

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northwest Communications / Midstate Telephone Company Case No. PU-22-408
Portal Exchange
Public Convenience and Necessity

Northwest Communications / Midstate Telephone Company Case No. PU-22-409
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSOLIDATED HEARING

December 14, 2022

On November 15, 2022, Northwest Communications Cooperative, Inc. (NCC) and Midstate Telephone Company, LLC (Midstate) filed a joint application requesting authorization for NCC to provide local exchange telecommunications services in the area currently known as the Portal exchange, in North Dakota, which is currently served by Midstate, Case No. PU-22-408.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-22-408 are:

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

Also on November 15, 2022, NCC and Midstate filed a joint application requesting that NCC be designated as an essential telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the Portal local exchange area, Case No. PU-22-409.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-22-409 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 NCC as an ETC in the Portal local exchange area for purposes of receiving universal service support?
4. Whether, upon designation of NCC as an ETC for the Portal exchange, Midstate's designation as an ETC for the Portal exchange should be relinquished?

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 January 27, 2023.** 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

		
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