

CenturyLink
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Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
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Kent Blickensderfer
State Legislative Affairs Director



June 22, 2016

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, 12th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: CenturyLink 2016 Federal ETC filing

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On November 18, 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) released its *USF/ICC Transformation Order* in WC Docket No. 10-90, et al. With that Order, the FCC began a transition to a national framework for certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) and set forth a standard set of information that all ETCs must file with the FCC by July 1st of each year. The Order also required ETCs to provide the same information to the respective state commissions.

The annual ETC reporting requirements are contained in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 of the FCC’s rules. The FCC has developed a reporting template, Form 481, to be utilized by ETCs to report the data and certifications required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 and 54.422.

ETCs that accepted the Connect American Fund Phase II (“CAF II”) state-level commitment are required to report certain CAF II related information by July 1, 2016. Because the CAF II milestones are tracked at a total state level, for states where CenturyLink has multiple Study Areas, all CAF II related reporting will be found only on the Form 481 of the Study Area Code designated by USAC.

Enclosed is Form 481 for Qwest Corporation-North Dakota, as filed by CenturyLink with the FCC. The following information is confidential, and CenturyLink requests that this information be treated as not public:

1. The outage information in response to § 54.313(a)(2).
2. The detailed broadband speed availability information at the exchange level provided in response to § 54.313(a)(7).
3. CAF Phase II capital expenditure information in response to § 54.313(e)(1).

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Consistent with past years, we request that you certify to the FCC pursuant to 47 C.F.R § 54.314 by October 1, 2016 in order for CenturyLink to continue receiving Federal high cost support in South Dakota.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Blickensderfer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kent" and last name "Blickensderfer" clearly distinguishable.

Kent Blickensderfer
State Legislative Affairs Director

KB/bardm

Enclosures

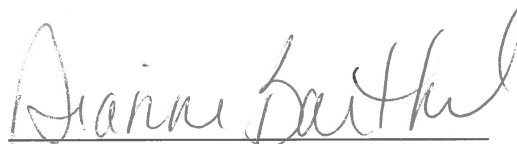
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 22nd day of June, 2016, the original and seven copies of the foregoing letter, 2016 Federal ETC Filing and Application Requesting Trade Secret Protection were served upon the following party:

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, 12th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

and copies sent electronically, addressed to the following:

Kent P. Blickensderfer
State Legislative Affairs Director
CenturyLink
220 North 5th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501



Dianne Barthel