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Montana Public Service Commission

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July 25, 2001

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45; Montana's Certification of Additional Non-Rural Carrier Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313; Universal Service Support for High-Cost Areas

Dear Ms. Salas:

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules provide that all states desiring non-rural local exchange carriers within their jurisdiction receive federal universal service support for high-cost areas must file, annually, a certification with the FCC and the administrator of the high-cost universal service support mechanism. *47 C.F.R. § 54.313*. The certification must be that the support provided to such carriers within the state will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. *Id.*

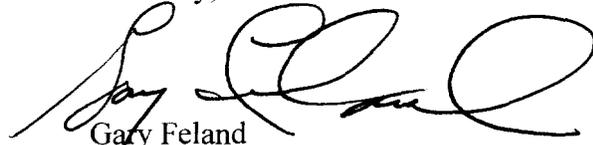
Montana desires that Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Rivers), receive federal universal service support as a competitive ETC for the high-cost areas known as the Terry, Montana, exchange and the Fairview, Montana, exchange. Therefore, the Montana Public Service Commission (Montana PSC), the appropriate Montana regulatory authority to do so, hereby certifies for 2001 support that Mid-Rivers, a competitive local exchange carrier (incumbent local exchange carrier being Qwest Communications, Inc.) within Montana's jurisdiction and eligible to receive support through the federal high-cost universal service support mechanism will use all federal high-cost support provided to it through the federal non-rural high-cost funding mechanism for and only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The Montana PSC recently granted ETC (competitive ETC) status to Mid-Rivers in the Terry exchange (*PSC Docket No. D2001.5.50, Order No. 6358, July 24, 2001*) and the Fairview exchange (*PSC Docket No. D2001.5.52, Order No. 6359, July 24, 2001*).

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A copy of this certification has been provided to the Universal Service Administrative Company, administrator of the federal high-cost universal service support mechanism. If you have any questions or comments regarding this certification please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Feland", written in a cursive style.

Gary Feland
Chairman, Montana PSC

cc: USAC
Attention: Irene Flannery
2120 L. St. N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037