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July 30, 2010

RECEIVED

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DARRELL NITSCHKE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY & DIRECTOR
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
600 EAST BOULEVARD, DEPT 408
BISMARCK ND 58505-0480

RE: Notice of Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Designations of Western Wireless Corporation and WWC Holding Co., Inc.

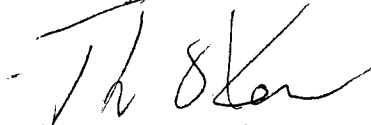
Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed for filing is an original and seven copies of the Notice of Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Designations of Western Wireless Corporation and WWC Holding Co., Inc.

For your convenience, an electronic copy, in both Word format and PDF, has also been sent to dnitschk@nd.gov.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Thomas D. Kelsch

TDK:mr

Encs

c: Western Wireless Corporation



1 PU-10-510 Filed: 7/30/2010 Pages: 6
Notice of Relinquishment of ETC Designation

WWC Holding Co., Inc.

Thomas Kelsch-Kelsch, Kelsch, Ruff & Kranda

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Re: In the matter of the Notice of Relinquishment of the Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Designations of Western Wireless Corporation and WWC Holding Co., Inc. Case No. _____

**NOTICE OF RELINQUISHMENT OF
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION OF
WESTERN WIRELESS CORPORATION AND WWC HOLDING CO., INC.**

Western Wireless LLC, successor to Western Wireless Corporation by merger, and WWC Holding Co., Inc., now both subsidiaries of and doing business as Verizon Wireless, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.205 and for their Notice of Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Designation state the following:

1. The Commission approved the ETC designations of Western Wireless Corporation and WWC Holding Co., Inc. (collectively referred to herein as “Western Wireless”) by an order dated December 15, 1999 in Case No. PU-1564-98-428, modified by Order on Remand dated as of October 3, 2001, and an order dated February 12, 2004 in Case No. PU-2077-03-636, respectively (the “Designation Orders”). . Western Wireless, a commercial mobile radio service provider, was designated as an ETC pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(2).

2. Western Wireless was designated as an ETC in those areas identified in the Designation Orders (the “Designated Area”). The Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) assigned study area code number 389001 to the Designated Area.

3. In 2005, Western Wireless was acquired by and became a subsidiary of Alltel Corporation. On January 9, 2009, Alltel Corporation and its subsidiaries, including Western Wireless, were acquired by and became subsidiaries of Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Verizon Wireless”). Western Wireless is, therefore, now a subsidiary of Verizon Wireless. In the approval of the Verizon Wireless acquisition of Alltel Corporation and its subsidiaries, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) required Verizon Wireless to divest (sell) all the customers, network serving those customers and certain other assets of Western Wireless in the Designated Area. On June 22, 2010, Verizon Wireless transferred to AT&T Mobility LLC (“AT&T Wireless”) the Western Wireless customers, network serving those customers and certain other assets in the Divested Area. The ETC Designation was not transferred to AT&T Wireless. Western Wireless which has no customers in the Designated Area is now relinquishing the ETC designation with respect to the Designated Area.

4. As provided in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, specifically 47 U.S.C. §214 (e)(4), approval of a competitive ETC’s designation is mandatory as follows:

A State commission...shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its ... designation ...shall give advance notice to the State commission...of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting ... an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service..., the state commission...shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier[s] ...to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served,, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. ...

[Emphasis supplied.] FCC rules contain almost identical provisions. See 47 C.F.R. §54.205.

5. In accordance with the above referenced statute and rules, Western Wireless is to be granted relinquishment if it meets the following:

- (1) The area is served by more than one ETC;
- (2) It provides advance notice to the state commission;
- (3) All WWC customers will continue to be served; and
- (4) Sufficient notice is provided to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by remaining ETCs to serve those customers.

6. The first requirement is satisfied because the Designated Area is served by other ETCs, including [see Attachment A].

7. The second requirement is satisfied because this application provides advance notice to the state Commission .

8. The third requirement is not relevant because Western Wireless has no customers in the Designated Area as it was required by the FCC to divest those customers and network and therefore no customers will be affected by the relinquishment.

9. Finally, with respect to item 4, again because Western Wireless has no customers in the Designated Area, notice to the remaining eligible telecommunications carriers is unnecessary as they will be unaffected by the relinquishment and no ETC will need to purchase or construct facilities due to the relinquishment. Other than the filing of this notice, therefore, no further action is required of Western Wireless and the Commission prior to the relinquishment being approved.

10. Following the transfer of its customers and network to AT&T Wireless, Verizon Wireless informed USAC that it was no longer eligible as of June 22, 2010 to receive ETC funds as to those customers transferred to AT&T Wireless. Upon approval of this relinquishment, Verizon Wireless will inform USAC that the relinquishment has

been completed. As a result of this relinquishment , Western Wireless does not intend to file an annual certification nor other compliance filings with this Commission.

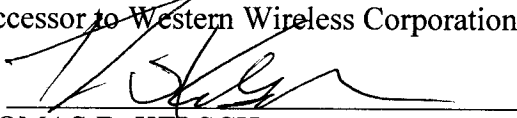
11. Please address any questions with respect to this notice to the undersigned.

Wherefore, Western Wireless, having provided notice in compliance with law and having fulfilled the requirements of law, requests that an order be entered acknowledging that it properly relinquished and is relieved of its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier with respect to those areas identified in the Designation Orders effective as of the divestiture date of June 22nd.

Respectfully submitted,

WWC Holding Co., Inc. and
Western Wireless LLC
(successor to Western Wireless Corporation)

Dated: July 30, 2010

By: 
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ATTACHMENT A

BEK Communications Cooperative
Consolidated Telcom
Dakota Central Telcom I, Inc.
Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative
Dickey Rural Access, Inc.
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
Dickey Rural Communications, Inc.
Griggs County Telephone Company
Moore and Liberty Telephone Company
Halstad Telephone Company
HTC Services, Inc.
Inter-Community Telephone Company, LLC
Midstate Communications, Inc.
Midstate Telephone Company
Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.
Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Sagebrush Cellular, Inc.
North Dakota Telephone Company
Northwest Communications Cooperative
Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation
Polar Telcom, Inc.
Wolverton Telephone Company
Reservation Telephone Cooperative
Turtle Mountain Communications
United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation
West River Telecommunications Cooperative