

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
) **CC Docket No. 96-45**
Federal-State Joint Board on)
Universal Service)

**ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION
AND 2009 ANNUAL REPORT OF
VIRGINIA CELLULAR, LLC
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

OCTOBER 1, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 54.209, Virginia Cellular, LLC¹ (“Alltel” or “Company”) – with Study Area Code 199001 - submits this Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) certification and 2009 Annual Report with regard to its operations in the Commonwealth of Virginia and respectfully requests the Commission to certify its eligibility to receive high-cost support from the federal universal service fund during calendar year 2010. The data in this report and the attached exhibits represent commercial and financial trade secrets regarding Alltel’s network build-out plans and other matters that are highly sensitive due to the competitive nature of the commercial wireless industry. Accordingly, Alltel respectfully requests that the Commission treat this data as confidential and withhold it from public inspection, pursuant to Sections 0.457(d)(1) and 0.459 of the rules.

II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(6), the Commission has designated the Company as an ETC in certain non-rural wire centers of Verizon Virginia, Inc. and Verizon South – Virginia (Contel) and the rural service areas (either entirely or partially) served by Highland Telephone Cooperative, MGW Telephone Company, New Hope Telephone Company, North River Telephone Company and Shenandoah Telephone Company.² A complete listing of the areas in which Alltel has been designated as an ETC is contained in **Exhibit A**, which is attached hereto.

¹ Formerly named Alltel Communications, Inc. As of January 9, 2009 Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless acquired Alltel Corporation and its subsidiaries including Virginia Cellular, LLC. *In the Matter of Applications of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and Atlantis Holdings LLC for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses, Authorizations and Spectrum Manager and De Facto Transfer Leasing Arrangements*, WT Docket No. 08-95, File Nos. 003463892, *et al.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Declaratory Ruling, FCC 08-258 (rel. Nov. 10, 2008) (*Merger Order*).

² *Federal-Commonwealth Joint Board on Universal Service, Virginia Cellular, LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Released January 22, 2004 in CC Docket No. 96-45.*

III. ALLTEL'S ANNUAL REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 54.209(a)

47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a) requires a common carrier designated by the Commission as an ETC pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) of the Act to annually report certain information no later than October 1 of each calendar year. Alltel respectfully submits the following information for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 in satisfaction of the Commission's annual reporting requirement.

A. Progress Report on Service Improvement Plan

47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(1) requires an ETC to file a progress report on its Service Improvement Plan. 47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(1) specifically requires:

A progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan, including maps detailing its progress towards meeting its plan targets, an explanation of how much 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 wire center level.

Alltel submitted its updated Five-Year Service Improvement Plan, which covers the time period from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2012, as **Confidential Exhibit C** to its Certification and Annual Report filed October 1, 2008. Attached hereto as **Confidential Exhibit B-1** is Alltel's progress report on the Five-Year Service Improvement Plan for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Alltel's progress report includes a map detailing the Company's progress toward meeting its plan targets in 2008, an explanation of how much universal service support was received in 2008 and how it was used to improve signal quality, coverage or capacity on a wire center-by-wire center basis in 2008 and an explanation regarding network improvement targets that were not met. Alltel will continue to utilize federal high-cost universal service support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of the facilities and

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services for which the support is intended consistent with § 254(e) of the telecommunications Act of 1996 and § 54.7 of the Commission's Rules.

Additionally, Alltel has updated the remaining four years of the five-year plan submitted on October 1, 2008, which describes the proposed improvements and upgrades to its network serving its Virginia Designated Area. The updated information to the Five-Year Service Improvement Plan filed October 1, 2008 is attached as **Confidential Exhibits B-2** ("Service Improvement Plan"). The Service Improvement Plan includes all information required by FCC Rule 54.209(a)(1) for calendar years 2009 through 2012.

The projected expenditures in the Service Improvement Plan are based on the assumption that Alltel will receive the amount of federal high-cost universal service support identified on **Confidential Exhibit B-3** during the calendar year 2009/2010³ and what the Company received in 2008, adjusted for the requirements described in footnote 3. Beyond 2009, it is difficult, if not impossible, for Alltel to predict with any amount of certainty, how much the Company may receive in federal universal service support. There are various factors that affect the total amount of support Alltel can be expected to receive, including but not limited to, the per line support that is available, federal policy changes, USAC reconciliations, and other factors beyond Alltel's control. If actual receipts differ from those assumed in this report, Alltel reserves the right to modify its projected capital and operating expenditures in the Company's ETC service area.

³ In light of the FCC's May 1, 2008 Order that capped the level of support available to competitive ETCs in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the conditions in the *Merger Order*, Alltel is unable to accurately predict the amount of universal service support the Company will receive during calendar years 2009 or 2010. The *Merger Order* requires a phase down of high-cost support for any properties which Verizon Wireless retains over a five-year period following the closing of the transaction. *Merger Order*, ¶¶ 192-197. Verizon Wireless and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) are in the process of implementing this requirement. The Universal Service Administrative Company is also in the process of separately identifying the disbursement amounts to those market that are to be divested and are not subject to the 20% annual phase down. Given the lack of adequate data, Alltel will use twelve times the January 2009 payment less 20% to develop the anticipated receipts from the universal service fund for calendar year 2009 in this filing.

B. Network Outages In Virginia Designated Area

47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(2) requires an ETC to annually report network outages within its ETC designated area. 47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(2) specifically requires:

Detailed information on any outage lasting at least 30 minutes that potentially affects at least ten percent of the end users served in a designated service area; or a 911 special facility (as defined in subsection (e) of Section 4.5 of the Outage Reporting Order). The annual report of the ETC must include: (i) the date and time of onset of the outage; (ii) a brief description of the outage and its resolution; (iii) the particular services affected; (iv) the geographic areas affected by the outage; (v) steps taken to prevent a similar situation in the future; and (vi) the number of customers affected.

The required information, for the time period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 is contained within **Confidential Exhibit C**. Alltel has compiled and reported information for all outages that meet the above criteria within its Virginia Designated Area. Such information includes any outage of at least 30 minutes in duration that potentially affects at least ten percent (10%) of its customers served in a service area or a 911 facility. The services affected by an outage are dependent upon the capabilities of the particular facility affected by the outage. Generally, a cell site or switch outage will affect all services provided by the cell site or switch, including voice, data and/or 911 services. The information relating to the number of customers affected by an outage is estimated based on the number of customers with a billing address in each affected wire center as of December 31, 2008.

The steps taken by Alltel to prevent a similar outage in the future will vary based on a determination of the cause of the outage. Each network outage is examined on a case-by-case basis. When the outage is, for example, due to equipment failure, the equipment is replaced or repaired and tested for proper performance, including preventative maintenance. Additionally, the manufacturer or vendor is notified if the failure appears to be in the design or manufacture of the equipment. If the vendor or manufacturer fails or refuses to remedy the deficiency then a

replacement source is determined. When the outage, for example, is due to weather or other natural occurrence, the probability of a repeat occurrence is considered and evaluated and is considered in planning the repair, replacement or rebuild of the equipment or location. Outages due to human error or a faulty process or practice will result in appropriate reevaluation of the source of error and the need to either correct, discipline or replace the person or practice, as applicable. An outage on a leased facility or circuit is escalated and corrected by the facility provider. The outages reported on **Confidential Exhibit C** were not determined to require extraordinary measures other than application of the above.

C. Unfulfilled Requests For Service

47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(3) requires an ETC to annually report the number of requests for service from potential customers within the ETC's designated area that were unfulfilled during the past year. The filing must also detail how the ETC attempted to provide service to those potential customers as set forth in FCC Rule 54.202(a)(1)(i). The required information concerning Alltel's unfulfilled requests for service within its Designated Area from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 is contained in **Exhibit D**.

D. Complaints Per 1,000 Handsets Or Lines

47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(4) requires an ETC to annually report the number of complaints per 1,000 handsets or lines. In the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, Alltel received .5176 complaints⁴ per 1,000 handsets between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.

⁴ Complaints consist of written complaints from Alltel customers to the Commission, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, the Virginia Attorney General, the Better Business Bureau or similar third party agency and oral, written, and e-mail complaints to Alltel's Executive Complaint Department.

E. Certification Regarding Applicable Service Quality Standards And Consumer Protection Rules

47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(5) requires an ETC to certify that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Alltel's compliance with the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Service ("CTIA Code") satisfies this requirement. During 2008, Alltel was a compliant signatory to the CTIA Code. Alltel certifies that it has complied and will continue to comply with the principles set forth in the CTIA Code.

F. Certification Regarding Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(6) requires an ETC to certify that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in FCC Rule 54.202(a)(2). Alltel provides the following information to demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations in satisfaction of this requirement. Alltel's network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations. Alltel has a reasonable amount of back-up power to provide functionality without an external power source, and, in many areas, has the ability to reroute traffic around damaged facilities and manage traffic spikes resulting from an emergency situation. Alltel has deployed fixed and portable back-up power generators at various locations throughout its network that can be deployed in emergency situations. These back-up power generators are capable of keeping a cell site up and running until power is restored to the cell site, a portable generator is moved to the site, system changes are made to reroute traffic or a cell on wheels ("COW") is deployed. Alltel tests its back-up power generators regularly to ensure functionality. Alltel is also capable of rerouting traffic around damaged or out-of-service facilities by changing call routing translations as needed. Alltel is generally able to deploy COWs as temporary cell sites when existing facilities are damaged or out-of-service for longer periods of time. Further, by changing call routing translations or deploying COWs, Alltel is generally able to manage traffic spikes

resulting from an emergency situation throughout its network. As a long-term solution for managing increased traffic levels and traffic spikes, Alltel may increase capacity at its cell sites, switches and transport facilities. Alltel certifies it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in FCC Rule 54.202(a)(2).

G. Certification Regarding Provision Of A Comparable Local Usage Plan

47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(7) requires an ETC to certify that it is offering a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent LEC in the relevant service areas. Alltel is committed to offering local usage plans comparable to those offered by the incumbent LEC throughout the Designated Area. Alltel's generally available rate plans include varying amounts of local usage, including plans with unlimited calling, and are within the scope of "comparability" as defined by the FCC in its March 17, 2005 Report and Order. Alltel also offers multiple service plans enabling customers to select a plan that best meets their needs based on the local calling areas and the amount of local calling included in each plan. The Alltel rate plans can be found www.verizonwireless.com (for Study Area Code 199001). Therefore, Alltel certifies that it is offering and will continue to offer at least one comparable local usage plan as required by FCC Rule 54.209(a)(7).

H. Certification Regarding Equal Access

In compliance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.209(a)(8), Alltel certifies that the Commission, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(8), may require the Company to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within its Designated Area.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing information, Alltel respectfully requests the Commission to certify the Company's – Study Area Code 199001 -eligibility to receive federal universal service support for calendar year 2010 in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314.

September 29, 2009



Mark R. Smith
Assistant Secretary
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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

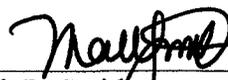
In the Matter of)
Federal-State Joint Board on) CC Docket No. 96-45
Universal Service)

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Mark R. Smith, does hereby certify as follows:

1. I serve as Assistant Secretary for Virginia Cellular, LLC (“Alltel”) and each of its affiliates and subsidiaries.
2. This certification is submitted in support of Alltel’s ETC Certification and 2009 Annual Report with respect to those markets that will be retained by Verizon Wireless
3. Alltel has been designated a competitive ETC in areas identified in Exhibit A of its ETC Certification and 2009 Annual Report.
4. Alltel has been assigned Study Area Code 199001 by the Universal Service Administrative Company in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the areas retained by Verizon Wireless.
5. I have reviewed the ETC Certification and 2009 Annual Report of Virginia Cellular, LLC for the Commonwealth of Virginia.
6. Consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and FCC Rules 54.313 and 54.314, Alltel certifies that all federal high-cost universal service support received will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.
7. The facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of my present knowledge, information and belief.

Virginia Cellular, LLC



Mark R. Smith
Assistant Secretary

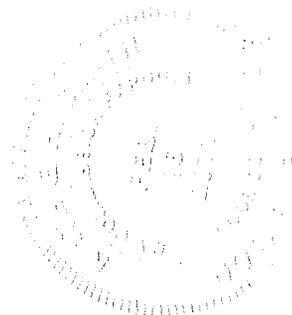
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 24 day of September, 2009.



Notary Public

(NOTARY SEAL)

KATHIE H. SMITH
Notary Public, Cobb County, Georgia
My Commission Expires February 6, 2011



SUMMARY OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A – Designated Service Area for Study Area Codes 199001.

Confidential Exhibit B-1 – Progress Report on 2008 Service Improvement Plan previously filed with the Commission.

Confidential Exhibit B-2 – Updated Five-Year Service Improvement Plan for Study Area Code 199001.

Confidential Exhibit B-3 - Projected receipts from the Federal Universal Service Fund during calendar years 2009 and 2010

Confidential Exhibit C – Outage Report for period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Exhibit D – Unfulfilled Requests for Service for period January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008

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EXHIBIT A

**DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA
FOR STUDY AREA CODE 199001**

Virginia Cellular LLC d/b/a Alltel Communications, LLC
Study Area Code (199001)
ETC Designated Service Area

SAC	CETC	CLLI CODE	WIRE CENTER NAME
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	AMHRVAXA	AMHERST
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	BGTNVAXA	BERGTON
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	BLUGVAXA	BLUEGRASS
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	BRWRVAXA	BRIDGEWATER
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	BRWVAXA	BROADWAY
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	CRVIVACV	CRAIGSVILLE
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	DRFDVAXA	DEERFIELD
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	DYTNVAXA	DAYTON
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	EDOMVAXA	HARRISONBOURG
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	EKTNVAXA	ELKTON
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	GLDSVAXA	GLADSTONE
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	GNWDVAGW	GREENWOOD
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	GRTSVAXA	GROTTOES
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	HITNVAXA	HARRISONBURG
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	HRBGVAXA	HARRISONBURG
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	KZTWVAXA	KEEZLETOWN
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	LVTNVALN	LOVINGSTON
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	MCWLVAXA	MC DOWELL
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	MGVLVAXA	MCGAHEYSVILLE
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	MLGPVAXA	MILL GAP
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	MTRYVAXA	MONTEREY
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	MTSLVAXA	MOUNT SOLON
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	NLFRVANF	NELLYSFORD
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	NWHPVAXA	FT DEFIANCE
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	PNRVVAPR	ARRINGTON
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	STDRVASD	STUARTS DRAFT
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	STTNVAST	STAUNTON
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	STTNVAVE	STAUNTON
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	WNTRVAWG	WINTERGREEN
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	WSVLVAXA	WILLIAMSVILLE
199001	Virginia Cellular LLC	WYCVVAXA	WEYERS CAVE

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CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT B-1

**PROGRESS REPORT ON 2008 SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
PREVIOUSLY FILED WITH THE COMMISSION**

**THIS EXHIBIT IS WITHHELD FROM THE PUBLIC COPY
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CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT B-2

**UPDATED FIVE-YEAR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
FOR STUDY AREA CODE 199001**

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CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT B-3

**PROJECTED RECEIPTS FROM THE FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND
DURING CALENDAR YEARS 2009 AND 2010**

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CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT C

**OUTAGE REPORT
FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008**

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EXHIBIT D

**UNFULFILLED REQUESTS FOR SERVICE
FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2008 – DECEMBER 31, 2008**

EXHIBIT D

VIRGINIA CELLULAR, LLC D/B/A ALLTEL

**UNFULFILLED REQUESTS FOR SERVICE
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008

**Number of Unfulfilled Requests
For Service Within Designated Areas**

0

**Description of How Service
Was Attempted**

NA