



GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD
LT. GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS

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ELIZABETH S. JACOBS, CHAIR
DARRELL HANSON, BOARD MEMBER
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DEC 29 2011

December 23, 2011

FCC Mail Room

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher, Vice President
High Cost & Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street NW – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Certification of High Cost Support for Rural Carriers - Competitive ETCs Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch / Ms. Majcher:

On December 20, 2011, the Iowa Utilities Board (Board) issued an order designating eligible carrier status to Dixon Telephone Company (study area code to be determined). With this letter, the Board hereby certifies that all federal high cost support provided to Dixon Telephone Company in 2011 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 support (HCL), Local Switching Support (LSS), and high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges. The Board bases this certification on the individual carrier certification filed by Dixon Telephone Company.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Jim Langenberg, a member of the Utilities Board's staff, at (515) 281-5695 or e-mail jim.langenberg@iub.state.ia.us.

Sincerely,

Joan Conrad
Executive Secretary

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attachment

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FCC Mail Room

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:
DIXON TELEPHONE COMPANY

DOCKET NO. ETA-2011-0011

ORDER DESIGNATING ELIGIBLE CARRIER

(Issued December 20, 2011)

On November 3, 2011, Dixon Telephone Company (Dixon) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application for universal service eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status in all or part of certain Iowa exchanges pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 214(e) and 254 and 199 IAC chapter 39. Dixon asks that the Board designate it as an ETC pursuant to 199 IAC 39.2 in the exchanges identified in the attachments to this order. No objections to this application have been filed.

Board rule 39.2 provides a means by which the Board can designate Iowa telecommunications companies to be eligible to receive funding from the universal service fund, as defined by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 254 (the Act). Under the Act (and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations implementing the Act), the Board must determine that a carrier meets certain service requirements before it may be designated an eligible carrier. Pursuant to 199 IAC 39.2(3), the carrier must do the following:

- 1) Offer the services supported by the federal universal service fund as identified in 199 IAC 39.2(1)"a" through "i";
- 2) Offer the required services using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"a";
- 3) Advertise the availability of the supported services as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"b";
- 4) Submit an explanation of how the supported services will be provided pursuant to 199 IAC 39.2(3)"c";
- 5) Submit a description of the area for which ETC designation is sought as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"d";
- 6) Submit a network improvement and maintenance plan associated with the provision of supported services as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"e";
- 7) Demonstrate compliance with applicable consumer protection standards as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"f";
- 8) Demonstrate compliance with applicable service quality standards as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"g";
- 9) Certify the ability to maintain a minimum of two hours of backup power to ensure functionality without an external power source pursuant to 199 IAC 39.2(3)"h";

- 10) Demonstrate a commitment to offer a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier in the areas for which ETC designation is sought as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"i";
- 11) File a statement that the carrier acknowledges the FCC may require it to provide equal access as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"j";
- 12) Demonstrate that granting ETC designation is in the public interest as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"k"; and
- 13) Commit to respond to Board requests for information as described in 199 IAC 39.2(3)"l."

An ETC must also offer a minimum amount of local exchange service, defined in usage minutes, which will be provided with no additional charge to customers. See In re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, "First Report and Order," FCC Docket No. 96-45, March 17, 2005. See also 199 IAC 39.2(1)"b." However, the FCC has not quantified a minimum amount of local usage required to be included in a universal service offering. Id., at ¶ 33. The Board understands that Dixon will comply with any and all minimum local usage requirements adopted by the FCC. The Board also understands that until the FCC establishes a minimum requirement, Dixon will offer at least one universal service fund package with unlimited local calling.

In its request for designation, Dixon states that it satisfies or will satisfy each of the requirements set forth in 199 IAC 39.2(3). Dixon has made the necessary certifications so as to substantially comply with 199 IAC 39.2, including voice grade

access to the public switched network, local usage, call setup technology, single party service, toll limitations for qualifying low-income customers, and access to emergency services, operator services, interexchange service, and directory assistance.

Based on Dixon's unopposed representations, the Board finds that Dixon offers the services supported by the federal universal service fund in the manner required by 199 IAC 39.2 and will comply with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules throughout its designated service area.

Board rule 39.2(5) requires identification of the approved service area to be used for universal service fund support calculations. Dixon states that it is licensed by the FCC to serve the state of Iowa as shown in the attachments to this order and that it intends to provide universal service fund-supported services throughout the state. The Board finds that this assertion by Dixon satisfies 199 IAC 39.2(5)"c," which provides that the service area for a wireless carrier is the area where the company has been licensed by the FCC to provide service.

The Board reminds Dixon that the company is required to file with the Board, by May 1 of each year, a certification regarding its use of universal service funds, pursuant to 199 IAC 39.6.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Eligible telecommunications carrier status is granted Dixon Telephone Company as requested in its application filed November 3, 2011, subject to the

commitments described in the body of this order, as shown in the attachments to this order.

2. The designated service area shall be the area in Iowa where Dixon Telephone Company is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to provide service.

3. The Executive Secretary of the Utilities Board shall mail copies of this order to Dixon Telephone Company, the Universal Service Administration Company, the Federal Communications Commission Universal Service Branch, and the Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

/s/ Darrell Hanson

ATTEST:

/s/ Joan Conrad _____
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 20th day of December 2011.

Exhibit A

WPQY719
Dixon

Dixon Telephone Company

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