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July 27, 2012

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

**ETC FILINGS**

We hereby submit the enclosed Annual Report for Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the Commission) on behalf of the telecommunications companies shown on Attachment A, which are Essential Telecommunications Carriers.

This submission is submitted 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.

The Exhibit A information for each company is being separately filed as a "Trade Secret" filing in accordance with PSC Administrative Rules.

Very truly yours,

David J. Hogue

DJH/klb

Enclosures

**ATTACHMENT A**

BEK Communications Cooperative  
Consolidated Telcom  
Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative and Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc.  
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative  
Griggs County Telephone Company  
Moore and Liberty Telephone Company  
Halstad Telephone Company  
Inter-Community Telephone Company, LLC  
Midstate Communications, Inc.  
Midstate Telephone Company  
Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. - ND/Missouri Valley Communications, Inc.,  
Sagebrush Cellular, Inc.  
North Dakota Telephone Company  
Northwest Communications Cooperative  
Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation – 381630  
Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation – 381614  
Polar Telcom, Inc.  
Wolverton Telephone Company  
Reservation Telephone Cooperative  
United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation/Turtle Mountain Communications, Inc.  
West River Telecommunications Cooperative

## **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 2012.

West River Telecommunications Cooperative  
Company

Bonnie Krause

By: Bonnie Krause  
Its: CEO/GM

**PUBLIC**

**EXHIBIT A**

This Exhibit A is supplemented by a non-public Exhibit A labeled "Trade Secret – Private." The Company does not waive any rights to Trade Secret Protection by referencing this "Trade Secret – Private" information in this form.

1. The amount of high-cost universal support the Company received in the prior calendar year and 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 2011 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 711,276
Local Switching Support	\$ 382,140
Interstate Common Line Support	\$ 2,004,600
Safety Net Additive Support	\$
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ <u>0</u>
TOTAL	\$ 3,098,016

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):

In the Switching Category, the calendar year 2011 actual is approximately \$426,000 more than projected in 2010. The generator upgrades and additions were \$38,000 more with changes in the central offices chosen for back-up power needs. An alarm system upgrade in various exchanges and a new set of batteries in the Flasher Central Office were added at \$54,000. The fire suppression system upgrade estimated at \$30,000 was delayed at Hazen until 2012. The Turtle Lake and Underwood subscriber carrier electronics addition estimated at \$70,000 was delayed and replaced with a Flasher, Carson and New Leipzig subscriber upgrade at \$52,000. Primarily the additional capital investments

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were in wireless and miscellaneous subscriber electronics for additions, upgrades and growth network wide at \$381,000 more than projected.

Actual Cable and Wire Investment in 2011 is approximately \$644,000 more than projected in 2010. The actual amount for new customers and existing customer upgrades were higher by around \$236,000. The investment in cable and wire to cell tower sites was \$124,000 higher than estimated due to added sites. Two subscriber additional SAI projects were added in Flasher and Carson amounting to \$104,000. The rural upgrade projects in Beulah and Center exchanges were expanded and came in at a higher cost than estimated for a difference of \$349,000. The rural cable projects projected for Turtle Lake and Underwood estimated at \$50,000 were delayed in 2011 and brought forth to 2012 as part of a bigger project. The Ft. Yates, Solen, and Selfridge \$120,000 fiber cable alternate route project was not completed in 2011, but will be completed in 2012.

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