

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

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED AND REGULAR MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Shelly A. Bauske deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **21st** day of **August, 2014**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **one** envelope with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

Notice of Opportunity for Consolidated Hearing

The envelope was addressed as follows:

Dennis J. Fogland, Attorney for
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association
Baird Holm LLP
1700 Farnam St Ste 1500
Omaha NE 68102-2068

Cert. No. 7013 2250 0001 0313 8594

Shelly A. Bauske further deposes and says that on the **21st** day of **August, 2014**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, one envelope by regular mail, with postage fully prepaid, securely sealed, each containing a photocopy of the same.

The envelope was addressed as follows:

Scott Bostrom, General Manager
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association
PO Box 197
New Effington SD 57255

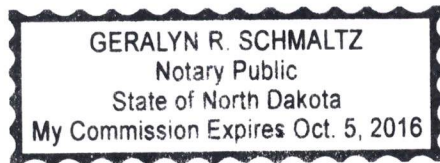
The address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

Shelly A Bausk

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 21st day of **August, 2014**.

Gerald R Schmalz
Notary Public

SEAL



**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



Randy Christmann
Commissioner



Brian P. Kalk
Chairman



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner