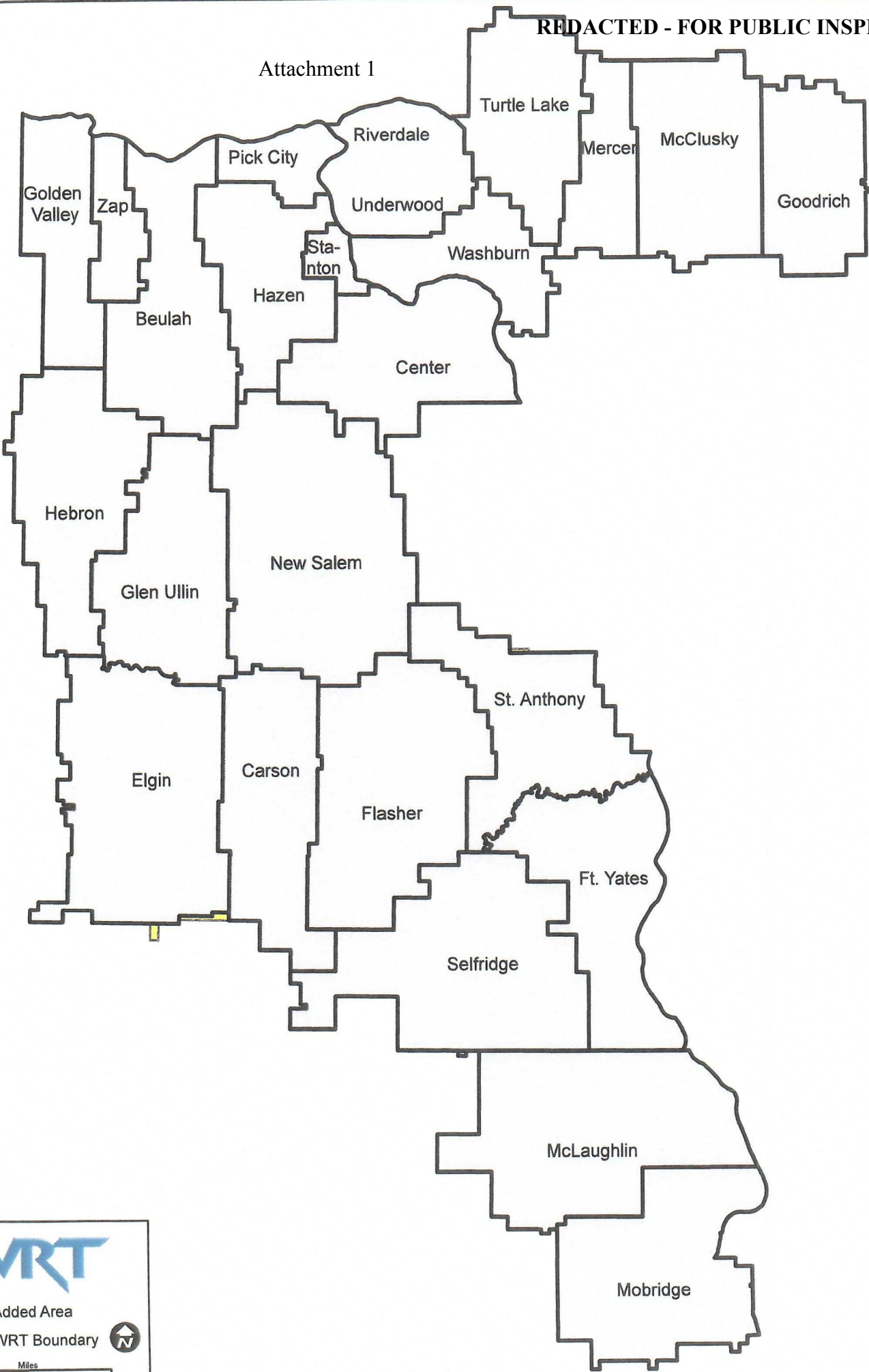
CenturyLink hereby concurs with the boundary change as indicated above.

Sincerely,



Kent Blickensderfer, Director  
CenturyLink-Legislative & Regulatory Affairs  
North Dakota/South Dakota  
220 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Attachment 1



WRT



Added Area



WRT Boundary

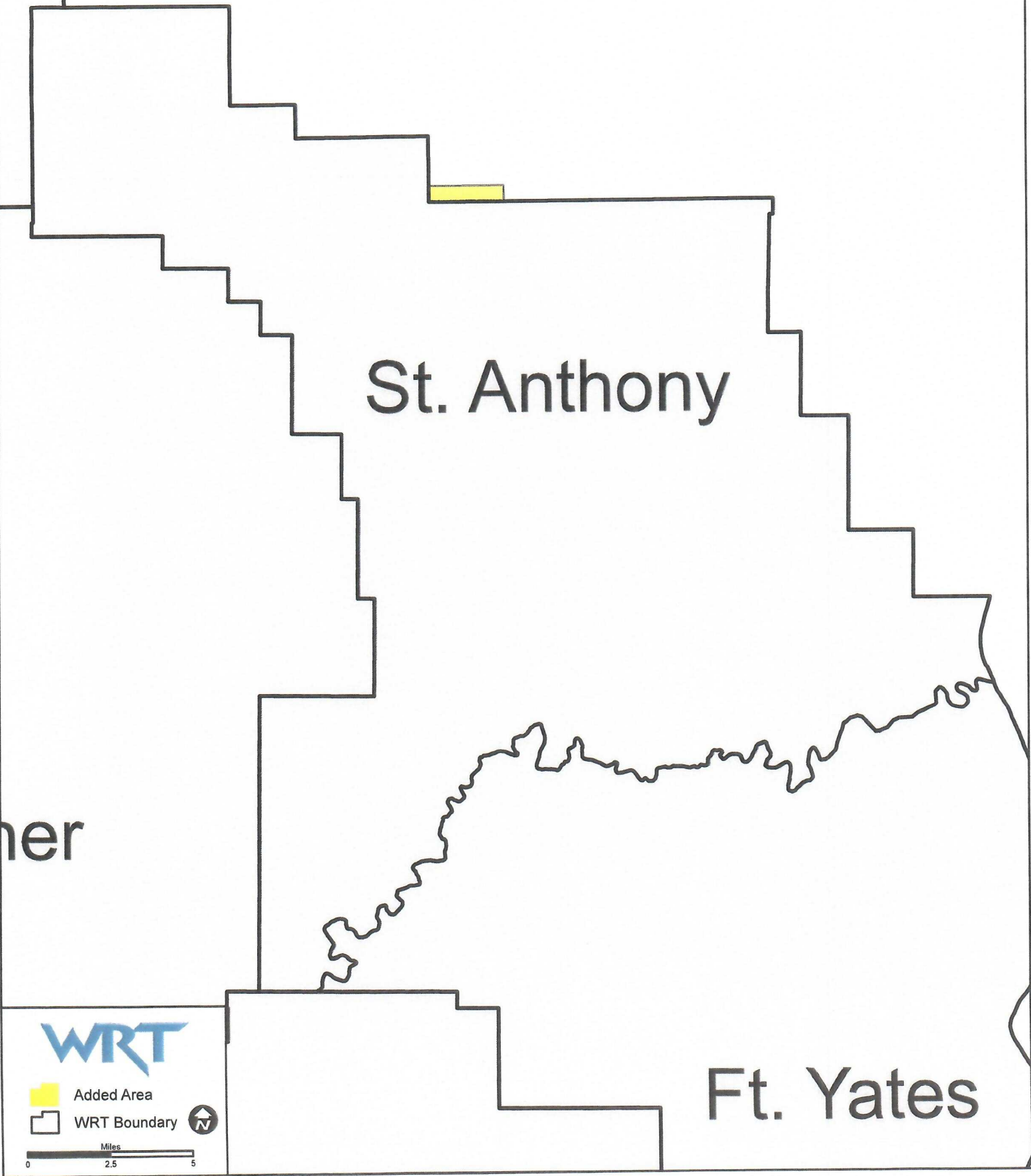


Miles

0 10 20



Attachment 1



Elgin

Carso

WRT



Added Area



WRT Boundary



Miles

0 2.5 5



Attachment 2

May 18, 2018

John M. Schuh  
ND Public Service Commission  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
600 E Boulevard Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Case No. PU-19-90  
West River Telecommunications Coop / Qwest  
Mandan / St. Anthony / Morristown / Elgin  
Exchange Boundary Agreement

Dear Mr. Schuh:

Enclosed is WRT's signed consent form to approve the Commissions motion to revise the boundary modifications for the Mandan (CenturyLink)/St. Anthony (WRT) and Morristown (CenturyLink)/Elgin (WRT) exchanges.

Please contact me if you have any questions at 701-748-2211.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Schilling", is written over a horizontal line.

Troy Schilling  
CEO/GM

Offices: Hazen & Beulah, ND • Mobridge, SD

email: [WRT@westriv.com](mailto:WRT@westriv.com) • phone: 701.748.2211 • fax: 701.748.6800  
web: [www.westriv.com](http://www.westriv.com) • social: [www.facebook.com/myWRT](https://www.facebook.com/myWRT)  
mail: PO Box 467 (101 Main St W), Hazen, ND 58545



# Public Service Commission

## State of North Dakota

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### COMMISSIONERS

Randy Christmann  
Julie Fedorchak  
Brian Kroshus

Executive Secretary  
Darrell Nitschke

### Attachment 2

600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480  
Web: [www.psc.nd.gov](http://www.psc.nd.gov)  
E-mail: [ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov)  
Phone: 701-328-2400  
ND Toll Free: 1-877-245-6685  
Fax: 701-328-2410  
TDD: 800-366-6888 or 711

May 15, 2018

Troy Schilling, CEO/GM  
West River Telecommunication Cooperative  
101 Main St. W  
PO Box 467  
Hazen, ND 58545

RE: Case No. PU-18-90  
West River Telecommunications Coop / Qwest  
Mandan / St. Anthony / Morristown / Elgin  
Exchange Boundary Agreement

Request for Potential Boundary Change to Serve Individuals Requesting Service from  
West River Telephone Cooperative

Dear Mr. Schilling:

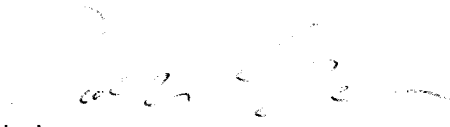
The North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) received a March 14, 2018 letter from West River Telecommunications Cooperative (WRT) requesting conditional approval to modify the Mandan (CenturyLink)/St. Anthony (WRT) and Morristown (CenturyLink)/Elgin (WRT) exchange boundaries. CenturyLink concurred with the boundary changes in the letter and identified with the attached maps.

Enclosed is the Commission Motion to approve the boundary effective upon the receipt of written notification satisfying the following condition precedent: "[R]eceipt by the Commission of written notification from West River Telecommunications Cooperative that Federal Universal support to West River Telecommunications will be adequate for the added service area and end user subscribers."

If WRT consents to Commission approval of the motion, please sign and return the Consent form attached below. Please feel free to contact the Commission with any questions.

Attachment 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Schuh", written over a light blue horizontal line.

John M. Schuh  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
600 E Boulevard Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

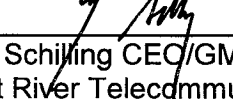
Enclosure



**CONSENT TO APPROVAL OF MOTION**

The undersigned, on behalf of West River Telecommunications (WRT), is authorized to act on behalf of WRT and bind WRT for the purposes of this Consent to Approval of Motion, knows and fully understands its content and effect, and consents to an approval of the Motion.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018

By:   
Troy Schilling CEO/GM  
West River Telecommunications Cooperative  
(101 Main St. W) PO Box 467  
Hazen, ND 58545

**MOTION**

**\_\_\_\_\_ xx, 2018**

**West River Telecommunications Cooperative /  
Qwest Corporation  
Mandan / St. Anthony / Morristown / Elgin  
Exchange Boundary Agreement**

**Case No. PU-18-90**

Effective with receipt of written notification satisfying the condition precedent stated in this motion, I move the Commission approve a change in the exchange boundary between West River Telecommunications Cooperative's St. Anthony local exchange and Qwest Corporation's Mandan local exchange and a change in the exchange boundary between West River Telecommunications Cooperative's Elgin local exchange and Qwest Corporation's Morristown local exchange; and issue the corresponding amended certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity in West River Telecommunications Cooperative / Qwest Corporation, Mandan / St. Anthony / Morristown / Elgin, Exchange Boundary Agreement, Case No. PU-18-90.

I further move that the condition precedent to the effectiveness of this motion is the receipt by the Commission of written notification from West River Telecommunications Cooperative that Federal Universal Service support to West River Telecommunications will be adequate for the added service area and end user subscribers.

PJF

**Lexi Lawson**

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**From:** Lexi Lawson  
**Sent:** Friday, May 18, 2018 2:41 PM  
**To:** 'jschuh@nd.gov'  
**Cc:** Troy Schilling  
**Subject:** WRT/CenturyLink Boundary Exchange  
**Attachments:** WRT - Century Link Consent Form 5.18.18.pdf

John,

Attached is a copy of WRT’s signed consent form to approve the Commissions motion to revise the boundary modifications for the Mandan (CenturyLink)/St. Anthony (WRT) and Morristown (CenturyLink)/Elgin (WRT) exchanges.

An original signed consent form will be mailed today.

Thank you.

Lexi



**Lexi Lawson**  
Executive Assistant  
troy.schilling@nd.gov  
701.786.2011 ext. 3011  
[www.wrtnd.com](http://www.wrtnd.com)

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

West River Telecommunications Coop/ Qwest  
Mandan / St. Anthony / Morristown / Elgin  
Exchange Boundary Agreement

Case No. PU-18-90

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY REGULAR MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

**Geralyn R. Schmaltz** deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **31st day of May 2018**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **two** envelopes by regular mail, with postage fully prepaid, securely sealed, each containing a photocopy of:

- **Motion**

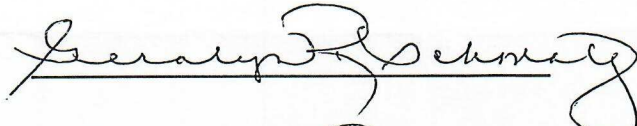

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

Troy Schilling  
CEO/GM  
West River Telecommunications Cooperative  
PO Box 467  
Hazen, ND 58545

Kent Blickensderfer, Director  
CenturyLink-Legislative & Regulatory Affairs  
North Dakota/South Dakota  
220 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Each address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this **31st day of May 2018**.

  
  
Notary Public

SEAL



**APPROVED**  
DATE: 5/29/18  
AH

**MOTION**

**May 29, 2018**

**West River Telecommunications Cooperative /  
Qwest Corporation  
Mandan / St. Anthony / Morristown / Elgin  
Exchange Boundary Agreement**

**Case No. PU-18-90**

Effective with receipt of written notification satisfying the condition precedent stated in this motion, I move the Commission approve a change in the exchange boundary between West River Telecommunications Cooperative's St. Anthony local exchange and Qwest Corporation's Mandan local exchange and a change in the exchange boundary between West River Telecommunications Cooperative's Elgin local exchange and Qwest Corporation's Morristown local exchange; and issue the corresponding amended certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity in West River Telecommunications Cooperative / Qwest Corporation, Mandan / St. Anthony / Morristown / Elgin, Exchange Boundary Agreement, Case No. PU-18-90.

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PJF