



Gary Hanson, Chair  
Chris Nelson, Vice-Chair  
Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner

## SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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September 26, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW – A306  
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher  
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW, 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  
Commissioner

Chris Nelson  
Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
Commissioner

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The Commission has granted certification to the following rural incumbent local exchange carriers:

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. (391642)  
Beresford Municipal Telephone Company (391649)  
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. (includes Armour Study Area 391640; Golden West Study Area 391659; Kadoka Study Area 391667; Sioux Valley Study Area 391677; Union Study Area 391684; and Vivian Study Area 391686)  
Hills Telephone Company, Inc. (391405)  
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (391654)  
James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company (391664)  
Jefferson Telephone Company (391666)  
Kennebec Telephone Company (391668)  
Knology Community Telephone, Inc. f/k/a PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc. (391652) (SPIN # 143002229)  
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)  
Splitrock Properties, Inc. (391657)  
Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company d/b/a ITC (391679)  
TrioTel Communications, Inc. (includes Tri-County Study Area 391682 and McCook Study Area 391669)  
Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. (391685)  
Valley Telephone Company (361495)  
Venture Communications Cooperative (391680)  
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 carrier:

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

The Commission has granted certification to the following competitive eligible telecommunications carriers designated as ETCs in non-rural service areas:

Knology of the Black Hills, LLC (competitive ETC) (399006)  
Midcontinent Communications (competitive ETC) (399005)  
Midstate Telecom, Inc. (competitive ETC) (399011)  
Northern Valley Communications, LLC (competitive ETC) (399017)  
RC Communications, Inc. d/b/a RC Services (competitive ETC) (399010)  
SSTELECOM, Inc., d/b/a ITC (competitive ETC) (399013)

The Commission has granted certification to the following competitive eligible telecommunications carriers designated as ETCs in both non-rural service areas and rural service areas:

Brookings Municipal Telephone d/b/a Swiftel Communications (competitive ETC) (399009)  
James Valley Wireless, LLC (competitive ETC) (399014)  
Long Lines Wireless, LLC (competitive ETC) (399016)  
RCC Minnesota, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless (competitive ETC) (399003)  
WWC License LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless (399018)



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2000 L Street, NW, 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  
Commissioner

Chris Nelson  
Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
Commissioner