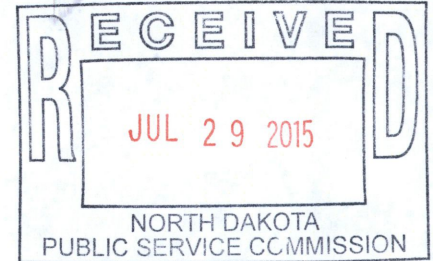


Via Federal Express and E-Filing

July 29, 2015



Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Director of Administration/Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

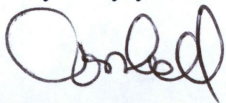
Re: In the Matter of the Annual Report to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for
Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification for Halstad Telephone Company
Case No. PU-15-574

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed please find one copy of the Annual Report to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification, Public Exhibits, Affidavit Regarding Certification of Use of Federal Universal Service Support, and Request to Protect Trade Secret Information on behalf of Halstad Telephone Company. A copy of each of these documents has also been provided by email to ndpsc@nd.gov. In a separate sealed envelope, marked "Trade Secret - Private," is Halstad Telephone Company's Trade Secret Exhibit A.

Please contact me if further information is required.

Very truly yours,



Tom Campbell
Regulatory Consultant
651-621-8511
tcampbell@otcpas.com

Enclosures

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**Affidavit regarding certification of use of Federal
Universal Service Support**

Halstad Telephone Company

**AFFIDAVIT OF HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
REGARDING
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT**

State of Minnesota)
) ss.
County of Norman)

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

1. Affiant is employed by Halstad Telephone Company (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of 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 of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.

4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001, in WC Docket Number 10-90 (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 was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year 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 Orders of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001, in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28, 2002, in Case No. PU439-02-441. 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 all federal high-cost support provided to Halstad Telephone Company was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only 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 for the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101, throughout the Company's

study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; (b) minutes of use for local service at no additional charge; (c) access to emergency services; and (d) toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers.

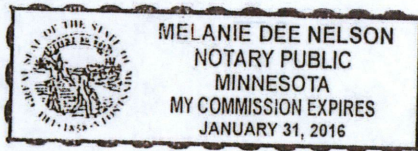
Dated this 24th day of July, 2015.

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY

By *Tom Maroney*
Tom Maroney
Its: Manager

State of Minnesota)
) ss.
County of Norman)

On this 24 day of July, 2015, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared TOM MARONEY, known to me to be the Manager of HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY, the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.



Melanie Dee Nelson
Melanie Dee Nelson, Notary Public
For the State of Minnesota
My commission expires: Jan 31, 2016