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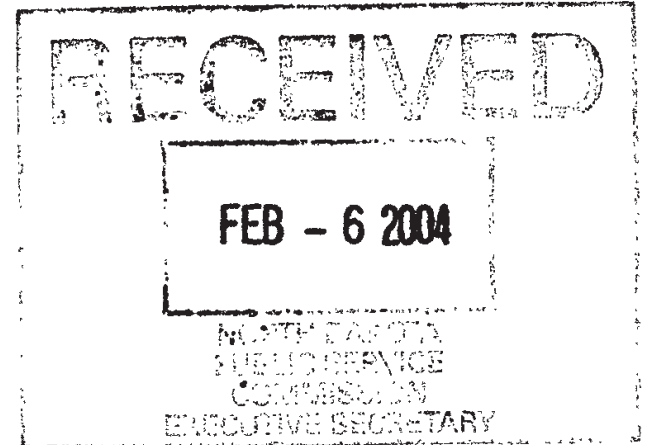
WRITER'S E-MAIL

mayotte@briggs.com

February 5, 2004

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Jon H. Mielke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol – 12th Floor
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



**Re: In the Matter of Northwest Dakota Cellular of North Dakota Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Case No. PU-1226-03-597**

Dear Mr. Mielke:

Enclosed herewith for filing in the above-captioned matter are the original and seven (7) copies of the following:

- (1) Joint Stipulation; and
- (2) Joint Stipulation Regarding Redefinition of Service Area Requirement.

As more fully described in the Stipulations, the Rural Telephone Companies have agreed to withdraw their objections in this proceeding and agree that Verizon Wireless may be designated as a federal eligible telecommunications carrier.

Accordingly, the formal evidentiary hearing scheduled for February 10, 2004, may be canceled. However, Verizon Wireless will appear for purposes of explaining the Stipulations and otherwise responding to any questions from the Commissioners or Staff.

If you should have any questions, please contact me.

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MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE ■ IDS CENTER
MEMBER — LEX MUNDI, A GLOBAL ASSOCIATION

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Pages: 2

Cover letter re filings

by Northwest Dakota Cellular of North Dakota Limited

02/06/2004

CC: Comm Legal Illona Pat ALJ

BRIGGS AND MORGAN

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Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Ayotte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark J. Ayotte

MJA/sjc
Enclosures

cc: Don Negaard (w/enclosures)
Thomas D. Kelsch (w/enclosures)
Verizon Wireless (w/enclosures)