

**RC FAMILY OF COMPANIES**

205 MAIN ST • PO Box 197 • NEW EFFINGTON, SD 57255-0197  
605-637-5211 • 800-256-6854 • FAX: 605-637-5302

July 12, 2013

VIA EMAIL ([NDPSC@ND.GOV](mailto:NDPSC@ND.GOV))  
AND REGULAR UNITED STATES MAIL




Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Director  
Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

RE: Annual Report Required by N.D. Admin. Code §§69-09-05-12 and 69-09-05-12.1

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed for filing is the 2013 High-Cost Universal Service Support Annual Report on behalf of Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association and RC Communications, Inc. (together, the "Company"). The Company consists of one study area (SAC 391674). Also enclosed is the Company's Application for Confidential Treatment of the Annual Report. Each company is also providing an affidavit certifying that all universal service support will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In making this filing, the Company is at this time neither contesting nor conceding the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission to act in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Scott Bostrom  
General Manager

## 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 2013.

Roberts County Telephone Coop Assn.  
Company

By:   
Its: General Manager

**AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION  
REGARDING CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL  
UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA    )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF ROBERTS        )

Scott Bostrom, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association (hereinafter, the "Company") in the position of General Manager.
2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.
3. Affiant is personally familiar with all the Support received by the Company and with how the Company uses all the Support that it receives.
4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001, in Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2002, in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2014 and for all quarters thereafter.
5. The Company hereby certifies that it will only use the Support that the Company receives during the four quarters of 2014 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company will use the Support to support the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network; (b) local usage; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service;

(h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

DATED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013.

ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

By: *Scott Bostrom*  
General Manager

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF ROBERTS                            )

On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared SCOTT BOSTROM, known to me to be the CEO/General Manager of ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, the cooperative association that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such cooperative association executed the same.

*Robin E Thoreson*  
Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**My Commission Expires Oct. 27, 2016**

