

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Griggs County Telephone Co.  
Leonard and Kindred Exchanges  
Public Convenience & Necessity**

**Case No. PU-24-386**

**Griggs County Telephone Co.  
Designated Eligible Carrier  
Application**

**Case No. PU-24-387**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSOLIDATED HEARING**

On December 23, 2024, Griggs County Telephone Co. (Griggs) filed an application requesting authorization to provide local exchange telecommunications services as the incumbent local exchange carrier in the areas currently known as the Leonard exchange and the Kindred exchange in North Dakota. The Leonard and Kindred exchanges are currently served by CenturyLink Communications, LLC (CenturyLink).

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-24-386 are:

1. Fitness and ability of Griggs to provide local exchange telecommunications services.
2. Adequacy of Griggs's proposed telecommunications services.
3. Technical, financial and managerial ability of Griggs to provide telecommunications services.
4. Whether, upon granting a certificate of public convenience and necessity to Griggs to provide local exchange telecommunication services in the areas currently known as the Leonard and Kindred exchanges, CenturyLink's certificates of public convenience and necessity should be relinquished or transferred to competitive local exchange service?

Also on December 23, 2024, Griggs filed an application requesting that Griggs be designated as an essential telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the Leonard and Kindred exchange areas, Case No. PU-24-387.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-24-387 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 Griggs as an ETC in the Leonard and Kindred local exchange areas for the purposes of receiving universal service support?
4. Whether, upon designation of Griggs as an ETC for the Leonard and Kindred exchanges, CenturyLink's designation as an ETC for the Leonard and Kindred exchanges should be relinquished or transferred to competitive local exchange service?

On January 8, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Consolidated Hearing that provided until February 21, 2025, for comments or requests for hearing.

Commission staff notified CenturyLink via correspondence on December 30, 2024, of Grigg's applications along with a copy of the applications. CenturyLink acknowledged the correspondence on January 7, 2025. Commission staff provided a copy of the Notice to CenturyLink via correspondence on January 22, 2025.

On January 22, 2025, the Commission discussed the applications with Griggs during an informal hearing.

As the Commission considers the applications, it is noteworthy that CenturyLink (The current incumbent local exchange carrier) neither filed comments nor requested a hearing. Out of an abundance of caution, the Commission finds it in the public interest to permit CenturyLink a final opportunity to request a hearing. If no request for hearing is received within ten (10) days of receipt of this notice, the Commission may issue its findings with no further proceedings.

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.

**Issued: March 5, 2025**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**



**Steve Kahl**  
**Executive Secretary**