



State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI
Executive Director

THAD LEVAR
Deputy Director

CHRIS PARKER
Director, Division of Public Utilities

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Governor
GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

September 15, 2011

TO: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FROM: DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Chris Parker, Director
Bill Duncan, Manager, Telecommunications and Water
Paul M. Anderson, Utility Technical Consultant

Re: Utah Docket No. 11-999-09, In the Matter of State Certification of Rural Carriers' Compliance with 47 U.S.C. Section 254(e)
CC Docket No. 96-45, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
Annual State Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.314

ISSUE:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Paragraph 54.314, the Public Service Commission (Commission) is required to certify that all rural carriers within its jurisdiction will use federal USF "only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended," as required by 47 U.S.C. 254(e). This certification may be in the form of a letter to the FCC regarding the carriers' compliance and is due to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by October 1, 2011.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consistent with the Division's prior year recommendation, the Division recommends the Commission support Utah's rural incumbent local exchange carriers" (companies) requests for certification of eligibility to receive federal high-cost support by submitting a timely certification letter to the FCC and USAC. Exceptions to this certification are CenturyTel of Eagle, Inc. (CenturyTel), a subsidiary of CenturyLink, Inc., Farmers Telephone Company (Farmers), and Albion Telephone Company (Albion) as described below.

Mailing addresses:

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A306
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income
Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, NW – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

BACKGROUND:

Exceptions to Certification:

CenturyTel provides local exchange service to approximately 6 to 8 Utah customers on the border of Colorado via facilities located in Colorado. Farmers provides local exchange service to approximately 8 Utah customers on the border of Colorado via facilities located in Colorado. Albion provides local exchange service to approximately 27 Utah customers on the border of Idaho via facilities located in Idaho. All ratemaking procedures for these companies have historically been deferred to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission or Idaho Public Utilities Commission accordingly.

Due to this Commission's limited oversight, the Division recommends the certification for CenturyTel, Farmers, and Albion defer to Colorado and Idaho consistent with the ratemaking process for these companies.

Certification:

As of September 15, 2011, the Commission has received a self-certification letter from each of the following companies:

Company Name (Exchange Carrier Study Area Code)

All West Communications, Inc. (502288)
Bear Lake Communications (503032)
Beehive Telephone Company, Inc. (502284)
Carbon/Emery Telecom, Inc. (502278)
Central Utah Telephone (502277)
Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah (504429)
Direct Communications Cedar Valley, LLC (500758)
Emery Telecom (502278)
Gunnison Telephone Company (502279)
Manti Telephone Company (502282)
Navajo Communications Company, Inc. (504449)
Skyline Telecom (502283)
South Central Utah Telephone Association (502286)
UBTA-UBET Communications, Inc. (502287)

Union Telephone Company, Inc. (512297 – Utah segment only)

The Division has also received complete Part 36 Studies for the year ending December 31, 2009 from all of the cost settlement companies receiving certification.

cc: Jenny Prescott, Vice President of Support Services, All West Communications, Inc.
Eddie L. Cox, President, Bear Lake Communications/Central Utah Telephone/Skyline Telecom
Arthur Brothers, CEO, Beehive Telephone Company, Inc.
Raymond Deede, Manager, Government and External Affairs, Citizens Telecommunications of Utah/ Navajo Communications Company, Inc.
Kip Wilson, General Manager, Direct Communications Cedar Valley, LLC
Brock Johansen, CEO, Emery Telecom/Carbon-Emery Telecom, Inc. /Hanksville Telecom
Kent B. Sanders, Gunnison
Paul Cox, General Manager, Manti Telephone Company
Michael R. East, CEO/General Manager, South Central Utah Telephone Association
Bruce H. Todd, CEO/General Manager, UBTA-UBET Communications, Inc.
James H. Woody, Executive VP/Dir of R&D, Union Telephone Company,

Inc