



THE STATE

OF WYOMING

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DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

Public Service Commission

HANSEN BUILDING, SUITE 300

2515 WARREN AVENUE

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

(307) 777-7427

FAX (307) 777-5700

TTY (307) 777-5723

<http://psc.state.wy.us>

COMMISSIONERS

STEVE FURTNEY, Chairman

KATHLEEN A. "CINDY" LEWIS

MARY BYRNES

September 28, 2006

STEPHEN G. OXLEY
Secretary and Chief Counsel

HARRY IVEY

Deputy Director

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

Karen Majcher
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Certification of Federal High Cost Support for Wyoming's Rural Local Exchange Carriers and Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) Serving Lines in the Areas of Rural Local Exchange Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314
(CC Docket No. 96-45)

Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (WPSC) hereby submits, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, its annual certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 requires the appropriate state regulatory authority to annually certify those rural incumbent local exchange carriers and eligible telecommunications carriers serving lines in the areas of rural incumbent local exchange carriers, within their jurisdiction, for purposes of receiving federal universal service fund support.

For the 2006 annual certification process, the WPSC has expanded the level and amount of documentation and support ETCs in Wyoming jurisdictional to the WPSC are required to submit for this 2006 annual certification process. The additional annual certification requirements and guidelines were modeled after both the FCC's *ETC Report and Order* adopted February 25, 2005, in CC Docket 96-45, FCC 05-46 and the WPSC's own annual certification processes and rulemaking proceedings conducted during 2004, 2005 and 2006 for Wyoming's ETCs. The new annual reporting requirements for previously designated ETCs in Wyoming (Section 514 of the Rules and Regulations of the WPSC) became effective August 17, 2006.

09/1

The letter request (PSC Letter Number 06-148) and WPSC Rule Section 514 are attached to this correspondence. Rule Section 514 provides each carrier the opportunity to verify they continue to offer the nine supported services/functionalities required for designation as an ETC under the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Code of Federal Regulations, throughout their designated service areas within Wyoming. The WPSC has also obtained from its jurisdictional rural incumbent local exchange carriers and ETCs serving lines in the areas of rural incumbent local exchange carriers, their respective signed affidavits setting forth the manner in which federal universal service support funds have been used, and will be used during the applicable 12-month period for which support funds are being requested. The respective affidavits, additional documentation and detailed support from each ETC jurisdictional to the WPSC will be made available to the FCC and /or the USAC upon request.

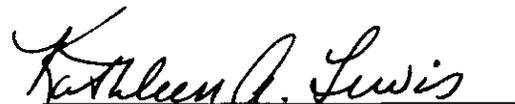
As the appropriate state regulatory authority with jurisdiction to regulate, *inter alia*, the intrastate activities of telecommunications companies serving in Wyoming, the WPSC hereby identifies the following rural incumbent local exchange carriers and ETCs serving lines in the service areas of rural incumbent local exchange carriers, as being certified to receive federal universal service support funds for the upcoming program year:

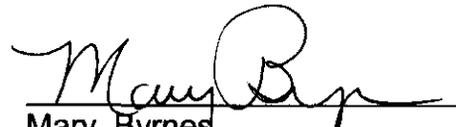
<u>Carrier</u>	<u>Study Area Code</u>
All West Communications	512290
CenturyTel of Wyoming	512299
Chugwater Telephone Company	512289
Dubois Telephone Exchange	512291
Range Telephone Cooperative (includes RT Communications)	512251
Silver Star Communications	512295
Tri County Telephone Association (includes TCT WEST)	512296
Union Telephone Company	512297
United Telephone Company of the West/Sprint	511595
Alltel Communications (formerly Western Wireless)	519002
Alltel Communications (formerly Western Wireless)	519007
Union Telephone Company d/b/a Union Cellular	519905

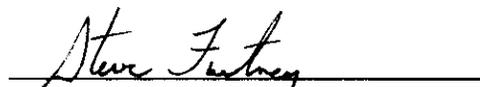
Western Wireless (WWC Holding Company), now known as Alltel Communications, was previously designated by the FCC as an ETC in certain rural service areas within the state of Wyoming in the FCC's *Memorandum Opinion and Order* in CC Docket 96-45, DA 00-2896, adopted December 22, 2000. ETC status was granted to Western Wireless by the FCC in that proceeding (SAC 519002) because the WPSC did not, at that time, have the requisite authority to grant ETC status to wireless providers. The WPSC now has the statutory authority to designate wireless providers as ETCs and did so recently during 2005 in the case of the petition filed by Western Wireless (WWC Holding Company), now known as Alltel Communications, for ETC designation by the WPSC (SAC 519007) in additional rural service areas of Project Telephone – the Clark, Wyoming exchange (wire center), TCT WEST – the Basin, Frannie, Greybull, Lovell and Meeteetse, Wyoming exchanges (wire centers) and Tri County Telephone Association – the Burlington, Hyattville, Ten Sleep and Hamilton Dome, Wyoming exchanges (wire centers).

Based upon the representations contained in the affidavits submitted by these carriers, and the Commission's review and examination of the additional documentation and support required by WPSC Rule Section 514 to be filed by the carriers this year, the Commission certifies these identified carriers will use the federal universal service support funds only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with the requirements and mandates of Part 54 of the Code of Federal Regulations and consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 214(e). This includes High Cost Loop support (HCL), Local Switching Support (LSS) and high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges.

Sincerely,


Kathleen A. Lewis
Deputy Chair


Mary Byrnes
Commissioner


Steve Furtney
Chairman



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COMMISSIONERS

STEVE FURTNEY, Chairman
KATHLEEN A. "CINDY" LEWIS
MARY BYRNES

August 9, 2006

STEPHEN G. OXLEY
Secretary and Chief Counsel
HARRY IVEY
Deputy Director

To: Wyoming Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

**Re: WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ANNUAL CERTIFICATION
OF ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS**

PSC LETTER NUMBER 06-148

To Whom It May Concern:

Section 254(e) of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 provides that eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs), as designated under § 214(e), shall be eligible to receive specific federal universal service support. 47 U.S.C. § 254 (e). Section 214(e)(2) gives state commissions the responsibility for performing ETC designations. Section 254(e) further provides the carrier, "... that receives such support shall use that support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which support is intended."

47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314 require the appropriate State regulatory authority to file an annual certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) identifying those non-rural and rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or competitive eligible telecommunications carriers serving lines in the service area of a non-rural or rural incumbent local exchange carrier within their jurisdiction which desire federal high-cost universal support.

As the appropriate regulatory authority for the state of Wyoming, the Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) is required, under federal rules, to file the above-referenced annual certifications on or before October 1 of each year to ensure high cost support continues to be provided to the jurisdictional incumbent and/or competitive eligible local exchange carriers. The Commission, in its annual certification, must identify those carriers which are eligible to receive federal support during the applicable 12-month period and must certify each carrier will use the high cost support

only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which support is intended.

To assist in filing the appropriate annual certifications with the FCC and the USAC, the Commission requests each Wyoming jurisdictional carrier eligible for federal high cost support respond in writing to the annual reporting requirements contained in the recently adopted Commission Rule Section 514. Commission Rule Section 514 was adopted by the Commission on June 14, 2006, and is pending final approval from the Governor and filing with the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office. For your convenience, Commission Rule Section 514 is attached to this letter.

To ensure the Commission can submit a timely annual certification filing on behalf of all jurisdictional carriers eligible for federal universal service support to the FCC and USAC prior to October 1, 2006, your company is directed to file its written responses with the Commission on or before September 11, 2006. Failure by your company to submit its complete and accurate filing may preclude this Commission from submitting the required certification, on behalf of your company, with the appropriate federal agencies. Non-certification by the Commission will result in the loss of federal support funds for your company, as provided for in federal law.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Mike Korber at (307) 777-7428 or David Lucero at (307) 777-7478.

FOR THE COMMISSION


DAVID J. LUCERO
Assistant Secretary

Section 514.

Annual reporting requirements for all previously designated Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) pursuant to the annual certification guidelines and standards set forth in Part 54 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended.

a. In order for an ETC previously designated by the Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission), or previously designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to be certified to receive support for the following calendar year, or to retain its ETC designation, each ETC shall submit to the Commission the annual reporting information listed below on or before a date to be determined annually by the Commission. ETCs failing to meet these annual report filing requirements may not be certified by the Commission to the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as eligible to receive federal support.

b. Each designated ETC shall file:

(i) The number of requests for service from potential customers within the ETC's service areas that were unfulfilled during the past year and written submission detailing how it attempted to provide service to those potential customers, as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i).

(ii) The number of complaints per 1,000 access lines or handsets.

(iii) Written submission detailing how the carrier is complying with applicable Wyoming service quality standards, consumer protection rules and/or the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association (CTIA) Consumer Code (if applicable).

(iv) Written submission detailing how the carrier is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2).

(v) Acknowledgment the Commission may require the carrier to provide customers with equal access to long distance carriers in the event no other ETC is providing equal access within the service area.

(vi) The total amount of all federal high cost support received in the previous calendar year.

(vii) For the previous calendar year, a detailed schedule/exhibit showing the actual dollar amounts expended by the carrier in the provision, maintenance, upgrading, plant additions and associated infrastructure costs within the service areas in Wyoming where the carrier has been designated an ETC.

(viii) Documentation the carrier offers the nine supported services/functionalities, listed (A) through (I) below, throughout the service areas in Wyoming where the carrier has been designated an ETC.

- (A) Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- (B) Local usage;
- (C) Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent;
- (D) Single party service;
- (E) Access to emergency services;
- (F) Access to operator services;
- (G) Access to interexchange services;
- (H) Access to directory assistance; and
- (I) Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

(ix) Documentation the carrier advertises the prices and availability of the Lifeline and Linkup programs in a manner designed to reach those likely to qualify for these programs, throughout the service areas for which the carrier has been designated an ETC.

(x) A copy of the service agreement the carrier offers to its universal service customers, including all terms and conditions.

(xi) Documentation and support the carrier is committed to, and has the capability to, provide its universal service product/offering throughout the service areas to all customers who make a reasonable request for service in Wyoming where the carrier has been designated an ETC.

(xii) A detailed map of the service areas for which the carrier has been designated an ETC showing the location and the effective coverage area of each cellular tower. The commission may require such maps be submitted in a designated electronic format.

(xiii) The total amount of all federal high cost support received year-to-date for the current calendar year.

(xiv) For the current calendar year-to-date, a detailed schedule/exhibit showing the actual dollar amounts expended by the carrier in the provision, maintenance, upgrading, plant additions and associated infrastructure costs for any universal service products/offerings within the service areas in Wyoming where the carrier has been designated an ETC. This should include the carrier's plans and budgets for any build-out projects, upgrades and installations applicable to any universal service products/offerings not yet completed during the current calendar year.

(xv) Copies of the previous and current year's reports required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.307(b) and (c) to be filed by the carrier with the USAC applicable to the service areas in Wyoming where the carrier is designated an ETC.

(xvi) A three-year service quality improvement plan report, including maps detailing its progress towards meeting its plan targets, an explanation of how much federal universal service support was received and how it was used to

improve signal quality, coverage, or capacity, and an explanation regarding any network improvement targets that have not been fulfilled. The information shall be submitted at the exchange level, study area level or some other similar service area level description.

(xvii) Detailed information on any outage, as that term is defined in 47 CFR 4.5, of at least 30 minutes in duration for each service area in which an ETC is designated for any facilities it owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect (i) at least ten percent of the end users served in a designated service area; or (ii) a 911 special facility, as defined in 47 CFR 4.5(e).

Specifically, the ETC's annual report must include information detailing:

- (A) The date and time of onset of the outage;
- (B) A brief description of the outage and its resolution;
- (C) The particular services affected;
- (D) The geographic areas affected by the outage;
- (E) Steps taken to prevent a similar situation in the future; and
- (F) The number of customers affected.