

MEMO TO THE FILE

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Exchange Boundary Maps
Public Convenience & Necessity

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On November 6, 2012, the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) released a Report and Order that established requirements for the collection of study area boundary data from incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) or state entities on their behalf. [see *Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, Report and Order, 27 FCC Rcd 13528 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012) (Order). The Order was published in the *Federal Register* on January 28, 2013, with an effective date for the rules of February 27, 2013. See 78 FR 5750].

The FCC required that each ILEC submit data on the boundary(ies) of the area(s) it serves in a state (study area boundary), unless a state commission voluntarily submits these data for the ILECs in its state.³

In early April, a group effort including the North Dakota Public Service Commission, the ND Information Technology Division (ITD), ITD's consultant, and the ILECs was started to collect, not just study area boundary data, but also exchange area boundary data. Approximately mid-April, the NDPSC notified the FCC that it would be submitting the collection of study area boundary data on behalf of the North Dakota ILECs. The process of data collection revealed that the exchange boundary maps currently on file at the Commission are out of date.

On May 24, 2013, maps for all telephone exchanges with boundaries in North Dakota were filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission. The new maps accurately place customers served in the appropriate telephone exchange boundary.

At its May 29, 2013 Special Meeting, the Commission acknowledged the filing of the exchange maps and ordered that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity be issued to each incumbent local exchange company for each telephone exchange in which the respective company provides telecommunications services.

The study area and exchange area boundary data was filed with the FCC on May 31, 2013.