

DONALD A. NEGAARD
JAMES E. NOSTDAHL
CAROL K. LARSON
DAVID J. HOGUE
REED A. SODERSTROM
BRENT M. OLSON
DEBRA L. HOFFARTH
SCOTT M. KNUDSVIG
RYAN D. SANDBERG
MATTHEW H. OLSON
OF COUNSEL
HERBERT L. MESCHKE


LAW OFFICES OF
PRINGLE & HERIGSTAD, P.C.

2525 ELK DRIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 1000
MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA 58702
(701) 852-0381
FAX (701) 857-1361
E-mail: pringle@srt.com

RETIRED
THOMAS A. WENTZ
MARK F. PURDY
JAN M. SEBBY

KENNETH G. PRINGLE
(1914-1983)
MITCHELL H. MAHONEY
(1929-1996)
ROGER O. HERIGSTAD
(1919-2003)

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2008

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 15, 2008

Illona A. Jeffcoat-Sacco, Executive Secretary
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**POLAR COMMUNICATIONS MUTUAL AID CORPORATION—APPLICATION FOR
EXPANSION OF ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATED
GEOGRAPHICAL SERVICE AREA**

Enclosed for filing are an original and seven copies of an Application of Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation for Expansion of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designated Geographical Service Area. An electronic version of this is also being forwarded to the Court.

Back in February 2008, we filed an Application for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity, which included a Certificate of Good Standing issued February 15, 2008, as well as Financial Statement as of December 31, 2006, and 2005, including Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet dated December 31, 2007, for Polar Communications. Since that information has not changed since February, we would ask that you please incorporate them for this filing. If this does not meet with the Commission's approval, would you please let us know and we will promptly re-file the same.


Don Negaard

jt

Enclosures

cc/enc: Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation, Attention Dave Dunning

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Application of Polar Communications
Mutual Aid Corporation for Expansion
of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Designated Geographical Service Area**

Case No. PU- 08-213

APPLICATION

I.

Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation, a North Dakota business corporation, (hereinafter "Polar") under Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter the "Commission"), is engaged in the business of providing local exchange telecommunications service, exchange access, and other telecommunications activities in the following North Dakota exchanges, which shall hereinafter be collectively referred to as the "Polar Service Area": Aneta, Arthur, Brocket, Cavalier, Crystal, Dahlen, Drayton, Edinburg, Fairdale, Galesburg, Hoople, Hunter, Inkster, Lankin, Michigan, Neche, Nekoma, Niagara, Park River, Petersburg, and St. Thomas.

II.

Polar Telecommunications, Inc., a subsidiary of Polar, (hereinafter "Subsidiary"), a North Dakota corporation, under a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by the Commission, is engaged in the business of providing local exchange telecommunications service, exchange access, and other telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Gilby (PC&N Nos. 814 and 1264), Lakota (PC&N No. 3471), Fordville (PC&N No. 3448), Edmore (PC&N No. 3437), Adams, (PC&N No. 3418), and Pembina (PC&N No. 4897). The Subsidiary has approximately 273 North Dakota access lines in the Gilby exchange, 623 in the Lakota exchange, 223 in the Fordville exchange, 257 in the Edmore exchange, 198 in the Adams exchange, and 614 in the Pembina exchange.

III.

Following a vote of the cooperative's membership to merge Polar and the Subsidiary and operate as a single company, the Subsidiary merged with and into Polar and distribution of the assets to Polar, which includes current assets and facilities relating to the provision of local exchange telecommunications service, exchange access, and other telecommunications services in the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina exchanges. As of the effective date of said transaction (January 1, 2005) (hereinafter, the

“Closing Date”), the Subsidiary ceased doing business as a provider of local exchange telecommunications service and exchange access in the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina exchanges. In addition, as of the Closing Date, Polar engaged in the business of providing local exchange telecommunications service, exchange access, and other telecommunications activities in the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina exchanges.

IV.

In Case No. PU-08-85, the Subsidiary advised the Commission it wished to relinquish its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Nos. 814 and 1264 for the Gilby exchange, No. 3471 for the Lakota exchange, No. 3448 for the Fordville exchange, No. 3437 for the Edmore exchange, No. 3418 for the Adams exchange, and No. 4897 for the Pembina exchange effective as of the Closing Date and to have Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity issued to Polar.

V.

Polar has been designated by the Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier to receive universal service support under §§ 214 and 254 of the Federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter the “1996 Act”). Polar’s eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designated geographical service area for the purpose of determining universal service obligations and support mechanisms under the 1996 Act is currently the Polar Service Area. Effective as of the Closing Date, Polar expanded its designated geographical service area for ETC purposes to include the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina exchanges, for purposes of determining universal service obligations and support mechanisms under the 1996 Act.

VI.

All subscribers served by the Subsidiary in the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina exchanges prior to the Closing Date will be served by Polar beginning on the Closing Date. Polar intends to charge the same rates for basic local service in the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina exchanges as the Subsidiary is currently charging its subscribers in said exchanges. Polar has previously, as part of its annual filings with this Commission, provided information required by section 69-09-05-12 of the Commission’s Rules and will do so in the future.

VII.

There is a clear need for continuing quality telecommunications services in the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina exchanges. The prior application for relinquishment of the Subsidiary’s Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity

had no effect on other public utilities providing similar services, as there are no other public utilities providing similar services in the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina, exchanges. Polar, having served the exchanges of Aneta, Arthur, Brocket, Cavalier, Crystal, Dahlen, Drayton, Edinburg, Fairdale, Galesburg, Hoople, Hunter, Inkster, Lankin, Michigan, Neche, Nekoma, Niagara, Park River, Petersburg, and St. Thomas and, through the Subsidiary, the exchanges of Gilby, Lakota, Fordville, Edmore, Adams, and Pembina for many years, has demonstrated that it has the technical, financial, and managerial fitness and ability to provide adequate essential and nonessential telecommunications services in the four exchanges. The technical fitness and ability of Polar to provide services in these exchanges will be enhanced and facilitated by Polar's purchase of the assets that the Subsidiary is currently using to provide such services in the Gilby, Adams, Edmore, Fordville, Lakota, and Pembina exchanges. The provision of adequate essential and nonessential telecommunications service in the Gilby, Lakota, Fordville, Edmore, Adams, and Pembina exchanges will be facilitated and supported by the full current technical and financial capabilities of Polar, and by the full current technical and financial capabilities of the Subsidiary's parent, Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation. While Polar believes it currently has ETC status for these exchanges, it wishes to further this by receiving an affirmative designation from this Commission in this petition.

VIII.

Beginning on the Closing Date, Polar has offered all services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms under § 254(c) of the 1996 Act and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.101 and 54.401, using a combination of its own facilities and resale of other carriers' services, and will advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefore using media of general distribution, throughout all of the following exchanges: Adams, Aneta, Arthur, Brocket, Cavalier, Crystal, Dahlen, Drayton, Edinburg, Edmore, Fairdale, Fordville, Galesburg, Gilby, Hoople, Hunter, Inkster, Lakota, Lankin, Michigan, Neche, Nekoma, Niagara, Park River, Pembina, Petersburg, and St. Thomas. Polar will and has met all the criteria necessitated by section 69-09-05-12 as evidenced with its filing in the fall of 2007 with the Commission.

IX.

The Commission has authority under N.D.C.C. § 49-21-01.7(7) and § 49-21-01.7(13) to designate geographic service areas for designated eligible telecommunications carriers for the purpose of determining universal service obligations and support mechanisms under the 1996 Act.

X.

WHEREFORE, the Subsidiary previously applied, in Case No. PU-08-85, to:
(1) contract its designated geographical service area to no longer include the Gilby,

For the State of North Dakota

My commission expires: 2-9-2012

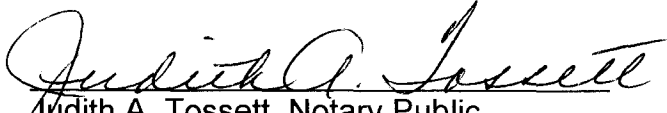
PRINGLE & HERIGSTAD, P.C.



By: Don Negaard, ND Bar ID #03598
Attorneys for Applicant, Polar
Communications Mutual Aid Corporation
2525 Elk Drive
P.O. Box 1000
Minot, ND 58702-1000
Telephone (701) 852-0381
Fax (701) 857-1361

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

On this 15 day of May, 2008 before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Don Negaard, known to me to be the person who is described in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.


Judith A. Tossett, Notary Public
For the State of North Dakota
My commission expires: 01-08-10

JUDITH A. TOSSETT
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires Jan. 8, 2010