

**BEFORE THE
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of Badger
Communications LLC for Designation as an
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant
to 47 U.S.C. 214(e)

**APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

Badger Communications LLC (“Badger” or “Company”) respectfully submits this Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for purposes of federal Lifeline only support in the State of North Dakota pursuant to 47USC 214(e)(2), 47 CFR Part 54 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), and ND Cent. Code 49-21-01.07(12). Badger is a facilities based Commercial Mobile Radio Service (“CMRS”) provider that also uses the facilities of other wireless providers to provide telecommunications to its customers. Badger requests the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC”) designate it as an ETC for the limited purpose of providing Lifeline service in the non-rural wire centers and the rural wire centers listed as Exhibit A.

Badger Communications is a Texas Limited Liability Company founded in May of 2015 and registered to do business in the State of North Dakota on June 3, 2026, with control number 0007521610 (Exhibit B). Badger is a prepaid wireless service provider providing low-cost telecommunications services to rural and underserved communities throughout the Midwest. Badger has a history of working with and servicing disadvantaged and rural communities in the Midwest working closely with local leaders in those communities and hiring local employees. Badger does not use commissioned sales agents to sell its services as all customers deal directly

with Badger employees and this will continue with Badger's lifeline services as well. Badger is financially stable and does not and will not rely solely on the funds from the universal service fund. Badger Communications currently has ETC applications in Minnesota and will be filing in Wisconsin, South Dakota, and Montana shortly.

The Company's address is listed below:

Badger Communications LLC
3313 W Main Street PMB 457
Rapid City SD 57702

All correspondence regarding this application should be sent to:

Badger Communications Legal
3313 W Main Street PMB 457
Rapid City SD 57702

BADGER MEETS THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ETC DESIGNATION

As set forth in Section 214(e)(2) of the Act, the Commission "shall upon its own motion or upon request designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of [Section 214(e)(1)] as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State Commission."

Upon designation as an ETC, the carrier shall be eligible to receive support in accordance with Section 254 of the Act. The requirements for designation as an ETC set forth in Section 214(e)(1) are that the carrier must:

Offer the service that are supported by Federal Universal support mechanisms under section 254(c), either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and the resale of another carrier's services (including the services offered by another eligible telecommunications provider); and Advertise the availability of such services and the charges therefore using the media of general distribution.

BADGER SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ETC TO SERVE THE DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA

Badger is a common carrier as that term is defined in the Act. The Company will provide supported services in the State of North Dakota pursuant to 214(e)(1).

Badger will offer all supported services enumerated under Section 254(c) using a combination of its own network facilities and the facilities of other facilities based wireless carriers. Accordingly, the Company satisfies the requirements set forth in Section 214(e)(1)(A). The services that are supported by Federal Universal support mechanisms under Section 254(c) are:

Voice Grade Access to the Public Switched Telephone Network – the ability to transmit and receive communications with a minimum bandwidth of 300 to 3,500 Hertz (47 C.F.R. 54.101(a)(1)). Badger meets this requirement through its provision of voice communications services and interconnection to the public switched telephone network.

Local Usage – a number of minutes of use provided free of charge (47 C.F.R. 54.101(a)(2))). Badger's plans include unlimited local and domestic long distance minutes of use meeting the local usage requirements.

Access to Emergency Services - access to emergency services includes both access to 911 and E911 services to extent the local government has implemented such services (47 C.F.R. 54.101(a)(5)). Badger meets this requirement for access to E911 services through local public service answering points ("PSAPs"). All of the handsets that Badger provides to its customers are 911/E911 compliant. 911 calls will not incur any usage charge and all calls to 911 can be made regardless of customer's status.

Upon certification as an ETC, Badger will participate in and offer Lifeline services to qualifying low-income consumers and publicize the availability of the lifeline services in a

manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for those services, as required by FCC Rules.

Badger, will advertise the availability of the above-referenced services and the charges for those services in the Designated Service Area using media of general distribution as required by FCC Rules. All of Badger's plans are currently listed on its website at www.badgerconnects.com. Customers will be able to apply their lifeline discount to any of Badger's prepaid plans that meet the current FCC minimum service requirements.

SATISFACTION OF APPLICABLE CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS.

Badger will comply with all applicable state and federal consumer protection and service quality standards. If designated as an ETC, Badger will continue to provide services on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Designated Service Area.

ND Admin Code 69-09-05-12.3.d requires providers to demonstrate that it will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards. A wireless carrier's commitment to comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for Wireless Service ("CTIA Consumer Code") satisfies this requirement. Badger certifies that it will comply with the CTIA Consumer Code and any applicable North Dakota consumer protection requirements to ensure the Company offers its subscribers the highest level of protection and quality of service. Badger will make every effort to resolve complaints timely and has a dedicated in-house customer service team that can assist customers with complaints or compliance issues. Since Badger employs local employees within the communities it services, customers complaints can be handled in person as well as through Badger's in-house customer service agents.

BADGER’S LIFELINE PLANS

Lifeline is a component of one of the four separate federal universal service fund mechanisms known as the “low-income support mechanism” and is defined in 47 C.F.R.54.401 as a “retail local service offering” available only to qualified low-income consumers for which qualifying low-income consumers pay reduced charges as a result of application of the Lifeline support amount” that includes the services or functionalities enumerated in 54.401(a)(1) through (a)(9), which the Company will use to “make available Lifeline services... to qualifying low-income consumers.” Badger will offer a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the incumbent LEC in the service area for which it seeks designation. Badger will offer a local usage plan with unlimited calling within the customer’s local calling area for a flat monthly fee with the same calling scope as the incumbent local exchange carrier. Badger offers a number of low cost prepaid plans that customers can select that best fits their needs. The Lifeline discount can be applied to any of Badger generous voice or bundled plans. Eligibility will be checked using the National Lifeline Accountability Database (“NLAD”).

CERTIFICATION FOR USE OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS

Badger certifies that it will use the federal low-income universal support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 254(c).

PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

The public interest will be served by designating Badger Communications as an ETC for the limited purpose of providing Lifeline service to low-income consumers in North Dakota. Consumers will benefit from Badger’s low cost and high-quality plans focusing on underserved

communities throughout North Dakota. Consistent with ND Admin Code 69-9-05-12 and the FCC rules, Badger will comply with all of the reporting requirements of the NDPSC, the FCC and USAC.

I. CONCLUSION

Badger requests designation as an ETC for the designated service area for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support and state low-income support.

Dated this the 16th of June 2026

Badger Communications LLC

/s/ Thomas Ong

CEO

EXHIBIT A

AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN NORTH DAKOTA

State of North Dakota

SECRETARY OF STATE



Certificate of Good Standing of Badger Communications LLC

SOS Control ID#: 0007521610

Certificate #: 029285834-1

The undersigned, as Secretary of State of the state of North Dakota, hereby certifies that, according to the records of this office,

Badger Communications LLC

a Limited Liability Company - Business - Foreign was formed under the laws of TEXAS and filed with this office effective June 3, 2026. This entity has, as of the date set forth below, complied with all applicable North Dakota laws.

ACCORDINGLY, the undersigned, as such Secretary of State, and by virtue of the authority vested in him by law, hereby issues this Certificate of Good Standing.

DATE: June 15, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Howe".

Michael Howe
Secretary of State

Exhibit B

Badger Communications proposed ETC Service Area

Badger Communication Proposed ETC Service Area Includes:

All non-rural telephone company wire centers within the State of North Dakota

All rural telephone company study areas within the State of North Dakota; and

All Tribal areas within the nonrural and rural telephone company areas within the state.

