



Gary Hanson, Chair  
Chris Nelson, Vice-Chair  
Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner

## SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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September 26, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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

### Re: Annual State Certification of Rate Comparability Review for Non-Rural Carriers Serving in Rural Areas

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) hereby states that it has reviewed the comparability of residential rates in rural areas of South Dakota served by Qwest, a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier, to rates nationwide. Pursuant to section 54.316, the SDPUC certifies that the rates are reasonably comparable based on the nationwide urban rate benchmark.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,

Gary Hanson  
Commissioner

Chris Nelson  
Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
Commissioner