



Gary Hanson, Chair
Steve Kolbeck, Vice Chair
Dustin Johnson, Commissioner

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**SOUTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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September 23, 2008

✓
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Karen Majcher
Vice President
High Cost and Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street N.W., Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Certification of Support for Rural and Non-Rural High-Cost
Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.313-314,
CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) hereby certifies that all federal high cost support provided to rural and non-rural carriers in this state will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. This includes High Cost Loop (HCL) support, Local Switching Support (LSS), High Cost Model (HCM) support, and high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges.

Attached are lists of rural and non-rural carriers certified by the SDPUC pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.314 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.314), which require states to establish an annual certification process for rural and non-rural carriers receiving federal high cost support. As requested by the Universal Service Administrative Company, listed beside each carrier is its assigned study area code (SAC), if known.

Sincerely,

Gary Hanson
Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
Commissioner

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445 12th Street S.W., Room TW-A306
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Karen Majcher
Vice President
High Cost and Low Income Division
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2000 L Street N.W., Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Annual State Certification of Rate Comparability Review for Non-Rural
Carriers Serving in Rural Areas

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) hereby states that it has reviewed the comparability of residential rates in rural areas of South Dakota served by Qwest, a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier, to rates nationwide. Pursuant to section 54.316, the SDPUC certifies that the rates are reasonably comparable based on the nationwide urban rate benchmark.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,

Gary Hanson
Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
Commissioner

The Commission has granted certification to the following rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers:

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. (391642)
Armour Independent Telephone Company (391640)
Beresford Municipal Telephone Company (391649)
Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company (391640) (co. no. 0158)
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (391647)
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota, LLC (361123)
City of Brookings Municipal Telephone Department (391650)
City of Faith Municipal Telephone Company (391653)
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company (361389)
Fort Randall Telephone Company (391660)
Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (391659)
Hills Telephone Company, Inc. (391405)
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (391654)
James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company (391664)
Jefferson Telephone Company (391666)
Kadoka Telephone Company (391667)
Kennebec Telephone Company (391668)
Knology Community Telephone, Inc. f/k/a PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc. (391652)
(SPIN # 143002229)
McCook Cooperative Telephone Company (391669)
Midstate Communications, Inc. (391670)
Red River Rural Telephone Association (381631)
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. (391674)
RT Communications, Inc. (512251)
Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. (391676)
Sioux Valley Telephone Company (391677)
Splitrock Properties, Inc. (391657)
Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company (391679)
Tri-County Telcom, Inc. (391682)
Union Telephone Company (391684)
Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. (391685)
Valley Telephone Company (361495)
Venture Communications Cooperative (391680)
Vivian Telephone Company (391686)
Western Telephone Company (391688)
West River Cooperative Telephone Company (391689)
West River Telecommunications Cooperative (Mobridge) (391671)

The Commission has granted certification to the following non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers:

Qwest Corporation (non-rural incumbent LEC) (395145)

Brookings Municipal Telephone d/b/a Swiftel Communications (competitive ETC) (399009)

James Valley Wireless, LLC (competitive ETC) (399014)

Long Lines Wireless, LLC (competitive ETC)

Midcontinent Communications (competitive ETC) (399005)

Midstate Telecom, Inc. (competitive ETC) (399011)

Knology of the Black Hills, LLC (competitive ETC) (399006)

RCC Minnesota, Inc. (competitive ETC) (399003)

RC Communications, Inc. d/b/a RC Services (competitive ETC) (399010)

SSTELECOM, Inc. (competitive ETC) (399013)

Wireless Alliance, L.L.C. (competitive ETC) (399004)

WWC License LLC d/b/a Alltel Communications, LLC (competitive ETC) (399002)