

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Roberts County Telephone Cooperative  
Association of New Effington, South Dakota  
Local Exchange  
Public Convenience & Necessity**

**Case No. PU-14-682**

**Roberts County Telephone Cooperative  
Association of New Effington, South Dakota  
Designated Eligible Carrier  
Application**

**Case No. PU-14-683**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSOLIDATED HEARING**

**August 20, 2014**

On August 13, 2014, Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association of New Effington, South Dakota (Roberts County) filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide facilities-based incumbent local exchange telecommunication services in the North Veblen exchange in North Dakota, Case No. PU-14-682. The North Veblen exchange is currently served by RC Communications, Inc. and Roberts County reports that, effective 11:59 p.m., December 31, 2014, RC Communications, Inc. will merge into Roberts County.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-14-682 are:

1. Fitness and ability of the applicant to provide service.
2. Adequacy of the proposed service.
3. Technical, financial and managerial ability of the applicant to provide service.

Also on August 13, 2014, Roberts County filed an Application for Expansion of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Designated Geographical Service Area to include the North Veblen exchange in North Dakota, Case No. PU-14-683.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-14-683 are:

1. Qualification of the applicant under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Section 214(e) for designation as an ETC eligible to receive federal universal service funding.
2. The ETC universal service support area to be designated.
3. Whether it is in the public interest to designate Roberts County as an ETC in the designated universal service support area.

4. Whether, upon designation of Roberts County as an ETC for the North Veblen exchange, RC Communications, Inc.'s designation as an ETC for the North Veblen exchange should be relinquished.

Believing that there will be no prejudice to the rights of the parties or the public interest, and finding the cases involve similar questions of law and fact, the Commission has consolidated the two cases effective August 20, 2014 under North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-02-04-04.

Those interested are invited to comment on the applications in writing. Persons desiring a hearing must file a written request identifying their interest in the proceedings and the reasons for requesting a hearing. Comments and requests for hearings must be received by **September 23, 2014**. If deemed appropriate, the Commission can determine the matters without a hearing.

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials please notify the Commission.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
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