

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Polar Telcom, Inc.
Designated Eligible Carrier Expansion
Application

Case No. PU-21-51

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Geralyn R. Schmaltz deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **15th day of April 2021**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **two** envelopes with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

- **Order on Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation**

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

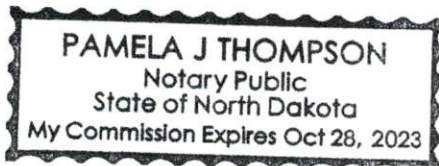
Karl Blake
Executive Vice President
Polar Telcom, Inc.
PO Box 270
Park River, ND 58270-0270
Cert. No. 7020 1290 0001 6150 3809

Mary T. Buley
Senior Telecommunications Consultant
Olsen & Thielen, Ltd
2675 Long Lake Road
Roseville, MN 55112
Cert. No. 7020 1290 0001 6150 3816

The addresses shown are the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office addresses.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **15th day of April 2021**.

SEAL



Geralyn R. Schmaltz

Pamela J. Thompson

Notary Public

1970
MAY 10 1970
MAY 10 1970
MAY 10 1970
MAY 10 1970
MAY 10 1970

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Polar Telcom, Inc.
Designated Eligible Carrier Expansion
Application

Case No. PU-21-51

ORDER ON ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER DESIGNATION

April 14, 2021

Preliminary Statement

On January 28, 2021, Polar Telcom, Inc. (Polar) filed, as a non-incumbent local exchange carrier, an application for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for the purpose of receiving Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I funding in Federal Communications Commission (FCC) specified census blocks in North Dakota.

On February 17, 2021, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (Notice) providing until March 29, 2021, for comments and requests for hearing. No comments or requests for hearing were received.

The Notice identified the following issues to be considered in this matter:

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?
2. What ETC universal service support area should be designated?
3. Is designation of the applicant as an ETC in the public interest?

Discussion

Polar is a North Dakota corporation with a principal office located at 110 4th St E, Park River, ND 58270.

Polar is in good standing with the North Dakota Secretary of State, is registered as a competitive local exchange carrier with the Commission and has provided a copy of its corporate papers with its application.

Polar is a common carrier.

9 **PU-21-51** Filed: 4/14/2021 Pages: 10
Order on Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Designation

A telecommunications carrier is eligible to receive federal universal service support if the company meets the requirements established under 47 USC § 214(e)(1) and defined in 47 CFR, Part 54. These requirements are: (1) company must provide each of the supported telecommunication services listed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); (2) company must offer and advertise the availability of, and charges for, such services throughout the supported areas; (3) company must certify that it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support it receives; (4) submit a five-year plan that describes with specificity proposed improvements or upgrades to the applicant's network throughout the supported areas, and (5) demonstrate that it will satisfy consumer protection and service quality standards.

To receive RDOF Phase I funding, Polar must offer commercially at least one voice and one broadband service at speeds of at least 1 gigabit per second with a latency at or below 100 milliseconds. Polar must offer these services to 40% of the assigned locations in North Dakota by the end of the third year of support, and an additional 20% by the end of each of the fourth and fifth years of support. By the end of year six, revised location totals will be announced. If there are fewer locations than originally estimated by the cost model, Polar must serve the revised number of locations by the end of the sixth year of support. If there are more locations than originally estimated by the cost model, Polar must serve the original number of locations estimated by the cost-model by the end of the sixth year of support and must serve the remaining locations by the end of the eighth year of support.

Both federal law and state law give the Commission the authority to designate a common carrier as an ETC.

Polar will offer the services and functionalities detailed in 47 CFR Part 54 in the RDOF Phase I areas. Polar proposes to provide the service required for RDOF funding using a fiber-optic based network.

Polar is qualified for designation as an ETC eligible to receive federal universal service support under 47 CFR Part 54.

The FCC has specified the geographic areas, RDOF Phase I areas, that will receive funding and Polar was awarded RDOF Phase I support for the areas listed in Exhibits A and B and depicted in Exhibit C of its January 28, 2021 application.

Under North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-09-05-12, the Commission shall determine that the designation of Polar as an ETC is in the public interest. In doing so, the Commission shall consider the benefit of increased consumer choice and the unique advantages and disadvantages of the applicant's service offering. It is significant that subscribers in these RDOF Phase I areas will have access to high speed broadband. The provision of adequate essential and nonessential telecommunications service in these exchanges will be facilitated and supported by the full current technical and financial

capabilities of Polar. It is in the public interest that Polar be designated as an ETC in the RDOF Phase I areas as requested.

Having allowed all interested persons an opportunity to be heard and having reviewed and considered all evidence presented, the Commission makes the following:

Order

The Commission orders Polar Telcom, Inc. request to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purpose of receiving Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I funding in the areas listed in Exhibits A and B and depicted in Exhibit C of Polar's January 28, 2021 application, attached to and made part of this Order, is APPROVED.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

		
Randy Christmann Commissioner	Julie Fedorchak Chair	Brian Kroshus Commissioner

EXHIBIT A RDOF AWARDED CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS

380350114001
380350114002
380350117001
380350117002
380350117003
380350117004
380350118001
380350120001
380350120002
380919687001
380979701003
380979703001
380999578001
380999578002
380999579002
380999580001
380999580002
380999581001
380999581003

EXHIBIT B RDOF FUNDED CENSUS BLOCKS IDs

380350114001003
380350114001007
380350114002009
380350114002011
380350114002019
380350114002042
380350114002045
380350114002056
380350114002090
380350114002096
380350114002099
380350114002106
380350114002148
380350114002165
380350114002166
380350114002175
380350114002177
380350114002180
380350114002182
380350114002192
380350114002194
380350114002196
380350114002197
380350114002210
380350114002213
380350114002216
380350114002250
380350114002256
380350114002261
380350114002262
380350114002328
380350114002345
380350117001044
380350117001045
380350117001054
380350117001060
380350117001069
380350117001102
380350117001110
380350117001170
380350117001171

380350117001194
380350117001216
380350117001218
380350117002013
380350117002014
380350117002069
380350117002127
380350117002133
380350117002137
380350117002140
380350117003034
380350117003038
380350117003040
380350117003080
380350117003083
380350117003107
380350117003114
380350117003117
380350117003118
380350117003124
380350117003125
380350117003134
380350117003135
380350117003139
380350117003144
380350117003147
380350117003149
380350117003150
380350117003157
380350117003167
380350117003168
380350117003181
380350117003183
380350117003185
380350117003219
380350117003227
380350117003238
380350117003250
380350117003251
380350117003252
380350117003253
380350117004009
380350117004046

380350117004062
380350117004071
380350117004072
380350117004075
380350117004079
380350117004130
380350117004154
380350118001186
380350118001246
380350120001138
380350120001159
380350120001243
380350120002205
380350120002344
380350120002389
380919687001011
380919687001012
380919687001022
380919687001023
380979701003000
380979701003002
380979701003003
380979701003012
380979701003013
380979701003109
380979701003130
380979703001001
380979703001009
380979703001011
380979703001025
380979703001030
380979703001038
380979703001048
380979703001053
380979703001063
380979703001066
380979703001068
380979703001109
380979703001117
380979703001118
380979703001120
380979703001122
380979703001150

380979703001151
380979703001154
380999578001355
380999578001356
380999578001361
380999578001362
380999578001364
380999578001376
380999578002033
380999578002034
380999578002106
380999578002109
380999578002110
380999578002114
380999578002119
380999578002120
380999578002122
380999578002125
380999578002126
380999578002127
380999578002159
380999578002177
380999578002180
380999578002237
380999578002240
380999578002246
380999578002250
380999578002255
380999578002264
380999578002271
380999578002273
380999578002284
380999578002315
380999578002324
380999578002336
380999578002344
380999579002006
380999579002028
380999579002031
380999580001022
380999580002034
380999581001155
380999581001183

380999581001235
380999581001239
380999581003130
380999581003145
380999581003184
380999581003186
380999581003190
380999581003197
380999581003208
380999581003237
380999581003253

