

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

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Shelly A. Bauske deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **5th day of March 2025**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **one** envelope with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

- **Notice of Opportunity for Consolidated Hearing**

The envelope was addressed as follows:

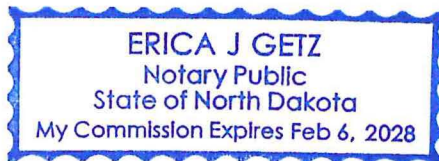
CenturyLink Communications LLC
C/O C T Corporation System
120 W Sweet Ave
Bismarck ND 58504
Cert. No. 9589 0710 5270 0129 6595 99

Each address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **5th day of March 2025**.

Shelly A Bauske

SEAL



Erica J Getz
Notary Public

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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