

July 2, 2012

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Compliance Reporting for Annual Designation of Common Carriers as ETCs to
Receive Federal Universal Support

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On behalf of Western Telephone Company (Western), enclosed is a copy of a certification filed at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as part of the Company's annual interstate access tariff filing. This certification is being filed in compliance with 47 C.F.R. § 51.917 (d)(vii) Eligible Recovery for Rate-of Return Carriers, which states, "...A Rate-of Return Carrier seeking revenue recovery must annually certify as part of its tariff filings to the Commission and to the relevant state commission that the carrier is not seeking duplicative recovery in the state jurisdiction for any Eligible Recovery subject to the recovery mechanism."

Schedules showing the Company's projected eligibility to receive CAF ICC funding during the upcoming year are being filed under seal, as confidential information, in compliance with 47. C.F.R. § 54.304(d)(1) – Administration of Connect America Fund Inter-carrier Compensation Replacement which states, "A rate-of return carrier seeking CAF ICC support shall file data with the Administrator, the Commission, and the relevant state commissions ...establishing the rate-of-return carrier's projected eligibility for CAF ICC funding during the upcoming funding period pursuant to § 51.917 of this chapter... ." (See Confidential Attachment A)

Certifications as to the Company's eligibility to receive CAF ICC support and to the accuracy of the CAF ICC data reported are also attached. (See Attachment B)

Robert C. Riter, Jr
Margo D. Northrup

Darla Pollman Rogers
Lindsey Riter-Rapp
Robert D. Hofer, Of Counsel

Jerry L. Wattier
Thomas Hart, Associate



Please contact me at 605-224-5825 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely yours,

RITER, ROGERS, WATTIER &
NORTHROP, LLP

By: *Darla Pollman Rogers*
Darla Pollman Rogers

DPR-dk
Enclosures

Cc: Western Telephone Company