

# **DIVIDER**

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
SFN 2053 (4-2002)**

**PU-2485-01-56**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of ND/Mid-Rive  
Interconnection Agreement**

**Application**

**01**

**Filed 2/5/2001**

**Closed 5/10/2001**

**Scott, Sandi L.**

---

**From:** Bauske, Shelly A.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2001 12:09 PM  
**To:** Scott, Sandi L.  
**Subject:** FW: Money Received.....

**12 PU-2528-01-162** Pages: 0  
\$80.78 received  
by Reservation Telephone Cooperative  
07/03/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Geiger, Gloria A.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2001 11:41 AM  
**To:** Bauske, Shelly A.  
**Subject:** RE: Money Received.....

**12 PU-2483-01-48** Pages: 0  
\$58.04 received  
by Citizens Telecommunications Company of North De  
07/03/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

ALL APPLY BACKS  
ALL 7700 8503 248

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Bauske, Shelly A.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2001 10:13 AM  
**To:** Geiger, Gloria A.  
**Subject:** Money Received.....

**12 PU-2485-01-56** Pages: 0  
\$77.37 received  
by Citizens Telecommunications Company of North De  
07/03/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

Case No. PU-2528-01-162  
Reservation Telephone Cooperative  
\$80.78  
21162 project

**11 PU-2486-01-57** Pages: 0  
\$77.37 received  
by Citizens Telecommunications Company of North De  
07/03/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

Case No. PU-2483-01-48  
Citizens Communications  
\$58.04  
21048 project

**11 PU-2483-01-58** Pages: 0  
\$77.37 received  
by Citizens Telecommunications Company of North De

Case No. PU-2485-01-56  
Citizens Communications  
\$77.37  
21056 project

**11 PU-2539-01-207** Pages: 0  
\$50.08 received  
by Midstate Communications, Inc.

Case No. PU-2486-01-57  
Citizens Communications  
\$77.37  
21057 project

**11 PU-2540-01-208** Pages: 0  
\$50.08 received  
by Midstate Telephone Co.  
07/03/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

Case No. PU-2483-01-58  
Citizens Communications  
\$77.37  
21058 project

**12 PU-2516-01-149** Pages: 0  
\$54.83 received  
by Skyland Technologies, Inc.  
07/03/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

Case No. PU-2539-01-207  
Midstate Communications Inc  
\$50.08  
21207 project

Case No. PU-2540-01-208  
Midstate Telephone Company  
\$50.08  
21208 project

Case No. PU-2516-01-149  
Skyland Technologies  
\$54.83

21149 project

# Billing Statement

June 6, 2001

Citizens Telecommunications Company  
of North Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone  
Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Case No. PU-2485-01-56

## Expenses Incurred to Date:

Advertising Costs \$154.73

## Amount Due:

Citizens Telecommunications Company of  
North Dakota  
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative

\$77.37

\$77.36

*pd -*  
*Mid Rivers*

## Send Payment and a Copy of this Statement To:

Public Service Commission  
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 408  
Bismarck ND 58505-0480

Federal Tax ID 45-0309764

11

PU-2485-01-56

Pages: 1

\$77.36 received

by Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

06/12/2001

CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry

**APPROVED**

DATE: 6-6-01  
KME

MOTION

June 6, 2001

Citizens Telecommunications Company  
of North Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone  
Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Case No. PU-2485-01-56

I move the Commission bill Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota and Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative for costs incurred to date in Case No. PU-2485-01-56, Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Interconnection Agreement, Application.



# Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

## COMMISSIONERS

Susan E. Wefald, President  
Leo M. Reinbold  
Anthony T. Clark

Executive Secretary  
Jon H. Mielke

600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept. 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480  
web: [www.psc.state.nd.us](http://www.psc.state.nd.us)  
e-mail: [sab@oracle.psc.state.nd.us](mailto:sab@oracle.psc.state.nd.us)  
TDD 800-366-6888  
Fax 701-328-2410  
Phone 701-328-2400

June 6, 2001

Lance Tade  
Citizens Communications  
9672 S 700 E Ste 101  
Sandy UT 84070-3555

Gerry Anderson  
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
PO Box 280  
Circle MT 59215

RE: Case No. PU-2485-01-56  
Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota/  
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Enclosed is a copy of the statement approved at the June 6, 2001 Public Service Commission meeting for the expenses incurred to date in Case No. PU-2485-01-56.

Under N.D.C.C. 49-21-01.7, these expenses are billed through the Valuation Fund and must be paid for by the telecommunications company involved.

Please make your check payable to the Public Service Commission.

Sincerely,

Gloria Geiger  
Admin Staff Officer  
701-328-2401

Enc.

# Billing Statement

June 6, 2001

Citizens Telecommunications Company  
of North Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone  
Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Case No. PU-2485-01-56

## Expenses Incurred to Date:

Advertising Costs	\$154.73
-------------------	----------

## Amount Due:

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota	\$77.37
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative	\$77.36

## Send Payment and a Copy of this Statement To:

Public Service Commission  
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 408  
Bismarck ND 58505-0480

**Federal Tax ID 45-0309764**

## ***PLEASE NOTE***

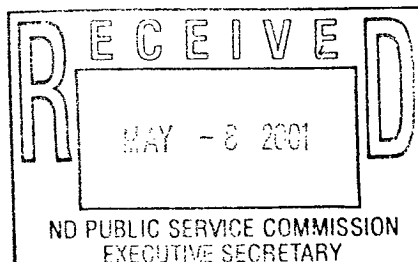
In order for the Commission to close its books at the end of the biennium, **WE NEED TO RECEIVE YOUR PAYMENT NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2001.**

To meet the July 1 deadline, it is very important that you *remit your payment no later than June 25, 2001.*

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

# Affidavit of Publication

State of North Dakota )  
County of Burleigh )



Laurie Thie

, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am the designated agent, under the provisions and for the purposes of, Section 31-04-06, NDCC, for the newspapers listed on the attached exhibits.
2. The newspapers listed on the exhibits published the advertisement of:  
Citizens Telecomm , 1 time(s)  
as required by law or ordinance.
3. All of the listed newspapers are legal newspapers in the State of North Dakota and, under the provisions of Section 46-05-01, NDCC, are qualified to publish any public notice or any matter required by law or ordinance to be printed or published in a newspaper in North Dakota.

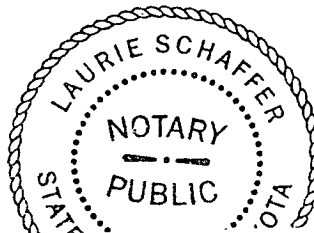
Signed:

Laurie Thie

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 2001.

Laurie Schaffer

9 **PU-2485-01-56** Pages: 11  
Affidavit of Publication  
by North Dakota Advertising Service, Inc.  
05/08/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .



9 **PU-2486-01-57** Pages: 11  
Affidavit of Publication  
by North Dakota Advertising Service, Inc.  
05/08/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

9 **PU-2483-01-58** Pages: 11  
Affidavit of Publication  
by North Dakota Advertising Service, Inc.  
05/08/2001 CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Case No. PU-2485-01-56

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL AND ORDINARY MAIL**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

**Sharon Helbling** deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **10th day of May, 2001**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, **two** envelopes with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and each containing a photocopy of:

**Order**

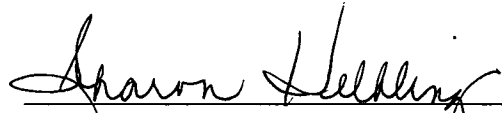

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

Lance Tade  
Citizens Communications  
9672 S 700 East Ste 101  
Sandy UT 84070-3555  
Cert. No. 7000 0520 0022 8655 3988

Gerry Anderson  
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
P O Box 280  
Circle MT 59215  
Cert. No. 7000 0520 0022 8655 3995

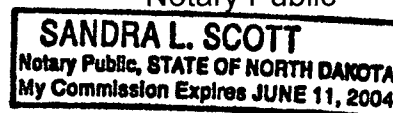
Each address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this **10th day of May, 2001**.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

SEAL



**APPROVED**

**MOTION**

DATE: 5-9-01  
KMF

**May 9, 2001**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application**

**Case No. PU-2485-01-56**

I move the Commission adopt the Order Approving Interconnection Agreement in the application of Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota for approval of an assumption agreement negotiated with Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Case No. PU-2485-01-56.

JRL/sdh

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application**

**Case No. PU-2485-01-56**

**ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

**May 9, 2001**

On February 5, 2001, Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota (Citizens) filed application for approval of an interconnection assumption agreement negotiated with Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. of Circle, Montana. This agreement set forth terms and conditions under which Citizens will assume the obligations of Qwest Corporation Communications, Inc. under previously approved agreements.

The agreement was filed under Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act). The Act requires that any agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration be submitted for approval to the Commission. Under section 252(e)(2)(A), the Commission may only reject an agreement (or portion thereof) adopted by negotiation if it finds that:

1. the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that was not a party to the agreement;
2. the implementation of the agreement (or portion thereof) is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

In addition, the Commission may include in its review state requirements that do not constitute barriers to entry under section 253.

On February 21, 2001, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments which provided that the Commission would receive written comments on the agreement until March 26, 2001. No comments have been received.

The Commission has reviewed the agreement and does not find that it discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that was not a party to the agreement. The Commission finds that implementation of the amended agreement is not inconsistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

**Order**

The Commission orders:

**6**

**PU-2485-01-56**

Pages: 2

Order Approving Interconnection  
Agreement  
by Public Service Commission

05/09/2001

CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

1. The interconnection assumption agreement negotiated between Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota and Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. filed with the Commission on February 5, 2001, is APPROVED.
2. The Commission retains continuing jurisdiction over the agreement at all times.
3. Notice of any changes to the agreement must be filed promptly with the Commission.
4. The agreement must not be assigned, assumed or otherwise transferred without the approval of the Commission.
5. Each party to the agreement shall respond reasonably and in good faith to the other party's requests to implement the agreement.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
Anthony T. Clark  
Commissioner

  
Susan E. Weald  
President

  
Leo M. Reinbold  
Commissioner

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Case No. PU-2485-01-56

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/U.S. Link, Inc.  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Case No. PU-2486-01-57

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Midcontinent Communications  
Interconnection Agreement Amendment  
Application

Case No. PU-2483-01-58

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL AND ORDINARY MAIL**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

**Sharon Helbling** deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **22nd day of February, 2001**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, **four** envelopes with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and each containing a photocopy of:

**Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments**

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

Lance Tade  
Citizens Communications  
9672 S 700 East Ste 101  
Sandy UT 84070-3555  
**Cert. No. 7000 0520 0022 8654 0643**

John P Sango  
U S Link Inc  
200 2<sup>nd</sup> St  
Pequot Lakes MN 56472-0327  
**Cert. No. 7000 0520 0022 8654 0650**

Gerry Anderson  
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
P O Box 280  
Circle MT 59215  
**Cert. No. 7000 0520 0022 8654 0667**

Midcontinent Communications  
410 S Phillips Ave  
Sioux Falls SD 57104  
**Cert. No. 7000 0520 0022 8654 0674**

5

PU-2485-01-56

Pages: 14

Affidavits of Mailing

by Public Service Commission

02/22/2001

CC: Comm Legal Ilona Jerry .

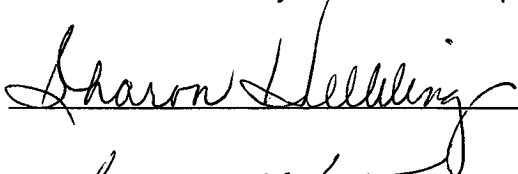
**Sharon Helbling** further deposes and says that on the **22nd day of February, 2001**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, **two** envelopes by regular mail, with postage fully prepaid, securely sealed, each containing a photocopy of the same.

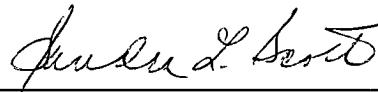
Scott Macintosh  
Qwest Corporation  
P O Box 5508  
Bismarck ND 58502-5508

Dir-Interconnection Compliance  
Qwest Corporation  
1801 California St Rm 2410  
Denver CO 80202

Each address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

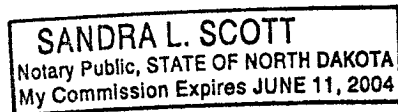
Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this **22nd day of February, 2001**.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

SEAL



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Case No. PU-2485-01-56

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/U.S. Link, Inc.  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application

Case No. PU-2486-01-57

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Midcontinent Communications  
Interconnection Agreement Amendment  
Application

Case No. PU-2483-01-58

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY ORDINARY MAIL OR E-MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Sharon Helbling deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **22nd day of February, 2001**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, envelopes by first class mail, fully prepaid, securely sealed, each containing a photocopy of:

**Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments**

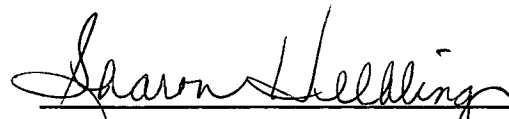
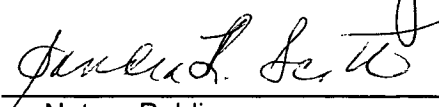
The envelopes were addressed as follows:

***See Attached List***

Each address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this **22nd day of February, 2001**.

SEAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**SANDRA L. SCOTT**  
Notary Public, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
My Commission Expires JUNE 11, 2004

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Barb Berkenpas

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Harumi Yamamoto

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Ruth Holder

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Steele ND 58482-0230

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ShawPittman  
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Ronald Laqua  
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kander@ictc.com  
Keith Anderson  
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Nome ND 58062-0008

nschmid@acginc.net  
Neil Schmid  
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Dallas TX 75240

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8647 Wurzbach Rd #M-1  
San Antonio TX 78240-1245

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David Dunning  
Polar Commun Mut Aid Corp  
PO Box 270  
Park River ND 58270-0270

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Enderlin ND 58027

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PO Box 727  
Mandan ND 58554-0727

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Larry Clemens  
Noonan Farmers Tele Co  
Noonan ND 58765

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David Dunning  
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Minot ND 58702-1000

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Pamela Harrington  
RC Communications Inc  
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New Effington SD 57255-0197

ardondoran@rrt.net  
Ardon Doran  
Red River Telecom Inc  
PO Box 136  
Abercrombie ND 58001-0136

mbrestel@ndak.net  
Marcia Burckhard  
Reservation Telephone Cooperative  
Parshall ND 58770

warrenlh@srttel.com  
Warren Hight  
Souris River Tele Coop  
PO Box 2027  
Minot ND 58702-2027

stevedl@srttel.com  
Steve Lysne  
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P O Box 789  
Minot ND 58702-0789

janehp@srttel.com  
Jane Petersen  
SRT Communications Inc  
P O Box 789  
Minot ND 58702-0789

jvonduyke@polarcomm.com  
Jeff Walker  
Preferred Carrier Services Inc  
14681 Midway Rd Ste 105  
Dallas TX 75244

protel@citilink.com  
Scott Lee  
Protel Advantage Inc  
1144 Larpenteur Ave W  
St Paul MN 55113-6317

ardondoran@rrt.net  
Ardon Doran  
Red River Rural Tele Assoc  
PO Box 136  
Abercrombie ND 58001

jdbtbb@ndak.net  
Jan Boschee  
Reservation Telephone Cooperative  
Parshall ND 58770

pam@tnics.com  
Pamela Harrington  
Roberts Cty Tele Coop Assoc  
New Effington SD 57255

suelh@srttel.com  
Sue Hamilton  
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Minot ND 58702-0789

christm@srttel.com  
Chris Morsefield  
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P O Box 789  
Minot ND 58702-0789

johnar@srttel.com  
John Reiser  
SRT Communications Inc  
P O Box 789  
Minot ND 58702-0789

kimrw@srttel.com  
Kim Weydahl  
SRT Communications Inc  
P O Box 789  
Minot ND 58702-0789

grndelec@iw.net  
Darrell Henderson  
Stateline Telecomm Inc  
PO Box 39  
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Bellevue WA 98006

**Helbling, Sharon D.**

**From:** Helbling, Sharon D.

**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2001 7:41 AM

**To:** ndna (E-mail)

**Subject:** Attached Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments

Good Morning Colleen,

Please have the attached Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments published as a legal publication in the next issue of the ten North Dakota daily newspapers, and run it as a "News Item Only" article as well.

Send the bill to the Public Service Commission along with a tear sheet for billing purposes.

If you have any questions, call me at 328-4076.

Thanks.

Sharon Helbling  
Public Utilities Division



1.doc

**APPROVED**

DATE: 2-21-01  
KME

**MOTION**

**February 21, 2001**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application**

**Case No. PU-2485-01-56**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/U. S. Link, Inc.  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application**

**Case No. PU-2486-01-57**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Midcontinent Communications  
Interconnection Agreement Amendment  
Application**

**Case No. PU-2483-01-58**

I move the Commission issue a Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments in the above captioned applications for approval of interconnection agreements and amendments.

JRL/sdh

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application**

**Case No. PU-2485-01-56**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/U.S. Link, Inc.  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application**

**Case No. PU-2486-01-57**

**Citizens Telecommunications Company of North  
Dakota/Midcontinent Communications  
Interconnection Agreement  
Application**

**Case No. PU-2483-01-58**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**February 21, 2001**

On February 5, 2001, in, Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota (Citizens) filed applications for approval of interconnection assumption agreements negotiated with Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. of Circle, Montana (Case No. PU-2485-01-56) and U. S. Link, Inc. of Pequot Lakes, Minnesota (Case No. PU-2486-01-57). These agreements set forth terms and conditions under which Citizens will assume the obligations of Qwest Corporation Communications under previously approved agreements.

Also on February 5, 2001, in Case No. PU-2483-01-58, Citizens filed an application for approval of an amendment negotiated to its assumption agreement with Midcontinent Communications of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This amendment sets forth terms and conditions for access to Citizen's operation support systems.

These agreements were filed under Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act). The Act requires that any agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration be submitted for approval to the Commission. Under section 252(e)(2)(A), the Commission may only reject an agreement (or portion thereof) adopted by negotiation if it finds that:

1. the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that was not a party to the agreement;
2. the implementation of the agreement (or portion thereof) is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

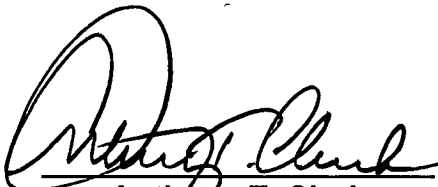
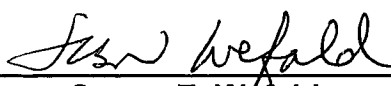

In addition, the Commission may include in its review state requirements that do not constitute barriers to entry under section 253. Section 252(e)(4) requires that the

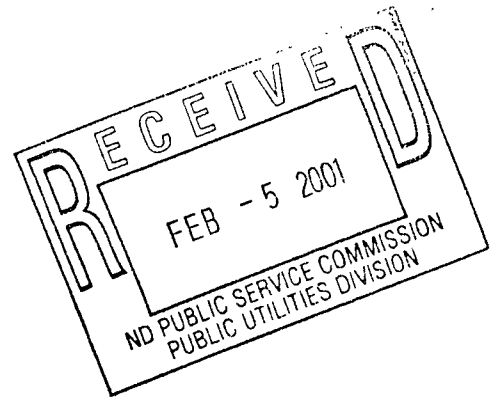
Commission must act to approve or reject an agreement adopted by negotiation within ninety (90) days after submission by the parties.

**The Commission will receive written comments on these agreements until March 26, 2001.**

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials please notify Jon Mielke, Executive Secretary.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

		
<b>Anthony T. Clark</b> Commissioner	<b>Susan E. Wefald</b> President	<b>Leo M. Reinbold</b> Commissioner



February 2, 2001

Mr. John Mielke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capital Building, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Resale Agreement for Telecommunications Services between Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota and Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Dear Mr. John Mielke:

Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota ("CTC-North Dakota") hereby submits for approval by the North Dakota Public Service Commission ("Commission") the enclosed "Agreement Modify and Assume Obligations Under an Interconnection Agreement" dated January 25, 2001 (the "Agreement"), which provides for Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., ("Mid-Rivers") to interconnect with CTC-North Dakota. This Agreement was reached through voluntary negotiations without resort to mediation or arbitration and is submitted for approval pursuant to Section 252 (e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act") and the requirements of North Dakota Century Code 49-21-01.7(8).

Section 252(e)(2) of the Act directs that a state Commission may reject an agreement reached through voluntary negotiations only if the commission finds that

- (1) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
- (2) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

CTC-North Dakota respectfully submits that the Agreement provides no basis for either of these findings and, thus, requests that the Commission approve the Agreement expeditiously. First, the Agreement does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier because CTC-North Dakota has made the terms of the Agreement available to other carriers. Second, the Agreement is consistent with the public interest as identified in the pro-competitive policies of the State of North Dakota, the Commission, the U.S. Congress and the Federal Communications Commission. The Agreement will enable Mid-Rivers to provide service to, and interconnect with, a greater number of telecommunications customers in North Dakota. Expeditious approval

of this Agreement will facilitate immediate competition in the local exchange telecommunications market.

CTC-North Dakota further requests that the Commission approve this Agreement without a hearing and without allowing the intervention of other parties. Because this Agreement was reached through voluntary negotiations, it does not raise issues requiring a hearing and does not concern other parties not a part of the negotiations. Expeditious approval would further the public interest.

Enclosed are an original and seven copies of this filing. Also included is a copy of this letter. Please return the copy of this letter, date-stamped in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 801-553-0240 (voice), 801-553-0905 (fax) or ltade@czn.com (e-mail).

Sincerely,



Lance A. Tade  
Manager – State Government Affairs  
Citizens Communications  
9672 South 700 East, Suite 101  
Sandy, UT 84070-3555

cc: Jenny Smith w/attachments  
Barbara Snider w/o attachments

**AGREEMENT TO MODIFY AND ASSUME OBLIGATIONS UNDER AN  
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This agreement to modify and assume obligations under an Interconnection Agreement is made by and among Citizens Telecommunications Company of North Dakota ("PURCHASER") and Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.. This agreement is made in reference to the following facts:

A. U S WEST Communications, Inc. n/k/a Qwest Corporation ("Qwest"), and PURCHASER, successor by assignment from Citizens Communications Company, f/k/a Citizens Utilities Company are parties to an Asset Purchase Agreement dated June 16, 1999, pursuant to which Purchaser has agreed to purchase certain assets and facilities of Qwest comprising 8 telephone exchanges and 16,764 access lines in the State of North Dakota (the "purchased exchanges").

B. PURCHASER and Qwest have filed a joint application with the North Dakota Public Services Commission ("PSC") seeking approval of the sale, transfer of the purchased exchanges from Qwest to PURCHASER. PURCHASER has filed for the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") from the PSC to be the provider of local exchange and exchange access service in the purchased exchanges. The Case Number is PU - 2173 - 99 - 520.

C. Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a competitive local exchange carrier ("CLEC") doing business in one of the purchased exchanges. Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. desires to continue, to the extent possible, to conduct business in the purchased exchanges under the terms of the Interconnection Agreement if and when PURCHASER takes over operations in the purchased exchanges.

D. PURCHASER wants to (i) minimize any impact upon Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. from the transfer of the purchased exchanges to PURCHASER and (ii) avoid, to the extent possible, any disruption in service to Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. or its customers.

E. With regard to the purchased exchanges, the parties hereto agree that it would be desirable for PURCHASER to assume Qwest's obligations under its existing Interconnection Agreement with Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for those exchanges, with certain modifications specified below. The parties recognize that there are certain of Qwest's obligations under the interconnection agreement that PURCHASER will not be able to perform because PURCHASER (i) did not acquire all of the assets and facilities that Qwest uses to fulfill its obligations under that agreement, and (ii) is a smaller entity than Qwest and will not be conducting business in all respects like Qwest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURCHASER AND MID RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Subject to the modifications set forth in Section 3, below, PURCHASER agrees to assume all of Qwest's rights, obligations, liabilities, duties and interests under the Interconnection Agreement in the purchased exchanges, effective upon the closing date as defined in the Asset Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement Closing Date").

2. Except as set forth in paragraph 3 below, Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. consents to PURCHASER'S assumption of Qwest's obligations in the purchased exchanges as described in paragraph 1, above.

3. PURCHASER and Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. each acknowledges and agrees that certain of PURCHASER's obligations and duties in the purchased exchanges under the Qwest/Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Interconnection Agreement are specifically modified as follows:

a. PURCHASER will not be obligated to provide Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative,

Inc. with electronic gateway access to PURCHASER's operation support systems, nor any electronic interface for performing pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, billing, repair, or any other operation support system function at closing. PURCHASER will provide the ability for Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to directly place service orders to PURCHASER's systems, such that orders "flow through" and re-keying by PURCHASER is not required, within twelve months after the closing. As part of this initiative, PURCHASER will provide the "front end" systems that will allow Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to place Local Service Requests (LSRs) to PURCHASER over the Internet within ninety (90) days of closing. PURCHASER will need to re-key such orders. PURCHASER commits that the interval for providing services will not be adversely affected due to the lack of a fully mechanized ordering system. Prior to rejecting any order from Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., PURCHASER will contact Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to discuss the reason for rejecting the order, and will accept verbal changes/corrections to the order. For a complex order, PURCHASER will assign a single person to coordinate implementation of the order.

b. PURCHASER will work with Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to develop mechanized billing feeds, including usage data, mechanized order completion notices and firm order confirmations to meet Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. needs. PURCHASER will make available to Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., within ninety (90) days of closing, a mechanized data file containing all required billing information, including customer usage information, on a customer-specific basis, such that Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is not required to manually enter the billing information in order to bill customers and validate the bill.

c. PURCHASER will supply a copy of the customer's service record to Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. upon receiving notice from Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. that it has a letter of authorization from a customer. The service record will be provided via facsimile, within eight normal business hours of notification.

d. PURCHASER will provide updated street address guide information to Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.. This information will be provided in a mechanized data file, on a quarterly basis.

e. PURCHASER will accept fax and telephone orders from Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for end user premises and central office dispatch orders. Service orders may be made between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on business days. All telephone orders will be followed up with an LSR within 12 business hours. Repair orders may be made seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day. The person answering the service order or repair call shall generally have the ability to schedule the service or repair during the call. In those instances where a facility check is required (e.g., service to a new location or second line) the Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will provide an LSR requesting the facility check along with the preferred premises visit date and time. Within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving the LSR, PURCHASER will, by facsimile (first ninety (90) ) days) and by e-mail thereafter, notify the Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. of the availability of the requested facility and whether the requested service date and time is available. If the requested date and time are not available, Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., with the customer on the line, may call PURCHASER to schedule the premises visit. The person answering the call on behalf of PURCHASER will have the ability to schedule the visit. Should the premises visit be rescheduled at this time, Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will submit a new LSR reflecting the new visit date. PURCHASER will perform facility checks and key orders into its ordering provisioning system with "scheduling parity".

f. PURCHASER will provide Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. with standard ordering and repair intervals so Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. can schedule end user

premises and dispatch requests with its customers in an efficient manner. The standard intervals are specified in PURCHASER's Local Interconnection Guide. Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. requests will be provided the same level of service as PURCHASER provides to its own customers.

g. PURCHASER will not provide unbundled Local Switching, unbundled Tandem Switching or unbundled Common Transport at closing. PURCHASER is working with other Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) in developing the "UNE-Platform" which rebundles Local Switching, Common Transport and, where appropriate, Tandem Switching. PURCHASER expects to provide the UNE-Platform within ninety (90) days of closing, and commits to provide these UNEs and the UNE-Platform as soon as possible after industry standards are published. PURCHASER will provide local tandem and transit functionality to CLECs for EAS routes served by its end offices.

h. PURCHASER will not be obligated to provide Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. with Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) Services on an unbundled basis except in those locations where PURCHASER will be acquiring that functionality from Qwest. PURCHASER does not have an AIN platform and is only acquiring that functionality from Qwest in a few locations. PURCHASER will implement the necessary triggers to ensure Local Number Portability (LNP) to Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. in purchased exchanges where bona fide requests for LNP are or have been provided.

i. PURCHASER will not be obligated to provide Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. with Operator Services or Directory Assistance on an unbundled basis. PURCHASER will be acquiring those services from a third party. PURCHASER will provide the same operator services and directory assistance capabilities to resold customers of Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. as PURCHASER provides to its own retail customers. PURCHASER could act as an intermediary for Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to obtain unbundled Operator Services and Directory Assistance but would prefer Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. obtain those services directly from a third party provider.

j. PURCHASER will not be obligated to provide Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. with SS7 Services on an unbundled basis. PURCHASER is not acquiring any Signal Transfer Points or Service Control Points/Databases from Qwest. PURCHASER will be acquiring the capabilities required to support the SS7 based services it provides to its end users from a third party. PURCHASER will provide the same SS7 services to resold customers of Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. that PURCHASER provides to its own retail customers. PURCHASER could act as an intermediary for Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to obtain unbundled SS7 Services but would prefer Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. obtain those services directly from a third party provider.


k. References to the U S WEST/Qwest Local Interconnection Guide will be replaced by references to the Citizens Local Interconnection Guide.

l. PURCHASER will not be obligated to use the specific Qwest operation support systems referenced in the Interconnection Agreement. Instead, after the Agreement Closing Date, PURCHASER will use its own operation support systems, which PURCHASER expects to have generally equivalent functionally, with the exception of the functions specified in preceding paragraph 3.a.

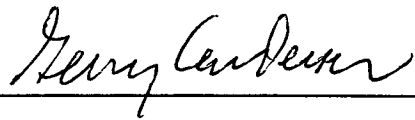
4. Until the Agreement Closing Date, (i) the Interconnection Agreement remains in full force and effect between Qwest and Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. in the purchased exchanges; (ii) PURCHASER shall not have any obligation or liabilities whatsoever to Qwest or Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. under the Interconnection Agreement; and (iii) Qwest

and Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. remain liable to each other for any act (or failure to act) occurring before the Agreement Closing Date that constitutes a breach of the Interconnection Agreement, even if any injury or damage for such breach does not occur or is not discovered until after the Agreement Date. With regard to the 8 exchanges being purchased by PURCHASER, Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. releases Qwest from the Agreement Closing Date forward of any and all of its rights, duties, obligations, liabilities and interests under the Interconnection Agreement relating to those exchanges, except that Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. does not release Qwest from liability for any act (or failure to act) occurring before the Agreement Closing Date that constitutes a breach of the Interconnection Agreement. While PURCHASER will be assuming Qwest's rights, duties, obligations, liabilities and interests under the Interconnection Agreement in the purchased exchanges, effective on the Agreement Closing Date, Qwest will retain the rights, duties, obligation, liabilities and interests under that Interconnection Agreement for any remaining exchanges within the scope of that agreement.

**Citizens Telecommunications Company  
of North Dakota**

Signature:   
Name (Printed): F. WAYNE LAFFERTY  
Title: VP REGULATORY & GOV'T AFFAIRS  
Date: 1/25/01

Mid Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Signature:   
Name (Printed): Gerry Anderson  
Title: General Manager  
Date: January 4, 2001

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:  
 Gerry Anderson  
 Mid Rivers Telephone Corp  
 PO Box 280  
 Circle Mt 59215

A. Received by (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_ B. Date of Delivery \_\_\_\_\_

C. Signature  
*[Signature]*  Agent  Addressee

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes  
 If YES, enter delivery address below:  No  
 This card was on the envelope sent to Robert Thompson Page no 58064 by mistake. Postmaster.

3. Service Type  
 Certified Mail  Express Mail  
 Registered  Return Receipt for Merchandise  
 Insured Mail  C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)  Yes

2. Article Number (Copy from service label)  
 7000 0520 0022 8655 3995

PS Form 3811, July 1999 Domestic Return Receipt 102595-99-M-1789

P4-2485-01-56; P4-2484-01-57; P4-2483-01-58

**SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION**

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:  
 Lance Jade  
 Citizens Communications  
 9672 S 700 East Ste 101  
 Sandy Ut 84070-3555

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY**

A. Received by (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_ B. Date of Delivery 3-7-01

C. Signature  
 X *[Signature]*  Agent  Addressee

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes  
 If YES, enter delivery address below:  No

3. Service Type  
 Certified Mail  Express Mail  
 Registered  Return Receipt for Merchandise  
 Insured Mail  C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)  Yes

2. Article Number (Copy from service label)  
 7000 0520 0022 8654 0643

PS Form 3811, July 1999 Domestic Return Receipt 102595-99-M-1789

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Received by (Please Print Clearly) \_\_\_\_\_ B. Date of Delivery MAY 21 2001

C. Signature  
 X *[Signature]*  Agent  Addressee

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes  
 If YES, enter delivery address below:  No

PS Form 3811, July 1999 Domestic Return Receipt 102595-99-M-1789

**SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION**

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:  
 Gerry Anderson  
 Mid Rivers Telephone Corp  
 PO Box 280  
 Circle Mt 59215

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY**

A. Received by (Please Print Clearly) Vonnie Wagner B. Date of Delivery 2/26/01

C. Signature  
 X *[Signature]*  Agent  Addressee

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes  
 If YES, enter delivery address below:  No

3. Service Type  
 Certified Mail  Express Mail  
 Registered  Return Receipt for Merchandise  
 Insured Mail  C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)  Yes

2. Article Number (Copy from service label)  
 7000 0520 0022 8654 0667

PS Form 3811, July 1999 Domestic Return Receipt 102595-99-M-1789

P4-2485-01-56

P4-2485-01-56 57-58

**SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION**

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:  
 Lance Jade  
 Citizens Communications  
 9672 S 700 East Ste 101