

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Midcontinent Communications
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application**

Case No. PU-16-48

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

February 10, 2016

On January 25, 2016, Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent), a competitive local exchange company, filed an application to expand its eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) service area by adding 32 exchanges within North Dakota. Midcontinent proposes to provide the nine supported wireline telecommunication services established by the Federal Communications Commission in the expanded area comparable to the services being provided by the incumbent local exchange carrier. Subscribers would be able to access additional advanced services at competitive prices. Midcontinent is a South Dakota business partnership with offices located in North Dakota.

The issues to be considered in this matter are:

1. Is the applicant qualified under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Section 214(e) for designation as an ETC eligible to receive federal universal service funding in the additional exchange areas?
2. What additional ETC universal service support area should be designated?
3. Is designation of the additional area to the applicant in the public interest?

Those interested are invited to comment on the application in writing. Persons desiring a hearing must file a written request identifying their interest in the proceeding and the reasons for requesting a hearing. Comments and requests for hearings must be received by **March 25, 2016**. If deemed appropriate, the Commission can determine the matter without a formal 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.

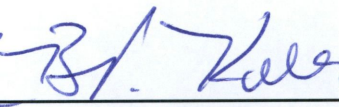
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**Randy Christmann
Commissioner**



**Julie Fedorchak
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**Brian P. Kalk
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