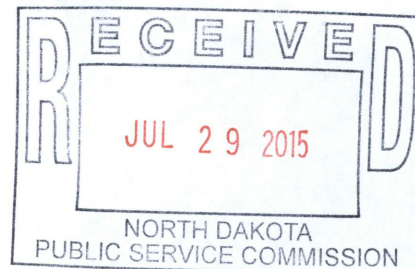


***Via Federal Express and E-Filing***

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 Absaraka Cooperative 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 Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company. A copy of each of these documents has also been provided by email to [ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov). In a separate sealed envelope, marked "Trade Secret - Private," is Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company's Trade Secret Exhibit A.

Please contact me if further information is required.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Campbell".

**Tom Campbell**  
Regulatory Consultant  
651-621-8511  
[tcampbell@otcpas.com](mailto:tcampbell@otcpas.com)

Enclosures

**18** **PU-15-574** Filed: 7/29/2015 Pages: 3  
**Affidavit regarding certification of use of Federal Universal Service Support**

Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company, Inc.

**BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-15-574  
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WC DOCKET NO. 10-90**

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

State of North Dakota     )  
  ) ss.  
County of Cass             )

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

1. Affiant is employed by ABSARAKA COOPERATIVE 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 ABSARAKA COOPERATIVE 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.

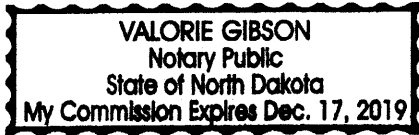
Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.

**ABSARAKA COOPERATIVE  
TELEPHONE COMPANY**

By Ann Faught  
Ann Faught  
Its: Manager

State of North Dakota     )  
  ) ss.  
County of Cass             )

On this 27 day of July, 2015, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared ANN FAUGHT, known to me to be the Manager of ABSARAKA COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY, the corporation that s described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.



Valorie Gibson, Notary Public  
For the State of North Dakota  
My commission expires: Dec 17, 2019