

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Midstate Communications / North Dakota Tel. Co.
Local Exchange
Public Convenience & Necessity**

Case No. PU-15-615

**Midstate Communications / North Dakota Tel. Co.
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application**

Case No. PU-15-616

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSOLIDATED HEARING

August 12, 2015

On July 31, 2015, North Dakota Telephone Company (NDTC) and Midstate Communications Inc. (Midstate) filed a joint application requesting authorization for NDTC to provide local exchange telecommunications services in the area currently known as the York telephone exchange in North Dakota, which is currently served by Midstate, Case No. PU-15-615.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-15-615 are:

1. Fitness and ability of the NDTC to provide local exchange telecommunications services.
2. Adequacy of NDTC's proposed telecommunications services.
3. Technical, financial and managerial ability of NDTC to provide telecommunications services.
4. Whether, upon granting a certificate of public convenience and necessity to NDTC to provide local exchange telecommunications services in the area currently known as the York telephone exchange, Midstate's certificate of public convenience and necessity should be relinquished.

Also on July 31, 2015, NDTC and Midstate filed a joint application requesting that NDTC be designated as an essential telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the York local exchange area, Case No. PU-15-616.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-15-616 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 NDTC as an ETC in the York local exchange area for purposes of receiving universal service support.
4. Whether, upon designation of NDTC as an ETC for the York exchange, Midstate's designation as an ETC for the York 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 12, 2015 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 25, 2015**. 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 |  _____ Julie Fedorchak Chairman |  _____ Brian P. Kalk Commissioner |
|---|---|--|