

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEK Communications Cooperative
Valley City Exchange
Public Convenience & Necessity

Case No. PU-25-285

BEK Communications Cooperative
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Case No. PU-25-286

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 **20th day of November 2025**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **two** 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 H. Dickens, JR.
Salvatore Taillerfer, JR.
Counsel to BEK Communications Coop.
Blooston, Mordkosfsky, Dickens & Prendergast, LLP
2120 L Street, NW, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20037
Cert. No. 9589 0710 5270 1777 9872 01

Derrick Bulawa
CEO
BEK Communications Cooperative
923 E Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503
Cert. No. 9589 0710 5270 1777 9872 18

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **20th day of November 2025**.



Erica J. Getz
Notary Public

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Affidavit of Service by Certified Mail - Notice of Opportunity for Consolidated Hearing
Public Service Commission

6 PU-25-286 Filed 11/20/2025 Pages: 3
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SEAL

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NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSOLIDATED HEARING

On November 4, 2025, BEK Communications Cooperative (BEK) filed an application requesting authorization to provide local exchange telecommunications services as the incumbent local exchange carrier in the area currently known as the Valley City exchange in North Dakota. The Valley City exchange is currently served by CenturyLink Communications, LLC (CenturyLink).

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-25-285 are:

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

Also on November 4, 2025, BEK filed an application requesting that BEK be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the Valley City exchange area, Case No. PU-25-286.

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-25-286 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 BEK as an ETC in the Valley City local exchange area for the purposes of receiving universal service support.
4. Whether, upon designation of BEK as an ETC for the Valley City exchange, CenturyLink's designation as an ETC for the Valley City 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 January 2, 2026.** 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: November 19, 2025
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Sheri Haugen-Hoffart Randy Christmann Jill Kringstad
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart Randy Christmann Jill Kringstad
Commissioner Chair Commissioner