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September 29, 2015

Received & Inspected

SEP 30 2015

FCC Mail Room

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A306
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Annual State Certification of Support for Rural and Non-Rural High-Cost Carriers
Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.313-314, CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No 14-58.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I represent the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Ohio Commission") in this proceeding and I am writing to you in that capacity.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of a Finding & Order issued by the Ohio Commission on September 25, 2014 (Attachment 1). By this Finding & Order, the Ohio Commission certifies that all universal service high cost and Connect America Funds flowing to carriers in this state will be used "only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended" in a manner consistent with section 254 (e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

As you can see from the attached Order, the Ohio carriers previously identified by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as eligible to receive federal USF support have filed sworn affidavits with the Ohio Commission demonstrating their intent to use funding in a manner consistent with Section § 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. The Order further demonstrates that these affidavits certify that all federal high-cost and Connect America Fund support was used in the preceding year, and will be used in the coming calendar year, for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended, regardless of the rule under which that support is provided. This certification was requested pursuant to section 54.314 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. §54.314).

Finally, Attachment 2 is a list of carriers certified by the Ohio PUC pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.314 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. § § 54.313, 54.314), which requires states to establish an annual certification process for carriers receiving federal high cost support. As requested by the Universal Service Administrative Company, listed beside each carrier is its unique assigned 6-digit NECA study area code (SAC), if known.

Accordingly, the Ohio Commission certifies that all of the above-referenced carriers have indicated in writing that all such funding during the previous year (2014) was used, and that all

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such funding in the upcoming year (2016) will be used, only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Please acknowledge timely receipt of this letter. Otherwise, if you should have any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please contact me at the number below or Jason Well with the PUCO at (614) 644-8032.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Werner L. Margard

Werner L. Margard III

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Enclosures

cc: Karen Majcher, USAC



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Karen Majcher
Universal Service Administrative Company
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

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

Dear Ms. Majcher:

I represent the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Ohio Commission") in this proceeding and I am writing to you in that capacity.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of a Finding & Order issued by the Ohio Commission on September 23, 2015 (Attachment 1). By this Finding & Order, the Ohio Commission certifies that all universal service high cost and Connect America Funds flowing to carriers in this state will be used "only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended" in a manner consistent with section 254 (e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

As you can see from the attached Order, the Ohio carriers previously identified by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as eligible to receive federal USF support have filed sworn affidavits with the Ohio Commission demonstrating their intent to use funding in a manner consistent with Section § 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. The Order further demonstrates that these affidavits certify that all federal high-cost and Connect America Fund support was used in the preceding year, and will be used in the coming calendar year, for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended, regardless of the rule under which that support is provided. This certification was requested pursuant to section 54.314 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. §54.314).

Finally, Attachment 2 is a list of carriers certified by the Ohio PUC pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.314 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. § § 54.313, 54.314), which requires states to establish an annual certification process for carriers receiving federal high cost support. As requested by the Universal Service Administrative Company, listed beside each carrier is its unique assigned 6-digit NECA study area code (SAC), if known.

Accordingly, the Ohio Commission certifies that all of the above-referenced carriers have indicated in writing that all such funding during the previous year (2014) was used, and that all such funding in the upcoming year (2016) will be used, only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Please acknowledge timely receipt of this letter. Otherwise, if you should have any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please contact me at the number below or Jason Well with the PUCO at (614) 644-8032.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Werner L. Margard III

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cc: Marlene H. Dortch, Federal Communications Commission

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Annual Filing)
Requirements for 2015 Pertaining to the) Case No. 15-1115-TP-COI
Provisioning of High-Cost Universal)
Service.)

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) On May 7, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Report and Order in CC Docket 96-45 (96-45) (*In the Matter of Federal-State Board on Universal Service*) adopting rules to promote universal service consistent with the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In its 96-45 decision, the FCC, among other things, set forth parameters for the states to determine those carriers eligible to receive federal universal service support. Furthermore, the states were to determine those carriers that should be classified as rural carriers or non-rural carriers for the purpose of federal universal service support consistent with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- (2) On May 23, 2001, the FCC released its Fourteenth Report and Order and Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, and determined that states should be responsible for deciding whether rural carriers are using their universal service high-cost support, consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e). Under 47 U.S.C. 254(e), carriers must use universal service support "only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." Accordingly, the FCC stated that it would require the states that wish to receive federal universal service high-cost funding support for rural carriers within their boundaries to file a certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) stating that all federal high-cost funds flowing to those carriers in that state will be used in a manner consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e). Absent such certification, carriers will not receive support. Moreover, in the event that a state determines that a carrier has not complied with 47 U.S.C. 254(e), the state shall have the authority to revoke a carrier's certification.

- (3) On November 18, 2011, the FCC released a Report and Order in WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., which among other things comprehensively reformed the federal universal service support program. In its Report and Order, the FCC required states to certify that all federal high-cost and Connect America Fund support was used in the preceding year and will be used in the coming calendar year for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended, regardless of the rule under which that support is provided. The certification required by 47 C.F.R. 54.314 is due by October 1 of each year for carriers to be eligible to receive support in each quarter of the succeeding year.
- (4) In order to comply with the FCC's certification requirements and consistent with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-09(C), on July 29, 2015, the Commission released an Entry in the instant docket calling for notarized affidavits from those carriers presently receiving federal universal service high-cost funding in Ohio, attesting that they will utilize such support consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e). Each Ohio high-cost eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) that anticipates funding for calendar year 2016 from any high-cost support mechanism was directed to complete and file with the Commission in this proceeding a notarized copy of the affidavit form (Attachment A of the July 29, 2015, Entry) on or before September 1, 2015. Without such certification, the FCC will not permit carriers to continue to receive federal universal service support. Properly filed affidavits were received from 42 carriers for the study area codes set forth in Attachment A.
- (5) Staff has reviewed the affidavits submitted by the carriers and has concluded that the affidavits satisfy the FCC's requirements for certification to receive high-cost funding consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e).
- (6) The Commission finds that certification should be granted for the carriers set forth in Attachment A to receive federal high-cost support, high-cost loop support (47 C.F.R., Part 36), local switching support (47 C.F.R. 54.301), and any high-cost support received as a result of a purchase of exchanges (47 C.F.R. 54.305) for rural carriers.

It is, therefore,

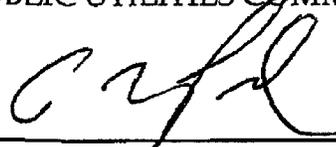
ORDERED, That all carriers identified in Attachment A are hereby certified to the FCC and the USAC as being eligible to receive federal high-cost support, high-cost loop support (47 C.F.R., Part 36), local switching support (47 C.F.R. 54.301), and any high-cost support received as a result of a purchase of exchanges (47 C.F.R. 54.305) for rural carriers, as such carriers have demonstrated their intent to utilize such funding in a manner consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e). It is, further,

ORDERED, That the Commission will send a letter to the USAC and the FCC by October 1, 2015, certifying the carriers as being eligible to receive federal high-cost support for 2016. It is, further,

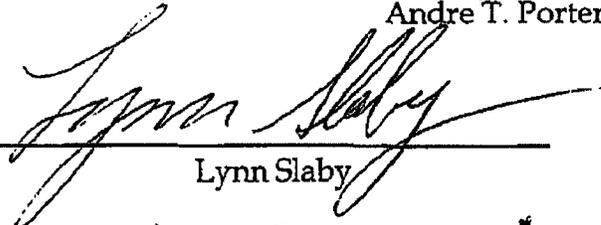
ORDERED, That nothing contained in this Finding and Order shall be deemed binding upon this Commission in any subsequent investigation or proceeding involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties of record.

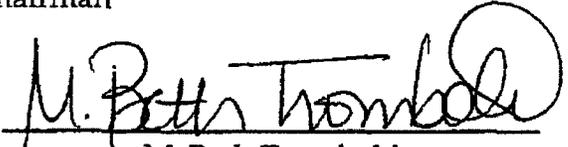
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



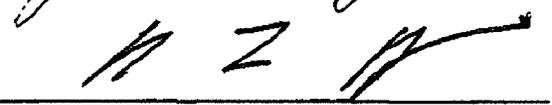
Andre T. Porter, Chairman



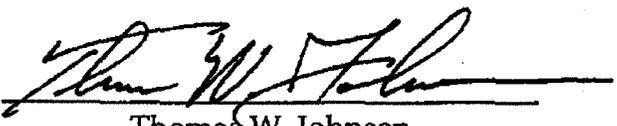
Lynn Slaby



M. Beth Trombold



Asim Z. Haque

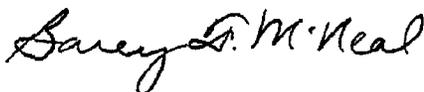


Thomas W. Johnson

JSA/dah

Entered in the Journal

SEP 23 2015



Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary

ATTACHMENT A
Case No. 15-1115-TP-COI

Company Name	Study Area Code
Arcadia Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300585
Arthur Mutual Telephone Company	300586
AT&T Ohio	305150
Ayersville Telephone Company	300588
Bascom Mutual Telephone Company	300589
Benton Ridge Telephone Company	300590
Buckland Telephone Company	300591
CenturyTel of Ohio dba CenturyLink	300630
Champaign Telephone Company	300594
Chillicothe Telephone Company	300597
Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC	305062
Columbus Grove Telephone Company d/b/a Fairpoint Communications	300604
Conneaut Telephone Company	300606
Continental Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300607
Doylestown Telephone Company	300609
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company	300612
Fort Jennings Telephone Company	300614
Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc.	300682
Frontier North, Inc.	300615
Germantown Independent Telephone Company d/b/a Fairpoint Communications	300618
Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc.	300619
Kalida Telephone Company, Inc.	300625
Little Miami Communication Corporation d/b/a TDS Telecom	300613
McClure Telephone	300598
Middle Point Home Telephone Company	300633
Minford Telephone Company	300634
New Knoxville Telephone Company	300639
Nova Telephone Company	300644
Oakwood Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300645
Orwell Telephone Company d/b/a Fairpoint Communications	300649
Pattersonville Telephone Company	300651
Ridgeville Telephone Company	300654
Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association, Inc.	300656
Sycamore Telephone Company	300658
Telephone Service Company	300659
The Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company	300650
United Telephone Company dba CenturyLink	300661
Vanlue Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300662
Vaughnsville Telephone Company	300663
Wabash Telephone Company	300664
Windstream Ohio Inc.	300665
Windstream Western Reserve, Inc.	300666

Presented below is a list of those Ohio carriers that have satisfied the PUCO's affidavit requirement, and thus obtained certification to receive federal high cost support, including high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support .

Carriers Having Properly Filed 254(e) Rural Affidavits

Study Area Name	SAC
Arcadia Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300585
Arthur Mutual Telephone Company	300586
AT&T Ohio	305150
Ayersville Telephone Company	300588
Bascom Mutual Telephone Company	300589
Benton Ridge Telephone Company	300590
Buckland Telephone Company	300591
CenturyTel Of Ohio d/b/a CenturyLink	300630
Champaign Telephone Company	300594
Chillicothe Telephone Company	300597
Columbus Grove Telephone Company d/b/a Fairpoint Communications	300604
Conneaut Telephone Company	300606
Continental Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300607
Doylestown Telephone Company	300609
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company	300612
Fort Jennings Telephone Company	300614
Frontier Communications of Michigan	300682
Frontier North Inc.	300615
Germantown Independent Telephone Company d/b/a Fairpoint Communications	300618
Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc.	300619

Kalida Telephone Company, Inc.	300625
Little Miami Communications Corporation d/b/a TDS Telecom	300613
Mcclure Telephone	300598
Middle Point Home Telephone Company	300633
Minford Telephone Company	300634
New Knoxville Telephone Company	300639
Nova Telephone Company	300644
Oakwood Telephone Company d/b/a Tds Telecom	300645
Orwell Telephone Company d/b/a Fairpoint Communications	300649
Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company	300650
Pattersonville Telephone Company	300651
Ridgeville Telephone Company	300654
Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association, Inc.	300656
Sycamore Telephone Company	300658
Telephone Service Company	300659
United Telephone Company of Ohio d/b/a Centurylink	300661
Vanlue Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300662
Vaughnsville Telephone Company	300663
Wabash Mutual Telephone Company	300664
Windstream Ohio, Inc.	300665
Windstream Western Reserve, Inc.	300666