

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

**Red River Rural Telephone Association  
Wahpeton Exchange  
Public Convenience & Necessity**

**Case No. PU-25-185**

**Red River Rural Telephone Association  
Designated Eligible Carrier  
Application**

**Case No. PU-25-190**

**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 **5th day of June 2025**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **three** envelopes with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

- **Notice of Opportunity for Consolidated Hearing**

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

Benjamin Dickens, Jr.  
Salvatore Taillefer, Jr.  
Blooston, Mordkofsky, Dickens & Predergast, LLP  
2120 L Street, NW, Suite 825  
Washington, DC 20037  
**Cert. No. 9589 0710 5270 2139 5697 21**

Thomas Steinolfson  
CEO  
Red River Rural Telephone Association  
7925 180 Ave SE  
Wahpeton, ND 58075  
**Cert. No. 9589 0710 5270 2139 5697 38**

Lumen  
C T Corporation System  
Registered Agent for Lumen  
120 W Sweet Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
**Cert. No. 9589 0710 5270 2139 5697 45**

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

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



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geraldyn Schmag", written over a horizontal line.



SEAL



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erica J Getz", written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the words "Notary Public" are printed.

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**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSOLIDATED HEARING**

On May 12, 2025, Red River Rural Telephone Association (Red River) filed an application requesting authorization to provide local exchange telecommunications services as the incumbent local exchange carrier in the area currently known as the Wahpeton exchange in North Dakota. The Wahpeton exchange is currently served by CenturyLink Communications, LLC (CenturyLink).

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-25-185 are:

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

Also on May 12, 2025, Red River filed an application requesting that Red River be designated as an essential telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the Wahpeton exchange area, Case No. PU-25-190.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-25-190 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 the designated.

3. Whether it is in the public interest to designate Red River as an ETC in the Wahpeton local exchange area for the purposes of receiving universal service support?
4. Whether, upon designation of Red River as an ETC for the Wahpeton exchange, CenturyLink's designation as an ETC for the Wahpeton exchange should be relinquished or transferred to competitive local exchange service?

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 July 18, 2025.** 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.

**Issued: June 4, 2025**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
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Sheri Haugen-Hoffart  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Christmann  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Kringstad  
Commissioner