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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 25, 2008

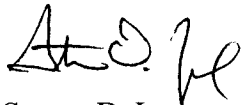
Pat Fahn  
ND Public Service Commission  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: USF Certification – Case Nos. PU-439-01-460 and PU-439-02-441

Dear Mr. Fahn,

Enclosed for filing in accordance with the Commission's Order of August 28, 2002, in the above referenced proceeding, is an Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification and Exhibit A certifying that all universal service support will only be used for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In making this filing, the undersigned company is at this time neither contesting nor conceding the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission to act in the proceeding.

Sincerely,



Steven D. Lysne  
CEO/General Manager

Enclosure

# **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

## **ESSENTIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, on behalf of the telecommunications company named below (the Company), does hereby state and certify, as follows:

1. The Company will provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Company's designated service area where the Company's network already passes the potential customer's premises, and

2. The Company will provide service, within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within the Company's designated service area but outside the Company's existing network coverage, if service can be provided at a reasonable cost by:

- a. Modifying or replacing the requesting customer's equipment;
- b. Deploying a roof-mounted antenna or other equipment;
- c. Adjusting the nearest cell tower;
- d. Adjusting network or customer facilities;
- e. Reselling services from another carrier's facilities to provide service;  
or
- f. Employing, leasing, or constructing an additional cell site, cell extender, repeater, or other similar equipment.

3. The Company is able to remain functional in emergency situations and has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

4. The Company is satisfying and will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards. (If wireless service is involved, the Company has and will comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for wireless service. If a wireless service complies with another standard, that is explained herein.)

5. If the Company is a non-incumbent local exchange carrier, it will offer a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier in the designated service area.

6. The Company acknowledges that the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the Commission) may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the proposed designated service area. (If wireless carriage is involved, the Company acknowledges that the Federal Communications Commission may require the Company to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the designated service area.)

7. The Company has met and will meet the requirements of eligible telecommunications carrier advertising. This includes:

- a. A full description of available services in the Company's official telephone directory, including the process to be used by customers to qualify for lifeline and link-up service.
- b. Advertising of the availability of universal service in media of general circulation in the Company's designated service area. Availability may be advertised in newspapers, company newsletters, company or civic internet sites, bill stuffers, direct mailings, or other means intended to convey availability throughout the designated service area.

#### **Exhibit A Information**

The following information is provided in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference:

1. A description of the amount of high-cost universal service support received by the Company in the prior calendar year and a description of how that support was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services. (An explanation of any changes from reports previously provided to the Commission is also included.)

2. An estimate of the amount of federal high-cost universal service support the Company anticipates receiving in the following calendar year (the calendar year following this report) and a description of how that support is projected to be used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

3. Exhibit A also contains, for the prior calendar year and the subsequent calendar year (the calendar year following this report), identification of specific construction or upgrade projects; a description of how service will be improved by each project; the start date and completion date for each improvement; the amount of investment for cash improvement; the specific geographic area where each improvement was made or will be made; and the estimated population that will be served by each improvement. (For an

incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), this information is submitted at the study area level. For another eligible carrier, this information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC. If a study area level or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is also submitted at the North Dakota level.)

4. Detailed information of any outage, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration for each designated service area for any facilities 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. § 4.5(e).

This report includes:

- a. The date and time of the 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 outage in the future, and
- f. The number of customers affected.

(If applicable, a copy of the FCC outage report that includes this information may be attached.)

5. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled during the past year. A detail of how the Company attempted to provide service to those potential customers is also included.

6. The number of complaints per thousand handsets or lines.

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct and is submitted on behalf of the Company named below. The information is submitted in the year 2008.

North Dakota Network Co.  
Company

By: ASDLP  
Its: CEO/General Manager

**EXHIBIT A**

**NORTH DAKOTA NETWORK CO.**

1. The amount of high-cost universal support North Dakota Network Co. received in the prior calendar year and estimate of the amount of high-cost universal support North Dakota Network Co. anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar year following the date of this report) are listed below:

**Year 2007 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 221,988
Local Switching Support	\$ 286,371
Interstate Common Line Support	\$ 743,209
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 136,905
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,388,473</b>

**Estimated Year 2009 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 228,000
Local Switching Support	\$ 300,000
Interstate Common Line Support	\$ 684,000
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 132,000
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,344,000</b>

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

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- a. **Prior Year's Support (2007).** The ways this support from the prior calendar year was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of North Dakota Network Co.'s facilities and services are, as follows:

	Actual 2007
<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$ 0
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 5,553
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 626,560
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 79,137
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$ 138,686
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$3,512,835
<b>Customer Operations Expenses</b>	
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	\$ 348,841
<b>Corporate Operations Expenses</b>	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 1,121
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 75,789
<b>Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>	<b>\$4,788,522</b>
<b>Additions</b>	
Switching (Acct 2210)	\$3,432,174
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	\$ 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,432,174</b>
<b>Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment</b>	<b>\$8,220,696</b>

North Dakota Network Co.'s 2007 specific construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

(All information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC.)

(If a study area or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is provided at the North Dakota level.)

Construction or Upgrade Project Name	Start Date	Completion Date	Amount of Investment	Geographic Area of Improvement	Estimated Population Served by Improvement	Description of How Service Will Be Improved
PCS Buildouts (3)	Jan 07	Aug 07	\$ 530,947	SRT Communications, Inc. Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater coverage in BTA 299. Fills gap(s) in coverage area.
PCS Repeater Replacements (5)	Mar 07	July 07	\$ 127,352	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Enhanced service offerings to all PCS subscribers
IXRTT Data Services	Jan 07	Sept 07	\$ 332,224	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Offer wireless internet to subscribers – enhanced service offering
Prepaid Wireless Services	Jan 07	Apr 07	\$ 4,170	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Additional Offering to Subscribers
Generators (2)	Jan 07	Dec 07	\$ 121,640	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Service reliability for all PCS subscribers
PCS Buildouts (4)	Jan 07	Dec 07	\$ 1,389,022	North Dakota Telephone Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater coverage in BTA 299, expands local calling scopes, and fills gap(s) in coverage area.
PCS Buildout (1)	Jan 07	Dec 07	\$ 151,610	West River Telecom Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater coverage in BTA 299, expands local calling scopes, and fills gap(s) in coverage area.



- b. **Following Year's Support (2009).** The ways North Dakota Network Co. anticipates it will use the following calendar year's support for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of North Dakota Network Co.'s facilities and services are, as follows:

	Estimated 2009
<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$ 0
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 6,000
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 658,000
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 83,000
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$ 146,000
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$3,688,000
<b>Customer Operations Expenses</b>	
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	\$ 366,000
<b>Corporate Operations Expenses</b>	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 1,000
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 80,000
<b>Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>	<b>\$5,028,000</b>
<b>Additions</b>	
Switching (Acct 2210)	\$4,050,000
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	\$ 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,050,000</b>
<b>Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment</b>	<b>\$9,078,000</b>





