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November 15, 2010

### E-FILING

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

RE: In the Matter of the Petition of Cellco Partnership and its Subsidiaries and  
Affiliates to Amend and Consolidate ETC Designations in the State of SD and To  
Partially Relinquish ETC Designation TC10-090  
GPNA File No. 09540.0003

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On behalf of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, and its subsidiaries and affiliates offering commercial mobile radio services in the State of South Dakota (Collectively "Verizon Wireless"), enclosed is a proposed order granting Cellco's request for relinquishment in the above entitled matter. The proposed order represents no intervenor objects to the Commission granting issuing the order. At this point, Golden West has not confirmed it has any objections and the proposed order is not intended to imply Cellco has received an acknowledgment of no objection. By copy of same, counsel have been served.

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

  
for Talbot J. Wiczorek

TJW:klw

Enclosure

cc: Karen Cremer/Brian Rounds  
Darla Rogers/Margo Northrup  
Rich Coit/James Cremer  
Clients

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF	)	
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP AND ITS	)	ORDER APPROVING PARTIAL
SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES TO	)	RELINQUISHMENT
AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE ELIGIBLE	)	OF ETC DESIGNATION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER	)	
DESIGNATIONS IN THE STATE OF	)	TC10- 090
SOUTH DAKOTA AND TO PARTIALLY	)	
RELINQUISH ETC DESIGNATION	)	

On September 3, 2010, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, on behalf of itself and its subsidiaries and affiliates offering commercial mobile radio services (“CMRS”) in the State of South Dakota (collectively, “Verizon Wireless”), filed with the Public Utilities Commission of South Dakota (“Commission”) a petition to amend and consolidate the eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) designations currently held separately in the name of WWC License, LLC, successor to GCC License Corporation (“WWC”), and RCC Minnesota, Inc. (“RCC”) in the State of South Dakota to reflect Cellco and its affiliated legal entities as the designated ETC. Verizon Wireless further requested that the partial relinquishment of WWC’s ETC status in the Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (“Golden West”) study area identified by Study Area Code (“SAC”) 391659 be approved.

On November 12, 2010, Verizon Wireless filed with the Commission a motion for approval of WWC’s partial relinquishment of ETC status pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), 47 C.F.R. § 54.205 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:48. This matter came on before the Commission on November 16, 2010.

Having reviewed the evidence of record, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. As set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), 47 C.F.R. § 54.205, and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:48, approval of a competitive ETC’s notice of relinquishment is subject to the following requirements:

A State commission ... shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as such a carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its ... designation ... shall give advance notice to the State commission ... of such relinquishment. Prior to permitting ... an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service ..., the state commission ... shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier[s] ... to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served, and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or

construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier.

2. In accordance with these requirements, the partial relinquishment of WWC's ETC designation shall be approved if it satisfies the following: (1) the designated Golden West study area is served by at least one other ETC; (2) WWC provides the Commission advance notice of the relinquishment; (3) all customers of WWC will continue to be served; and (4) sufficient notice is provided to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by the remaining ETCs.

3. The first item is satisfied because the designated service area is served by at least one other ETC, including Golden West and Long Lines Wireless, LLC.<sup>1</sup>

4. The second item is satisfied because the Commission has been provided with advance notice of the partial relinquishment.

5. The third item is satisfied because all WWC customers continue to be served. As a condition of the acquisition of WWC and RCC, Verizon Wireless was required to divest (sell) customers, the network serving those customers, and certain other WWC assets located in the Golden West SAC 391659. On June 22, 2010, the customers, network and other assets that Verizon Wireless was required to divest within the Golden West SAC 391659 were transferred to AT&T Mobility, LLC ("AT&T Mobility"). As a result, the former WWC customers are now served by AT&T Mobility. All current customers and future Verizon Wireless customers residing within Golden West SAC 391659 will also continue to be served by Verizon Wireless.

6. The fourth item is similarly satisfied because consumers within the Golden West SAC 391659 will continue to be served by an incumbent or competitive carrier, and each customer can elect to receive service from an ETC. Accordingly, there is no reason to delay approval of the relinquishment to permit the purchase or construction of additional facilities by the remaining ETCs to serve these customers.

7. No party to this proceeding has contested the approval of WWC's relinquishment of its ETC designation within the Golden West SAC 391659 for any of the reasons set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a)-(b), or A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:48.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The filing of notice of partial relinquishment of ETC status in this proceeding satisfies all of the requirements under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), 47 C.F.R. § 54.205(a)-(b), and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:48.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition, AT&T Mobility, LLC has made application to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to be designated as a competitive ETC for purposes of serving the Tribal members residing within the portion of the Golden West SAC 391659 covering the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. See *Petition of AT&T Mobility LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and Transfer of the Alltel Pine Ridge Reservation Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation*, WC Docket No. 09-197, Ex. C (filed July 30, 2010).

2. No further action is required of Verizon Wireless or the Commission prior to the partial relinquishment being approved.

It is therefore

ORDERED that WWC's notice of relinquishment of its ETC designation in the Golden West SAC 391659 is hereby APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that nothing in this Order shall affect WWC's ETC designation in any other portion of the State of South Dakota for which the Commission has previously designated WWC as a competitive ETC; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that Verizon Wireless shall serve a copy of this Order on the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Order was duly entered on the \_\_\_\_ day of November, 2010. This Order shall be effective immediately.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this \_\_\_\_ day of November, 2010.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner