

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Qwest Corporation
Designated Eligible Carrier – Partial Relinquish
Application**

Case No. PU-25-233

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT

On August 1, 2025, Qwest Corporation (Qwest) filed an application with the Commission under 47 U.S.C. section 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. section 54.205, requesting relinquishment of its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the area currently known as the Leonard Exchange. Qwest was designated as ETC for the purpose of receiving federal universal service support in North Dakota by the Commission on December 17, 1997, under the name of U S West Communications, Inc., which was subsequently merged with Qwest.

Under 47 U.S.C. section 214(e)(4) and 47 C.F.R. section 54.205, the Commission shall permit a carrier to relinquish its ETC designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the state commission shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier or carriers to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The state commission shall establish a time, not to exceed one year after the state commission approves such relinquishment under this section, within which such purchase or construction shall be completed. Qwest indicates it has 17 voice subscribers in the area it intends to relinquish in North Dakota.

The Commission will receive written comments in this proceeding until close of business on October 10, 2025.

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: August 7, 2025

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner**



**Randy Christmann
Chair**



**Jill Kringstad
Commissioner**