

PUBLIC VERSION
CONFIDENTIAL / TRADE SECRET VERSION FILED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ASSURANCE WIRELESS USA, L.P.
2026 ETC ANNUAL REPORT

CASE NO. _____

as Required by N.D. Admin. Code
§ 69-09-05-12.1

In accordance with the regulations adopted by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”), Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. (the “Company”) submits this 2026 ETC Annual Report.

I. BACKGROUND

The Company is a limited partnership, organized under the laws of Delaware, that provides wireless telecommunications services in North Dakota. The Company is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) to provide Lifeline universal services to eligible low-income customers as a commercial mobile radio service (“CMRS”) provider.

The Company has been designated as a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) in areas of North Dakota pursuant to the Commission’s *Designation Order* dated August 14, 2024.¹ Pursuant to the *Designation Order*, the Company must “comply with all the applicable annual reporting requirements set forth in [N.D. Admin.] Code § 69-09-05-12.1.”²

¹ *Assurance Wireless USA, L.P. Designated Eligible Carrier Application*, Case No. PU-24-22, Order on Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation, Order, (Aug. 14, 2024) (“*Designation Order*”).

² *Designation Order* at Point 2.

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II. THE COMPANY'S ANNUAL REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.D. ADMIN. CODE § 69-09-05-12.1

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1 requires an ETC to file with the Commission an annual report on or before August 1 of each year. The Company respectfully submits the following information in satisfaction of the Commission's annual reporting requirement. By submitting this information, the Company commits to complying with applicable Commission regulations and North Dakota statutes to the extent required by law. Nothing in this submission constitutes a waiver of the Company's rights under federal law.

A. Report Regarding Federal High-Cost Universal Service Support Received in 2024 and Expected to be Received in 2026

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(1) requires an ETC to submit a report describing the amount of federal high-cost universal service support the carrier received in the prior calendar year and how that support was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the carrier's facilities and services pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). The report must also include an estimate of the amount of federal high-cost universal service support the carrier anticipates receiving in the following calendar year and describe how that support is projected to be used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the carrier's facilities and services pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).

The Company only provides Lifeline service in North Dakota and does not receive any high-cost universal service support. Therefore, N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(1) is not applicable to the Company.

B. Outage Information

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(2) requires an ETC to include in its annual report detailed information on certain service outages within its designated service area. Section 69-09-05-12.1(2) does not establish the time period for which an outage report is required. The Company

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has adopted the prior calendar year as an appropriate period for providing the outage report. Attached as Confidential Exhibit A is the Company's outage report in satisfaction of this requirement.³

C. Unfulfilled Requests for Service

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(3) requires an ETC to include in its annual report the number of requests for service from potential customers within the ETC's designated service area that were unfulfilled during the past year and to detail how the ETC attempted to provide services to those potential customers. Section 69-09-05-12.1(3) does not establish the applicable time period for which unfulfilled requests for service must be reported. The Company has adopted the prior calendar year as an appropriate period for reporting unfulfilled requests for service. Confidential Exhibit B identifies the number of unfulfilled requests for services for its designated area that the Company received during 2025.

D. Complaints per One Thousand Handsets

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(4) requires an ETC to include in its annual report the number of complaints per 1,000 handsets or lines. Section 69-09-05-12.1(4) does not establish the applicable time period for which complaints should be reported. The Company has adopted the prior calendar year as an appropriate period for providing complaint information. Confidential Exhibit C identifies the number of complaints per 1,000 handsets for the designated service area that the Company received in 2025.

³ Confidential Exhibit A contains detailed information on service outages, and therefore it is deemed protected without the need for a trade secret application and without further action from the Commission, pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-13.

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E. Certification of Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(5) requires an ETC to certify in its annual report that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12(3)(d), a wireless carrier's commitment to comply with the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Service ("CTIA Code") within its designated service area satisfies this requirement. The Company certifies it is in compliance with the CTIA Code.

F. Certification of Functionality in Emergency Situations

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(6) requires an ETC to certify in its annual report that it is able to function in emergency situations. The Company certifies it is able to remain functional in emergency situations within its designated service area, including that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, it is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and it is capable of managing traffic spikes arising from emergency situations.

G. Comparable Local Usage Certification

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(7) requires an ETC to certify in its annual report that it offers a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent LECs in its designated service area. The Company certifies it is offering a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent local exchange carriers serving its designated service area.

H. Equal Access Certification

N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1(8) requires a wireless ETC to certify in its annual report an acknowledgement that the FCC may require it to provide equal access to long-distance carriers in the event no other ETC is providing equal access within its designated service area. The Company certifies and acknowledges that the FCC, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(8), may require

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it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event no other ETC is providing equal access in its designated service area.

III. CONCLUSION

Based on these certifications, demonstrations and acknowledgements, the Company respectfully states that it has complied with the applicable requirements of N.D. Admin. Code § 69-09-05-12.1.

Dated: July 30, 2026

Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.

By  **John Barnes** Digitally signed by John Barnes
Date: 2026.07.30 09:54:32 -05'00'

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SUMMARY OF EXHIBITS

Confidential Exhibit A - 2025 ETC Outage Report

Confidential Exhibit B - 2025 Unfulfilled Requests for Service

Confidential Exhibit C - 2025 Complaints Per 1,000 Handsets

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CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT A

THE COMPANY'S 2025 ETC OUTAGE REPORT
Reporting period: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.

[Omitted]

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CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT B

THE COMPANY'S UNFULFILLED REQUESTS FOR SERVICE FOR 2025

Reporting period: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.

Number of Unfulfilled Requests for Service
within Designated Area

■

Description of Steps Taken To
Extend Service

■

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CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT C

COMPLAINTS PER 1,000 HANDSETS FOR 2025
Reporting period: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.

Assurance Wireless had [REDACTED] complaints per 1,000 handsets during 2025.