

Project
Telephone Company
TOTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

December 23, 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission
Universal Service Branch, CC Docket No. 96-45
8th Floor
2100 M. St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Director Universal Service Programs
Universal Service Administrative Company
100 So. Jefferson Rd.
Whippany, NJ 07981

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RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY CERTIFICATION

Project Telephone Company (Company) files this certification statement pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Report and Order, CC Docket 96-45, release 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 (Act) defines a "rural telephone company" as

a local exchange carrier operation entity to the extent that such entity-

- A) provides common carrier service to any local exchange carrier study

area that does not include either-

(i) any incorporated place of 10,000 inhabitants or more, or any part thereof, based on the most recently available population statistics of the Bureau of the Census;

or

(ii) any territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in an urbanized area as defined by the Bureau of the Census as of August 10, 1993;

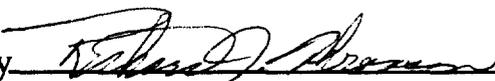
- B) provides telephone exchange service, including exchange access, to fewer than 50,000 access lines;
- C) provides telephone exchange service to any local exchange carrier study area with fewer than 100,000 access lines; or
- D) as less than 15 percent of its access lines in communities of more than 50,000 on the date of the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

I, Richard J. Thronson, hereby certify that Project Telephone Company, Study Area Number 2250, with headquarters at P.O. Box 600, Scobey, MT 59263, providing local exchange service to approximately 5,122 access lines in the state of Montana, 205 access lines in the state of Wyoming and is a rural telephone company, as that term is defined in Section 3(37) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,

since it provides telephone exchange service, including exchange access, to fewer than 50,000 access lines.

The Company is therefore a rural carrier as defined by Section 3(37) of the Act, for purposes of the universal service support determination.

Project Telephone Company has been designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier by the Montana Public Service Commission and Wyoming Public Service Commission and a similar certification has been submitted to these agencies.

By 
Richard J. Thronson
General Manager