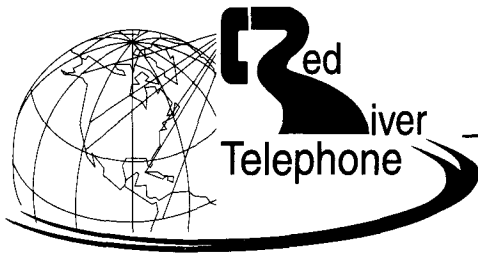


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JUL 24 2008

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



510 Broadway • P.O. Box 136  
Abercrombie, ND 58001

July 23, 2008

North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Annual ETC Certification

Red River Rural Telephone Association hereby submits the enclosed Annual Report for Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification to the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

This submission is pursuant to sections 69-09-05-12 and 69-09-05-12.1 of the North Dakota Administrative Code and section 49-21-01.7(12) of the North Dakota Century Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey J. Olson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeffrey J. Olson  
General Manager

Enclosure

cc: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission

1 PU-08-623 Filed: 7/24/2008 Pages: 8  
2008 High Cost Universal Service Support Annual  
Report and Exhibit A

Red River Rural Telephone Association

**"Your Total Communications Company ~ Connecting You To The World"**

Phone 701-553-8309 • Fax 701-553-8396

# **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.)

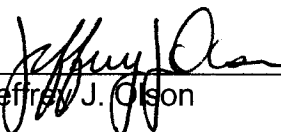
5. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled during the past year. A detail of how the Company attempted to provide service to those potential customers is also included.

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.

Red River Rural Telephone Association

By:

  
Jeffrey J. Olson

Its: General Manager

## EXHIBIT A

1. The amount of high-cost universal support the Company received in the prior calendar year and an estimate of the amount of high-cost universal support it 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	\$ 485,769
Local Switching Support	\$ 264,313
ICLS	\$ 427,033
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 25,417
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u>0</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,202,532

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

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 483,840
Local Switching Support	\$ 211,680
ICLS	\$ 441,504
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 30,200
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u>0</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,167,224

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

None

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

	<u>Actual</u> 2007
<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$ 937
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 74,368
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 181,607
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 525,936
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$ 246,615
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$ 1,473,232
<b>Customer Operations Expenses</b>	
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	\$ 315,917
<b>Corporate Operations Expenses</b>	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 227,227
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 345,738
<b>Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>	<u>\$ 3,391,577</u>
<b>Additions</b>	
Switching (Acct 2210)	\$ 968,914
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	<u>\$ 4,540,838</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 5,509,752</u>
<b>Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment</b>	<u>\$ 8,901,329</u>

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
1. Additional FTTH in the southern part of Colfax Exchange	2008	2009	\$50,000	Colfax Exchange	25	Provide greater bandwidth and improve quality of service by upgrading cable facilities
2. Fiber cable upgrade from COs to meet point of exchanges	2008	2008	\$100,000	Hankinson and Fairmount Exchanges	1600	Provide greater bandwidth and redundant connectivity by increasing fiber backbone
3. Additional FTTH for new addition in Colfax Exchange	2008	2008	\$30,000	Colfax Exchange	30	Provide greater bandwidth and offer more services by upgrading cable facilities
4. New FTTH DLC site in eastern part of the Hankinson Exchange	2008	2008	\$100,000	Hankinson Exchange	100	Provide greater bandwidth and offer more services
5. Additional FTTH in the southeastern part of Abercrombie Exchange	2008	2009	\$50,000	Abercrombie Exchange	70	Provide greater bandwidth and improve quality of service by upgrading cable facilities

b. **Following Year's Support (the calendar year following the date of this report).**

The ways the Company anticipates it will use the following calendar year's support for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services are, as follows:

	<u>Estimated</u> 2009
<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$ 1,000
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 86,000
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 249,000
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 583,000
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$ 279,000
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$ 1,670,000
<b>Customer Operations Expenses</b>	
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	\$ 372,000
<b>Corporate Operations Expenses</b>	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 251,000
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 374,000
<b>Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>	<u>\$ 3,865,000</u>
<b>Additions</b>	
Switching (Acct 2210)	\$ 400,000
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	\$ 300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 700,000</b>
<b>Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment</b>	<b>\$ 4,565,000</b>

2. **Outages.** Detailed information of any outages, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 45, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration of each designated service area for any facility which 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. § 45(e).

Date and Time of Onset	Brief Description of Outage and Resolution of Outage	Particular Services Affected	Geographic Area Affected By Outage	Steps Taken to Prevent Similar Outages in the Future	Number of Customers Affected
3/3/2007 8:04 am	Qwest fiber failure. Qwest replaced a piece and re-spliced. Outage did not meet criteria for 900,000 user minutes but did affect 911 for all of our North Dakota customers.	E911	Richland County	Re-routed 2 of the 4 trunks to Richland County PSAP to 702 Communications fiber ring for redundancy.	100%, approx.

3. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled in the past year was \_\_\_\_0\_\_\_\_.

The ways in which the Company attempted to provide services to these potential customers are, as follows:

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4. The number of complaints per one thousand handsets or lines was \_less than one\_\_\_\_.