



UTAH

**Governor
Spencer J. Cox**

**Lieutenant Governor
Deidre M. Henderson**

Division of
Public Utilities

Director,
Chris Parker

Action Request Response

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Brenda Salter, Assistant Director

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Casey J. Coleman, Utility Technical Consultant

Thomas Allred, Utility Analyst

Date: September 18, 2026

Re: **Docket No. 26-999-14**, ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS' CERTIFICATION INFORMATION, Annual 47 CFR § 54.314 Certification of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Recommendation (Approval)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends the Public Service Commission (Commission) support the certification requests of Utah's rural incumbent local exchange carriers' (Companies) and other Eligible Telecommunications Carriers' (ETC) for eligibility to receive federal high-cost and lifeline support. The Division recommends that the Commission submit a timely certification letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Issue

Under 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a) and 47 U.S.C. § 254(e), the Commission must certify that all rural carriers within its jurisdiction will use Federal universal Service Funds solely to provide, maintain, and upgrade designated facilities and services. To meet this requirement, the Commission should submit a certification letter confirming the carriers' compliance. The certification letter is due to the FCC and USAC by October 1, 2026, referencing WC docket 10-90.

Discussion

Certification:

As of September 1, 2026, the Commission has received an electronic copy from the USAC portal of the FCC Form 481 from each of the following companies:

Company Name (Exchange Carrier Study Area Code)

ILEC Companies

Albion Telephone Company, Inc. (509024)
All West Communications, Inc. (502288)
Bear Lake Communications, Inc. (503032)
Beehive Telephone Company, Inc. (502284)
Carbon/Emery Telcom, Inc. (502278)(includes Hanksville and Emery Telecom)
Central Utah Telephone, Inc. d/b/a CentraCom (502277)
Direct Communications Cedar Valley, LLC (500758)
Gunnison Telephone Company (502279)
Manti Telephone Company (502282)
Skyline Telecom d/b/a CentraCom (502283)
South Central Utah Telephone Association, Inc. (502286)
UBTA-UBET Communications, Inc. d/b/a Strata Networks (502287)
Union Telephone Company, Inc. (512297 – Utah Segment Only)

ILEC and CETC (Lifeline Only)

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Utah d/b/a Frontier Communications of Utah (504429)
Navajo Communications Company, Inc. d/b/a Frontier Navajo Communications Company (504449)
Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (505107)

CETC Companies

Commnet Four Corners, LLC (509021)
E Fiber Moab, LLC (509025)
E Fiber San Juan, LLC (509027)
Viasat Carrier Services, Inc. (509022)

The Division has reviewed the information reported on Form 481, along with accompanying statements attached to each form. For the Companies seeking High Cost support, the Division focused its review of Form 481 for compliance with three requirements:

1. **Broadband Services Rate Comparability**

Under 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(3), the Companies mentioned in this report indicated that the rates they charge for broadband service are no higher than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau.

2. Voice Services Rate Comparability

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(2) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2), the Companies indicated that their services satisfy the requirement to provide voice service at rates no more than two standard deviations above the national average urban rate for voice service.

3. Functionality in Emergency Situations (Line 610)

Under 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1), as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2), the Companies indicated that they meet the requirements for remaining functional in emergency situations.

The Division notes that, per 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a), each state must certify carriers that receive High Cost program support. The rule does not require states to certify carriers that receive Lifeline program support alone. For the Companies applying for Lifeline support, the Division has also reviewed each Company's Annual Report.

Conclusion

The Division recommends that the Commission support the request of Utah's incumbent local exchange carriers and ETC companies for certification of their eligibility to receive federal high-cost support, by submitting a timely certification letter to the FCC and USAC. The Division's review of the companies' compliance with the standards identified no insufficiencies, and the companies appear to comply with all requirements for ETC certification. The Division further recommends that all Companies that applied for Lifeline support also receive their ETC certifications.

cc: Richard Redman, President, Albion Telephone Company, Inc.
Jenny Prescott, CFO, All West Communications, Inc.
Eddie Cox, President, Bear Lake Communications/Central Utah Telephone/Skyline Telecom
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Darren Woolsey, CFO, Carbon/Emery Telcom, Inc./E Fiber Moab, LLC/E Fiber San Juan, LLC
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Dallas Cox, CINO, Manti Telephone Company
Donald Holt, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller, Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC
Michael East, CEO, South Central Utah Telephone Association, Inc.
Jason McKee, Chief Financial Officer, UBTA-UBET Communications, Inc. d/b/a Strata Networks
Brian Woody, CCRO, Union Telephone Company
Robert Blair, President and Secretary, Viasat Carrier Services, Inc.