

JAMES E. NOSTDAHL  
CAROL K. LARSON  
DAVID J. HOGUE  
REED A. SODERSTROM  
BRENT M. OLSON  
DEBRA L. HOFFARTH  
SCOTT M. KNUDSVIG  
RYAN D. SANDBERG  
MATTHEW H. OLSON  
STEVEN A. LAUTT

ATTORNEYS LICENSED IN  
NORTH DAKOTA  
MINNESOTA  
MONTANA



LAW OFFICES OF  
**PRINGLE & HERIGSTAD, P.C.**

2525 ELK DRIVE  
POST OFFICE BOX 1000  
MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA 58702-1000  
(701) 852-0381  
FAX (701) 857-1361  
E-mail: pringle@srt.com

GRAND FORKS OFFICE  
202 NORTH 3RD STREET, SUITE 200  
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58203  
(701) 775-9000

OF COUNSEL  
HERBERT L. MESCHKE  
DONALD A. NEGAARD  
RETIRED  
THOMAS A. WENTZ  
JAN M. SEBBY

KENNETH G. PRINGLE  
(1914-1983)  
MITCHELL H. MAHONEY  
(1929-1996)  
ROGER O. HERIGSTAD  
(1919-2003)  
MARK F. PURDY  
(1927-2011)

July 1, 2013

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



**RE: 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 company shown on Attachment A, which is an Essential Telecommunications Carrier.

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.

An electronic version of this form will also be provided to you. The Exhibit A information for the company is being separately filed as a "Trade Secret" filing in accordance with PSC Administrative Rules.

Very truly yours,

David J. Hogue

DJH/rps

Enclosures

**ATTACHMENT A**

Consolidated Telcom

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

### ESSENTIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, on behalf of the telecommunications company named below (Consolidated Telcom), does hereby state and certify, as follows:

1. Consolidated Telcom will provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within Consolidated Telcom's designated service area where Consolidated Telcom's network already passes the potential customer's premises, and

2. Consolidated Telcom will provide service, within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within Consolidated Telcom's designated service area but outside Consolidated Telcom'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. Consolidated Telcom 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. Consolidated Telcom is satisfying and will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards. (If wireless service is involved, Consolidated Telcom 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 Consolidated Telcom 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. Consolidated Telcom 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, Consolidated Telcom acknowledges that the Federal Communications Commission may require Consolidated Telcom 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. Consolidated Telcom has met and will meet the requirements of eligible telecommunications carrier advertising. This includes:

- a. A full description of available services in Consolidated Telcom'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 Consolidated Telcom'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 Consolidated Telcom in the prior calendar year and a description of how that support was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of Consolidated Telcom'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 Consolidated Telcom 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 Consolidated Telcom'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 Consolidated Telcom 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.

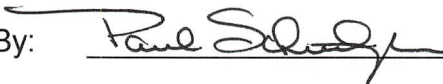
(If applicable, a copy of the FCC outage report that includes this information may be attached.)

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 Consolidated Telcom 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 Consolidated Telcom named below. The information is submitted in the year 2013.

Consolidated Telcom  
Company

By: 

Its: GM/CEO