



510 Broadway • P.O. Box 136
Abercrombie, ND 58001

June 27, 2012

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

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90

Attached is our certification for WC Docket 10-90, pursuant to § 54.313(a)(2)-(6), (h) as well as three files for the MN, ND and SD state ETC reports submitted to the state utility commissions. Confidential or trade secret parts of the reports have been removed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 701-553-9065.

Sincerely,

Donna Thiel
Administrative Assistant

"Your Total Communications Company - Connecting You to the World"

Phone 701-553-8309 • Fax 701-553-8396

Annual Reporting Requirements pursuant to § 54.313(a)(2)-(6), (h)
WC Docket No. 10-90

§ 54.313(a)(2) - Outage Reporting

My company collected this information pursuant to state utility commission requirement.
A copy of the submitted report is attached.

§ 54.313(a)(3) - Unfulfilled Service Requests

My company collected this information pursuant to state utility commission requirement.
A copy of the submitted report is attached.

§ 54.313(a)(4) - Customer Complaints per 1,000 Connections

My company collected this information pursuant to state utility commission requirement.
A copy of the submitted report is attached.

§ 54.313(a)(5) - Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules

I certify that the reporting carrier is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules.

§ 54.313(a)(6) - Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

I certify that the reporting carrier can function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 CFR §54.202(a)(2). Specifically, the reporting carrier has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to re-route traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

§ 54.313(h) - Local Rate Floor Data

I certify that the reporting carrier receives or is projected to receive High Cost Support in 2012 and has no monthly residential rates (plus charges as defined) less than \$10.

I am authorized to make this certification on behalf of the reporting carrier and to the best of my knowledge the information reported on this form is accurate. This certification is for the study area(s) listed below.

Company Name	State	Study Area Code
Red River Rural Telephone Association	ND	381631
Red River Rural Telephone Association	MN	381631
Red River Rural Telephone Association	SD	381631



[Signature of Corporate Officer]
Jeffrey J. Olson

[Printed Name of Corporate Officer]

Date: ___ June 26, 2012 _____
Executive Secretary

[Title of Corporate Officer]

**BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION

Red River Rural Telephone Association is seeking certification of eligibility from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") in order to be eligible for support from the federal Universal Service Fund.

The certification required for rural carriers to receive federal universal service support for all four quarters during calendar year 2013 is currently due to be filed with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") on or before October 1, 2012. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the State are eligible to receive federal support during the 12-month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Red River Rural Telephone Association is a rural incumbent telephone company that has previously been designated by this Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier. The Company provides local exchange telephone services, including all of the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service, to approximately 1,090 access lines within its established rural service area in Minnesota.

Based on the information in this filing, Red River Rural Telephone Association requests that the Commission make the appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC.

Exhibit A provides details as to the expenditures that were incurred by Red River Rural Telephone Association in 2011 and estimates of the expenditures for years 2012 and 2013 for the

provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services supported by federal universal service. Consistent with the universal service principles set forth in the federal law and also the FCC orders, Red River Rural Telephone Association will use federal universal support amounts received in 2012 to offset a portion of 2012 expenditures incurred as shown in Exhibit A. This use of federal universal service support will enable Red River Rural Telephone Association to: (1) maintain rates for its local exchange services that are affordable and reasonably comparable to rates being charged for the same services in urban areas; and (2) to continue to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements and maintain high quality service. Specific projects are listed on Attachment 1. The use of federal universal service support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal service principles.

In Docket P-999/M-05-741 the Commission ordered carriers seeking annual certification for universal service support to comply with the annual filing requirements adopted by the FCC in CC Docket 96-45, FCC 05-46 with the modifications that: (i) a report on a two-year service quality improvement plan is to be used instead of a five year plan; and (ii) information may be filed on a service area basis instead of a wire-center basis. The following information is provided in compliance with this requirement.

Red River Rural Telephone Association's service quality improvement plan is to continue to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements and maintain high quality service throughout Red River Rural Telephone Association's service area. As an incumbent local carrier Red River Rural Telephone Association upgrades and replaces facilities and equipment as necessary.

Red River Rural Telephone Association has not provided maps as no changes to our service areas have been made during the current year. The existing maps are on file with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Administration.

Additional information required is provided as follows:

- During the year of 2011 there were no outages that required reporting to the FCC.
- Red River Rural Telephone Association was able to provide service to all potential customers that requested service during 2011 and at December 31, 2011, we had no unfulfilled requests for service.
- The number of complaints of service quality per 1,000 handsets or lines for 2011 is estimated at less than 1.
- The attached affidavit contains the required certifications as they pertain to an incumbent local exchange carrier.
- Attachment 1 is a listing of the largest projects for the next two years.

Based on the foregoing information, the enclosed Exhibit A and the enclosed Affidavit, Red River Rural Telephone Association requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that Red River Rural Telephone Association is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support determined for distribution to the Company in 2013.

BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-02-441
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 96-45

AFFIDAVIT OF RED RIVER RURAL TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION STUDY AREA 381631
REGARDING CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

Jeffrey J. Olson, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Red River Rural Telephone Association (hereinafter, the "Company") in the position of General Manager.
2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act") and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.
3. Affiant is personally familiar with all the Support received by the Company and with how the Company uses all of the Support that it receives.
4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001 in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order") as codified in 47 C.F.R and 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R and 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Orders of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001, in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28, 2002 in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2012 and for all quarters thereafter.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED

EXHIBIT A – RED RIVER RURAL TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

1. The amount of high-cost universal support the Company received in the prior calendar year and estimates of the amount of high-cost universal support it anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar year following the date of this report) are listed below:

Year 2011 Federal Universal Service Receipts:

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 712,726
Local Switching Support	\$ 262,214
ICLS	\$ 951,419
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 25,790
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u>0</u>
TOTAL	\$1,952,149

Estimated Year 2013 Federal Universal Service Receipts:

High Cost Loop Support	\$
Local Switching Support	\$
ICLS	\$
Safety Net Additive Support	\$
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u> </u>
TOTAL	\$

[TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED]

The changes, if any, from reports previously filed with the Commission are, as follows:

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED

- a. **Prior Year's Support.** The ways this support from the prior calendar year was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services are, as follows:

[TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED]

	<u>Actual</u> 2011
Plant Specific Operations Expenses	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$
Customer Operations Expenses	
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	\$
Corporate Operations Expenses	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$
Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment	<u>\$</u>
Additions	
Switching (Acct 2210 and 2230)	\$
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	\$
Total	<u>\$</u>
Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment	<u>\$</u>

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED

- b. **Following Year's Support (the calendar year following the date of this report)**. The ways the Company anticipates it will use the following calendar year's support for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services are, as follows:

[TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED]

	<u>Estimated</u> 2013
Plant Specific Operations Expenses	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$
Customer Operations Expenses	
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	\$
Corporate Operations Expenses	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$
Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment	\$
Additions	
Switching (Acct 2210 and 2230)	\$
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	\$
Total	\$
Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment	\$

PUBLIC DOCUMENT – TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED

2. **Outages.** Detailed information of any outages, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 45, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration of each designated service area for any facility which the Company owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect:
- a. At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or
 - b. A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 45(e).

[TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED]

Date and Time of Onset	Brief Description of Outage and Resolution of Outage	Particular Services Affected	Geographic Area Affected By Outage	Steps Taken to Prevent Similar Outages in the Future	Number of Customers Affected

(If any FCC outage reports were filed showing this information, they may be attached instead.)

**BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)	
RED RIVER RURAL TELEPHONE)	
ASSOCIATION FOR CERTIFICATION)	ANNUAL ETC CERTIFICATION
REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL)	FILING
UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT)	

Red River Rural Telephone Association (the "Company"), by and through its attorney, makes this filing to seek certification from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") as is required under 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 and to comply with the provisions of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:52 and 20:10:32:54 of the Commission's rules pertaining to eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs").

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, federal universal service support provided to carriers pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305 and/or 54.307 and/or Part 36, Subpart F (high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support and safety valve support) will be made available only if the State Commission files the requisite annual certification with the FCC and USAC. The certification required specifically for rural carriers to receive federal universal service support for all four quarters during the calendar year 2013 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2012. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the State are eligible to receive federal support during the 12-month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

As part of its annual request to the Commission for certification, the Company provides the following information:

1. The Company is a rural telephone company that has previously been designated by this Commission as an ETC. The Company provides local exchange telephone services, including all of the essential services that are included in the federal definition of universal service, to approximately one access line within its established rural service area in South Dakota.

2. The provisions of ARSD § 20:10:32:54 addressing the annual "Certification requirements" set forth by this Commission indicate in part that the ETC must show "how much universal service support was received." Accordingly, attached hereto as Exhibit A is information indicating "Year 2011 Federal Universal Service Receipts" received by the Company. This same Exhibit also shows total expenditures of the Company in 2011 related to the provision, maintenance and upgrading of the facilities and services that are supported by Federal Universal Service Funding and further estimates these same expenditures for calendar year 2013. The Company does not maintain records to separate universal service support received with respect to South Dakota access lines from universal service support received with respect to Minnesota access lines. Accordingly, the information contained on Exhibit A reflects an allocation of total amounts in each category by the respective number of access lines in South Dakota and Minnesota. Consistent with federal universal service principles, the Company will use federal universal service amounts received in 2013 to offset a portion of these 2013 expenditures. This use of federal universal service support will enable the Company to: (1) maintain rates for its local exchange services that are affordable and reasonably comparable to rates being charged for the same services in urban areas; and (2) to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements

and maintain high quality service. The use of federal universal service support for these purposes is clearly consistent with the federal universal service provisions.

3. In addition to the information included in Exhibit A, the following information is provided to meet the Commission's "Certification requirements" set forth in ARSD § 20:10:32:54:

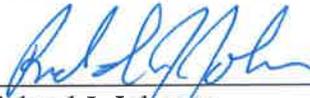
- The Company's service quality improvement plan is to continue to upgrade its telecommunications facilities and equipment as necessary to meet evolving service requirements and maintain high quality service throughout its service area. As an incumbent local exchange carrier and the carrier of last resort in its service area, the Company upgrades and replaces facilities and equipment as necessary. The Company believes that its planned capital additions will improve the reliability of switched calls for its customers, increase the Company's network capacity to serve remote customers and provide customers with state-of-the-art telecommunications service. In furtherance of its service quality improvement plan, the Company will use any high-cost universal service amounts received by it to offset expenditures incurred as it continues to upgrade and replace facilities and equipment. A progress report on the Company's two-year service quality improvement plan, required under the provisions of ARSD § 20:10:32:54, is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- During calendar year 2011, the Company did not experience service outages affecting at least 10 percent of its end user customers, for a period lasting longer than 30 minutes.
- The Company was able to provide service to all potential customers that requested service during 2011, and as of December 31, 2011, the Company has no unfulfilled requests for service.

- During 2011, the Company's customer service department received zero complaints from consumers.
- Also attached as Exhibit C is a document containing other certifications, including those required under the provisions of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:54(5), 20:10:32:54(6), 20:10:32:54(7) and 20:10:32:54(8).

4. Based on all of the foregoing information, including the information provided on Exhibits A, B and C, the Company requests that this Commission issue an appropriate certification to the FCC and USAC indicating that Red River Rural Telephone Association is in compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and should receive all federal universal service support determined for distribution to the Company in 2013. In order to ensure that this certification is issued to the FCC prior to October 1, 2012, the Company would further ask the Commission to expedite the process that is initiated based on this filing.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Johnson
Attorney for the Company

