

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Inter-Community Tel. / Absaraka Cooperative  
Local Exchange  
Public Convenience and Necessity**

**Case No. PU-19-224**

**Inter-Community Tel. / Absaraka Cooperative  
Designated Eligibly Carrier  
Application**

**Case No. PU-19-230**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSOLIDATED HEARING**

**July 25, 2019**

On July 1, 2019, Inter-Community Telephone Company, LLC (Inter-Community) and Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company, Inc. (Absaraka Cooperative) filed a joint application requesting authorization for Inter-Community to provide local exchange telecommunications services in the area currently known as the Absaraka telephone exchange in North Dakota, which is currently served by Absaraka, Case No. PU-19-224.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-19-224 are:

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

Also on July 1, 2019, Inter-Community and Absaraka Cooperative filed a joint application requesting that Inter-Community be designated as an essential telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the Absaraka local exchange area, Case No. PU-19-230.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-19-230 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.

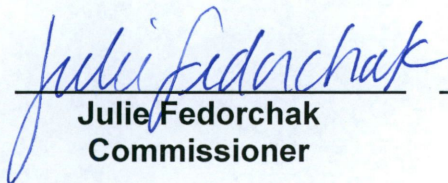
3. Whether it is in the public interest to designate Inter-Community as an ETC in the Absaraka local exchange area for purposes of receiving universal service support.
4. Whether, upon designation of Inter-Community as an ETC for the Absaraka exchange, Absaraka Cooperative's designation as an ETC for the Absaraka exchange should be relinquished.

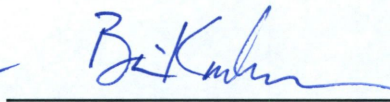
Believing that there will be no prejudice to the rights of the parties or the public interest, and finding the cases involve similar questions of law and fact, the Commission has consolidated the two cases effective July 25, 2019 under North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-02-04-04.

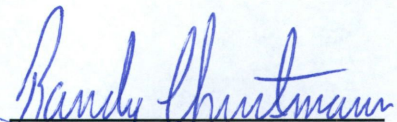
Those interested are invited to comment on the application in writing. Persons desiring a hearing must file a written request identifying their interest in the proceeding and the reasons for requesting a hearing. **Comments and requests for hearings must be received by September 4, 2019.** If deemed appropriate, the Commission can determine the matter 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 at least 24 hours in advance.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
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