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July 26, 2010

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Darrell Nitschke  
ND Public Service Commission  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

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

Dear Mr. Nitschke,

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. D. Lysne', written in a cursive style.

Steven D. Lysne  
CEO/General Manager

Enclosure

1 **PU-10-542** Filed: 7/27/2010 Pages: 14  
**Annual Report**

SRT Communications, Inc.

## **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**

(Reference to Exhibit A in this document is not intended to waive any rights this company has to claim that Exhibit A contains confidential and proprietary 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 2010.

SRT Communications, Inc.  
Company

By: ADP  
Its: CEO / General Manager

**PUBLIC**

**EXHIBIT A**

**SRT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

1. The amount of high-cost universal support the SRT Communications, Inc. received in the prior calendar year and the estimate of the amount of high-cost universal support SRT Communications, Inc. anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar year following the date of this report) are listed below:

**Year 2009 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 455,905
Local Switching Support	\$ 622,788
Interstate Common Line Support	\$ 2,251,734
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 1,119,244
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,449,671</b>

The changes, if any, from reports previously filed with the Commission are, as follows (changes that are deemed proprietary are included on a non-public Exhibit A):

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**SRT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

2. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled in the past year was: **None**.

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

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3. The number of complaints per one thousand handsets or lines was: **Less than 1%**

**PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**EXHIBIT A**

**SRT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

1. The amount of high-cost universal support the SRT Communications, Inc. received in the prior calendar year and the estimate of the amount of high-cost universal support SRT Communications, Inc. anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar year following the date of this report) are listed below:

**Year 2009 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

This information is separately provided on "Public Exhibit A."

**Estimated Year 2011 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 480,000
Local Switching Support	\$ 456,000
Interstate Common Line Support	\$ 1,800,000
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 1,080,000
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,816,000</b>

The changes, if any, are claimed to be "Trade Secret – Private" from reports previously filed with the Commission are, as follows:

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**SRT Communications, Inc.**

- a. **Prior Year's Support (2009).** The ways this support from the prior calendar year was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of SRT Communications, Inc.'s facilities and services are, as follows:

	<u>Actual</u> 2009
<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$ 28,143
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 1,174,922
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 937,322
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 1,253,251
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$ 1,955,024
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$ 4,395,573
<b>Customer Operations Expenses</b>	
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	\$ 1,135,090
<b>Corporate Operations Expenses</b>	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 715,725
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 2,172,897
<b>Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>	<u>\$13,767,947</u>
<b>Additions</b>	
Switching (Acct 2210)	\$ 2,621,611
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	\$ 9,303,664
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$11,925,275</u>
<b>Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment</b>	<u>\$25,693,222</u>

**SRT Communications, Inc.**

2009 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
Routine Customer Growth (C&W)	Jan 09	Dec 09	\$ 6,423,694	SRT Study Area	75,000	Maintains equipment, expansion for customer growth, needed for enhanced services
Fiber to the Premise (C&W)	Jan 09	Dec 09	\$ 1,634,246	SRT Study Area	75,000	Enhanced technology for advanced services
Information Technology Division (ITD) Fiber Buildout – Schools (C&W)	Jan 09	Dec 09	\$ 367,206	SRT Study Area	75,000	Enhanced technology for advanced services
Switch Upgrades (SW)	Jan 09	Dec 09	\$2,621,611	SRT Study Area	75,000	IP Centrex upgrade, FTTP electronics, Power Boards & Batteries
Qwest Meet Point Fiber Build Out(C&W)	Jan 09	Dec 09	\$ 878,518	SRT Study Area	75,000	Using our own fiber instead of leasing from other LEC's. Cost effective for SRT.



**SRT Communications, Inc.**

b. **Following Year's Support (2011).** The ways SRT Communications, Inc. anticipates it will use the following calendar year's support for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of SRT Communications, Inc.'s facilities and services are, as follows:

	Estimated 2011
<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$ 30,000
General support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 1,200,000
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 1,000,000
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 1,300,000
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$ 2,100,000
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$ 4,600,000
<b>Customer Operations Expenses</b>	\$ 1,200,000
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	
<b>Corporate Operations Expenses</b>	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 700,000
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 2,300,000
<b>Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>	<u>\$14,430,000</u>
<b>Additions</b>	
Switching (Acct 2210)	\$ 2,000,000
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	\$ 9,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 11,000,000</u>
<b>Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment</b>	<u>\$25,430,000</u>

**SRT Communications, Inc.**

2011 estimated 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.)

nstruction 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
Routine Customer Growth (C&W)	Jan 11	Dec 11	\$3,000,000	SRT Study Area	75,000	Maintains CO equipment, expansion for customer growth, needed for enhanced services
Fiber to the Premise (C&W)	Jan 11	Dec 11	\$6,000,000	SRT Study Area	75,000	Enhanced technology for advanced services
Optical Transport (SW)	Jan 11	Dec 11	\$1,500,000	SRT Study Area	75,000	Greater bandwidth
Switch Upgrades (SW)	Jan 11	Dec 11	\$ 500,000	SRT Study Area	75,000	
Total Projected 2011			\$11,000,000			

**SRT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

2. **Outages.** Detailed information of any outages, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration of each designated service area for any facility which SRT Communications, Inc. 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
05/13/2009 12:48pm	Excel Power line near SRT's Burlington Remote Central Office came down due to lightning causing fire in PED and smoke damage to C.O.	E911	Burlington, ND	Made Excel aware of the issue and suggested that lines should have a fuse or breaker for protection	635