PUBLIC VERSION
CONFIDENTIAL VERSION FILED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Received & Inspected

JUL -3 2012

FCC Mail Room

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

In the Matter of	)	
Connect America Fund	)	WC Docket No. 10-90
	)	

BADLANDS CELLULAR OF NORTH DAKOTA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

2012 ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

STUDY AREA CODE (SAC) 389009

July 1, 2012

BRIGGS AND MORGAN, P.A.
Mark J. Ayotte
Matthew A. Slaven
2200 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 977-8400

VERIZON WIRELESS
Elizabeth Kohler
302 Mountain View Drive, Suite 200
Colchester, VT 05446
(802) 654-5093

0+4

PUBLIC VERSION
CONFIDENTIAL VERSION FILED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 (2012),[1] Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership ("Company") submits this 2012 Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") Certification and Annual Report.

II. CONFIDENTIALITY

The data in this report and the attached exhibits represent commercial and financial trade secrets regarding the Company's network performance, customer specific information and other matters that are highly sensitive due to the competitive nature of the wireless industry. Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission" or "FCC") treat this data as confidential and withhold it from public inspection pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457(d)(1) and 0.459.

III. BACKGROUND

The Company is licensed by the FCC to provide commercial mobile radio service ("CMRS") in North Dakota RSA No. 4. The Company has been designated as a competitive ETC in areas of North Dakota pursuant to the North Dakota Public Service Commission's ("NDPSC") February 25, 2004 order.[2] Designation in some areas was contingent on redefinition of the study area requirement by the FCC. The FCC granted redefinition effective September 17, 2004.[3]

---

[1] *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 11-161 (rel. Nov. 18, 2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order*); *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 12-147 (rel. Feb. 3, 2012) (*Clarification Order*); *Connect America Fund, et al,* WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Third Order on Reconsideration, FCC 12-52 (rel. May 14, 2012) (Third Order on Reconsideration).

[2] *Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership Designated Eligible Carrier Application,* Case No. PU-1225-03-600, Order (Feb. 25, 2004).

[3] *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Petition to Redefine Certain Rural Telephone Company Study Areas in the State of North Dakota,* CC Docket No. 96-45, *Public Notice*, DA 04-1739 (rel. June 17, 2004);

A complete listing of the non-rural telephone company wire centers and rural telephone company study areas and wire centers in which the Company was designated as an ETC by the NDPSC is attached as **Exhibit A** ("Designated Area").

IV. ANNUAL ETC REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 54.313(a)

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a) requires a recipient of federal high-cost universal service support to annually report certain information no later than July 1 of each calendar year.[4] The Company respectfully submits the following information for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in satisfaction of the Commission's annual reporting requirement.

A. Service Improvement Plan Progress Report

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1) requires a high-cost support recipient to file a progress report on its previously filed service quality improvement plan. An ETC designated by a state commission is not required to provide the FCC with a copy of its 2012 state service quality improvement plan, if any.[5] However, on July 1, 2013, all state-designated ETCs are required to file with the FCC five-year service quality improvement plans that account for the new broadband obligations adopted in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*.[6] The Company is a state-designated ETC in North Dakota and, therefore, is not required to file a copy of its 2012 state service quality improvement plan with the Commission in 2012.

---

47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(3)(ii) (because the FCC did not initiate a proceeding, the Petition is deemed effective 90 days after issuance of the Public Notice).

[4] Pursuant to the *USF/ICC Transformation Order* and *Clarification Order*, in 2012 competitive ETC recipients of federal high-cost universal service support are only required to address the reporting requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1) through (a)(8). Other reporting requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a) are not required to be addressed until 2013 or have otherwise been deferred to a later reporting period.

[5] *Clarification Order*, DA 12-147 at para. 7.

[6] *Id.*

B. Network Outages

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(2) requires a high-cost support recipient to annually report network outages within its ETC designated area. 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(2) specifically requires:

> Detailed information on any outage in the prior calendar year, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. 4.5, of at least 30 minutes in duration for each service area in which an eligible telecommunications carrier is designated for any facilities it owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect (i) at least ten percent of the end users served in a designated service area; or (ii) a 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. 4.5(e). (iii) Specifically, the eligible telecommunications carrier's annual report must include information detailing: (A) The date and time of onset of the outage; (B) A brief description of the outage and its resolution; (C) The particular services affected; (D) The geographic areas affected by the outage; (E) Steps taken to prevent a similar situation in the future; and (F) The number of customers affected.

The required information for the time period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 is contained within **Confidential Exhibit B.** The Company has compiled and reported information for all outages that meet the above criteria within the Designated Area in North Dakota for the aforementioned time period. Such information includes any outage of at least 30 minutes in duration that potentially affected at least ten percent (10%) of its customers served in a service area or a 911 facility. The services affected by an outage were 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.

The steps taken 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. For example, when the outage is due to equipment failure, the equipment is replaced or repaired and tested for proper performance, including preventive 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. Similarly, when the outage is due to weather or other natural occurrence, the probability of a repeat occurrence is considered and evaluated 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 an appropriate reevaluation of the source of error and the need to correct, discipline or replace the person or practice, as applicable. An outage on a leased facility or circuit is escalated and corrected by the third-party facility provider. The outages reported on **Confidential Exhibit B** were not determined to require extraordinary measures other than application of the above procedures.

C. Unfulfilled Requests For Service

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(3) requires a high-cost support recipient to annually report the number of requests for service from potential customers within the ETC's designated area that were unfulfilled during the past calendar year. The filing must also detail how the ETC attempted to provide service to those potential customers. The required information concerning unfulfilled requests for service within the Designated Area in North Dakota from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 is contained in **Exhibit C.**

D. Complaints Per 1,000 Handsets or Lines

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(4) requires a high-cost support recipient to report annually the number of complaints per 1,000 connections (fixed or mobile) in the prior calendar year. The Company received 0.22 complaints per 1,000 handsets associated with SAC 389009 between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.[7]

[7] Complaints consist of written complaints from customers submitted to the Commission, the North Dakota Public Service Commission, the North Dakota Attorney General, the Better Business Bureau or similar third party agencies and oral, written, and e-mail complaints submitted to the Company's Executive Complaint Department.

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

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(5) requires a high-cost support recipient to certify that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. The Company's compliance with the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Service ("CTIA Consumer Code") satisfies this requirement. The Company certifies that it has complied and will continue to comply with the principles set forth in the CTIA Consumer Code.

F. Certification Regarding Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(6) requires a high-cost support recipient to certify that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in Section 54.202(a)(2). The following information demonstrates an ability to remain functional in emergency situations in satisfaction of this requirement.

Each cell site is equipped with battery standby power engineered to maintain a standard of eight hours backup with a two-hour minimum standard when restricted by site location. Each cell site, unless restricted by site location, also has a permanent standby generator on site, or has the necessary equipment to allow a portable generator to be quickly and safely connected to the site in the event of a commercial power failure. Portable generators are available for transport to an area affected by a commercial power outage. Backup generators are tested on a regular basis to assure functionality. Thus back-up power systems and procedures have been implemented to ensure functionality without an external power source.

In the event of damaged facilities, telecommunications traffic may be rerouted on the network to minimize service disruptions. The network design philosophy also includes redundancy on critical paths and components so that a potential failure of one component does not significantly affect service. The wireless voice and data switching networks are designed to

provide continuous service to the customer. The communications between internal switches and external networks, such as the public switched telephone network ("PSTN") and the Internet, are also designed to reduce the possibility of interrupted communications.

The network is comprised of numerous components that are connected using a combination of traditional landline telecommunication networks and microwave radio links. Many of the network's critical locations are supported with diverse circuits, network technologies, and alternative local telecommunications carriers. The impact of a severed fiber optic cable or a faulty T-1 circuit is minimized by this diversity in telecommunications connectivity.

Business procedures have also been adopted to assure minimal service disruptions. These procedures include frequent and thorough preventive maintenance, real-time monitoring of all key system components, the availability of trained maintenance personnel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to repair or resolve critical failures should they arise, and wide deployment of these personnel and spare parts to permit rapid response and restoration of service.

The network is also designed to manage traffic spikes and minimize call blocking in emergency situations. In order for a traffic spike to result in call blocking, the number of simultaneous calls must exceed the total number of voice paths available at one or more serving cell sites at a given location. Statistical analyses are used to track call blockage in each sector during the busiest hours each month. These statistics are trended and used to predict the required capacity at each cell site. Based on these predictions, capacity is added to each cell site before it reaches overcapacity. In the event unpredictable spikes occur, steps can be taken to increase the call capacity at cell sites as needed, or to deploy temporary "Cells On Wheels" ("COWs") as needed to accommodate the increased demand on the network. These capabilities and systems

reasonably minimize call blocking from potential traffic spikes during emergency situations. The Company therefore certifies the ability to function in emergency situations as set forth in Section 54.202(a)(2).

G. Price Plan Offerings

47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(7) requires a high-cost support recipient to provide the company's price plan offerings in a format as specified by the Wireline Competition Bureau.[8] Information concerning the Company's current generally available price plans (including plans offered to eligible Lifeline consumers) is available at www.verizonwireless.com and www.verizonwireless.com/lifeline.

H. Company Information

47 C.F.R. § 54.313 (a)(8) requires a high-cost support recipient to provide the recipient's holding company, operating companies, affiliates, and any branding, as well as universal service identifiers for each such entity by Study Area Codes, as that term is used by USAC. The required ownership information concerning the Company's wireless affiliated recipients of federal high-cost universal service support and the associated Study Area Codes for those wireless affiliates are contained in **Exhibit D**.

June 25, 2012

Mark R. Smith
Assistant Secretary
One Verizon Place
Alpharetta, GA 30004-8511
(678) 339-5121

[8] As of the date of filing, the Wireline Competition Bureau has not specified the format for submission of price plan information.

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

In the Matter of	)	
Connect America Fund	)	WC Docket No. 10-90
	)	

CERTIFICATION

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

1. I serve as Assistant Secretary for Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, General Partner, Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership ("Company").

2. This certification is submitted in support of the Company's 2012 Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification and Annual Report.

3. The Company has been designated a competitive ETC in areas identified in **Exhibit A** of its 2012 Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification and Annual Report.

4. I have reviewed the Company's 2012 Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification and Annual Report for the State of North Dakota and certify that the facts stated therein, of which I have personal knowledge, are true and correct to the best of my present knowledge, information and belief.

5. Consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.7 and 54.314, the Company certifies that all federal high-cost universal service support received was used and will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Mark R. Smith
Assistant Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 13 day of June, 2012.

Notary Public

SANDRA F. BROCK
NOTARY PUBLIC
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

PUBLIC VERSION
CONFIDENTIAL VERSION FILED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

SUMMARY OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A – Designated Service Area for Study Area Code 389009.

Confidential Exhibit B – Outage Report.

Exhibit C – Unfulfilled Requests for Service.

Exhibit D – Company Information.

EXHIBIT A

Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership ETC Designated Area - Study Area Code 389009

LEC SAC	LEC NAME	WIRE CENTER	CLLI
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	AMIDON	AMDNNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	BOWMAN	BWMNNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	DODGE	DODGNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	DUNN CENTER	DNCTNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	GRASSY BUTTE	GRBTNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	HALLIDAY	HLDYNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	HETTINGER	HTNGNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	KILLDEER	KLDRNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	LADD	LADDNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	MANNING	MNNGNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	MOTT	MOTTNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	NEW ENGLAND	NELDNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	REEDER	RDERNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	REGENT	RGNTNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	RHAME	RHMENDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	RICHARDTON	RCHDNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	SCRANTON	SCTNNDXA
381607	CONSOLIDATED TELCOM	SOUTH HEART	SHRTNDXA
381617	MIDSTATE TELEPHONE CO.	MEDORA	MEDRNDXA
381632	RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	ALEXANDER	ALXNNDXA
381632	RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	ARNEGARD	ARNGNDXA
381632	RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	KEENE	KEENNDXA
381632	RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	MANDAREE	MNDRNDXA
381632	RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	NEW TOWN	NWTWNDXA
381632	RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	SQUAW GAP	SQGPNDXA
381632	RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	WATFORD CITY	WTCYNDXB
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	BEULAH	BELHNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	CARSON	CRSNNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	CENTER	CNTRNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	ELGIN	ELGNNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	FLASHER	FLSHNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	FORT YATES	FTYTNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	GLEN ULLIN	GLNLNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	GOLDEN VALLEY	GLVYNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	HAZEN	HAZNNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	HEBRON	HBRNNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	MCLAUGHLIN	MCLGSDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	NEW SALEM	NWSLNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	PICK CITY	PKCYNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	SELFRIDGE	SLRGNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	ST ANTHONY	STATNDXB
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	STANTON	SNTNNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	UNDERWOOD	UNWDNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	WASHBURN	WSBNNDXA
381637	WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE - ND	ZAP	ZAP NDXA
381638	MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	BEACH	BECHNDXA
385144	QWEST CORPORATION	BELFIELD	BLFDNDBC
385144	QWEST CORPORATION	DICKINSON	DCSNNDBC
385144	QWEST CORPORATION	MANDAN	MNDNNDBA
391689	WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY	LEMMON	LMMNSDXA

EXHIBIT A

Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership ETC Designated Area - Study Area Code 389009

LEC SAC	LEC NAME	WIRE CENTER	CLLI
395145	QWEST CORPORATION	MCINTOSH	MCINSDCO
395145	QWEST CORPORATION	MORRISTOWN	MRTWSDCO
482246	MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.	CARLYLE	CRLYMTXC
485104	QWEST CORPORATION	FAIRVIEW	FRVWMTMA
485104	QWEST CORPORATION	SIDNEY	SDNYMTMA

CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT B

Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership Network Outages - SAC 389009

Outage Description	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time	Duration	# of customers affected	Cell ID	Site Name	Address	City	State

REDACTED

EXHIBIT C

Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership
SAC 389009
Unfulfilled Request for Service

There were no unfulfilled requests for service to report for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

EXHIBIT D

Company Information

State	SAC	Designated Entity
AL	259029	Cellco Partnership
AR	409003	Cellco Partnership
FL	219903	Alltel Communications, LLC
GA	229004	Alltel Communications, LLC
IA	359010	Midwest Wireless Iowa, LLC
IA	359070	RSA 7 Limited Partnership
IA	359071	Iowa 8 - Monona Limited Partnership
KS	419905	Alltel Communications, LLC
LA	279009	Alltel Communications, LLC
MI	319010/319019	Alltel Communications, LLC
MN	369001	WWC Holding Co., Inc.
MN	369002	Midwest Wireless Communications, LLC
MN	369004	RCC Minnesota, Inc.
MS	289010	Alltel Communications, LLC
MS	289002	Rural Cellular Corporation
NC	239003	Cellco Partnership
ND	389005	Bismarck MSA Limited Partnership
ND	389006	North Central RSA 2 of North Dakota Limited Partnership
ND	389007	Northwest Dakota Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership
ND	389008	North Dakota RSA No. 3 Limited Partnership
ND	389009	Badlands Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership
ND	389010	North Dakota 5 - Kidder Limited Partnership
NE	379013	Alltel Communications of Nebraska, Inc.
NY	159014	St. Lawrence Seaway RSA Cellular Partnership
NY	159015	New York RSA 2 Cellular Partnership
SD	399018	WWC License LLC
SD	399003	RCC Minnesota, Inc.
TX	449003	WWC Texas RSA Limited Partnership
TX	449034	Alltel Communications, LLC
VA	199014	Cellco Partnership
WI	339017/339023	Alltel Communications, LLC
WI	339016	Wisconsin RSA #3 Limited Partnership
WI	339006	Midwest Wireless Wisconsin, LLC
WV	209008	Alltel Communications, LLC

The above USF support recipients individually and collectively operate under the Verizon Wireless brand name.