

13 East Fourth Avenue  
P.O. Box 72  
Ada, MN 56510-0072  
218-784-5151  
1-800-242-6111  
218-784-2706 (fax)

**LORETEL**

96-45  
20 West Mill Street  
P.O. Box 409  
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-0409  
218-863-6451  
1-800-242-6111  
218-863-2552 (fax)

December 22, 1998

Office of the Secretary  
CC Docket No. 96-45  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20054

Director Universal Service Programs  
Universal Service Administrative  
Company  
100 S Jefferson Road  
Whippany, NJ 07981

Federal Communications Commission  
Universal Service Branch  
CC Docket 96-45  
8th Floor  
2100 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20054

North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Ave - Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58585-0480

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## RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY CERTIFICATION

Loretel Systems, Inc. files this certification statement pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Report and Order, CC Docket 96-45, released May 8, 1997. In Section VII, Paragraph 310 of the Order, the FCC stated that a carrier "must notify the Commission and its state commission that, for purposes of universal service support determinations, it meets the Section 3(37) definition of a rural carrier". Section 3(37) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act (the "Act") defines a "rural telephone company".

Loretel Systems, Inc. hereby certifies that:

1. Loretel Systems, Inc. is a "rural telephone company" as defined in the Act, 47 U.S.C. 153 (37). Loretel Systems, Inc. satisfies alternative definition (37)(B), fewer than 50,000 access lines.
2. Loretel Systems, Inc. provides telephone exchange service including exchange access in the following exchange areas in North Dakota:

701-860 West Perley/Hendrum

Service Area:  
Ada, Audubon, Cormorant, Frazee, Glyndon, Hendrum, Lake Park, Pelican Rapids, & Perley

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3. The "service area" or "study area" of Loretel Systems, Inc. is comprised of all of its exchange areas identified in paragraph 2 for purposes of section 214 of the Act and Loretel Systems, Inc.'s designation as eligible telecommunications carrier for the service area. The total number of access lines served is 12,399, as published in the most reliable and recent compilation, the North Dakota Telephone Association 1998-99 Directory of North Dakota Telephone Companies.
4. Loretel Systems, Inc. has been designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier under the Act 47 U.S.C. 214(e) by the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

Dated this 22nd day of December, 1998.

LORETEL SYSTEMS, INC.



Steven W. Katka  
V.P./General Manager

SWK/jr