



August 24, 2026

Mr. Steve Kahl, Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: USF Certification Case Nos. PU-439-01-460 & PU-439-02-441

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Enclosed for filing in accordance with the Commission's Order of August 28, 2002, in the above reference proceedings, is an affidavit certifying that all federal high-cost support provided to Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc. was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In making this filing, the undersigned company is at this time neither contesting nor conceding the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission to act in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Holly Utke
General Manager/CEO
Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc.

38 PU-26-15 Filed 08/26/2026 Pages: 3
Affidavit Regarding Certification of Use of
Federal Universal Service Support

Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc.
Holly Utke, General Manager/CEO

604 18th Street SW | Jamestown, ND 58401 | 952.1000

630 5th Street N | Carrington, ND 58421 | 652.3184

dakotacentral.com

BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-02-441
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WC DOCKET NO. 10-90
AND WC DOCKET NO. 14-58

AFFIDAVIT OF DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOM I, INC.
REGARDING
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

State of North Dakota)
) ss.
County of Foster)

Holly Utke, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc. (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of Chief Executive Officer.

2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

3. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.

4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001, in WC Docket Number 10-90 and WC Docket Number 14-58 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Orders of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001, in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28, 2002, in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2026 and all quarters thereafter.

5. The Company hereby certifies that all federal high-cost support provided to Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc. was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company will use the Support for the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; (b)

minutes of use for local service at no additional charge; (c) access to emergency services; and (d) toll limitation services to qualifying low-income consumers.

Dated this 24 day of August, 2026.

DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOM I, INC.

By Holly Utke
Holly Utke
Its: Chief Executive Officer

State of North Dakota)
) ss.
County of Foster)

On this 24 day of August, 2026, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared HOLLY UTKE, known to me to be the Chief Executive Officers of DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOM I, Inc., the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

Barbara Eli
Notary Public
For the State of North Dakota

