



Chris Nelson, Chairperson  
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson  
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070  
www.puc.sd.gov

Capitol Office  
(605) 773-3201

Grain Warehouse  
(605) 773-5280

Consumer Hotline  
1-800-332-1782

Email  
puc@state.sd.us

September 22, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

USAC  
Vice President, High Cost  
700 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No. 14-58, Annual State Certification of Support for Eligible  
Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company that the telecommunications carriers included on the attached list are eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the program years cited.

The SDPUC certifies for the carriers listed that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within South Dakota was used in the preceding calendar year (2015) and will be used in the coming calendar year (2017) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.<sup>1</sup> A list of the certified carriers is attached.

Check  if list of certified carriers is attached.

Sincerely,

*Chris Nelson*

Chris Nelson  
Chairperson

*Kristie Fiegen*

Kristie Fiegen  
Vice Chairperson

*Gary Hanson*

Gary Hanson  
Commissioner

Contact phone# 605-773-3201

<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a) ("Certification. States that desire eligible telecommunications carriers to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within that State 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. High-cost support shall only be provided to the extent that the State has filed the requisite certification pursuant to this section.").

Dated: September 22, 2016

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) granted certification to the following rural incumbent local exchange carriers:

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. (391642) (also includes former Splitrock Properties 391657 and former Hills Telephone Company, Inc. 391405)  
Beresford Municipal Telephone Company (391649)  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (391647)  
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC (361123)  
City of Brookings Municipal Telephone (391650)  
City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company (391653)  
Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband (391652)  
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company (361389)  
Fort Randall Telephone Company and Mount Rushmore Telephone (391660)  
Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (includes Armour Study Area 391640; Golden West Study Area 391659; Kadoka Study Area 391667; Sioux Valley Study Area 391677; Union Study Area 391684; and Vivian Study Area 391686)  
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (391654) (also includes the former Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company 391679)  
James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company (391664)  
Jefferson Telephone Company (391666)  
Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc. (391668)  
Midstate Communications, Inc. (391670)  
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (371576)  
Red River Rural Telephone Association (381631)  
RC Technologies (RC Communications merged into Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and the legal name was changed to RC Technologies) (391674)  
RT Communications, Inc. (aka Range Telephone Cooperative) (512251)  
Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. (391676)  
TrioTel Communications, Inc. (includes Tri-County Study Area 391682 and McCook Study Area 391669)  
Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. (391685)  
Valley Telephone Company (361495)  
Venture Communications Cooperative (391680) (includes Western study area 391688)  
West River Cooperative Telephone Company (391689)  
West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) (391671)

The SDPUC granted certification to the following non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier:

Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (non-rural incumbent LEC) (395145)

The SDPUC granted certification to the following competitive eligible telecommunications carriers designated as ETCs in non-rural service areas:

Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband (competitive ETC) (399006)  
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. f/k/a SSTELECOM, Inc. (competitive ETC) (399013)  
Midcontinent Communications (competitive ETC) (399005)  
Midstate Communications, Inc. (f/k/a Midstate Telecom, Inc.) (competitive ETC) (399011)  
Northern Valley Communications, LLC (competitive ETC) (399017)

The SDPUC granted certification to the following competitive eligible telecommunications carriers designated as ETCs in both non-rural service areas and rural service areas:

Brookings Municipal Telephone d/b/a Swiftel Communications (competitive ETC) (399009)  
James Valley Wireless, LLC (competitive ETC) (399014)