

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Application by
Midcontinent Communications for Lifeline
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Designation Within Certain Rural Service
Areas

Docket No. TC16-044

**PETITION TO INTERVENE
OF SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

COMES NOW, Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc., by and through its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to SDCL § 1-26-17.1 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:01:15.02, petitions this Commission for leave to intervene in the above entitled proceeding.

IN SUPPORT THEREOF, Petitioner states and declares as follows:

1. Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. (“Alliance”) is a South Dakota cooperative corporation headquartered in Woonsocket, South Dakota. Santel presently operates eleven (11) local telephone exchanges in the State of South Dakota. Santel is also a “rural telephone company” as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(37) and SDCL § 49-31-1(22).

2. On July 16, 2016, Midcontinent Communications (“Midcontinent”) filed a Petition with this Commission seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) for only lifeline services in the following service areas: Baltic, Crooks (Alliance Communications), Gayville, Lennox (Prairie Wave/VAST), Waubay, Webster (Interstate Telecom), Wolsey (Santel Communications), Bowdle, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby, and Java (Venture Communications).

3. Santel is the incumbent local exchange carrier in the Wolsey exchange area. Pursuant to the provisions of SDCL § 1-26-17.1 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:01:15.02, Santel seeks

“Intervener Status” in the above entitled proceeding because it currently is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier in these exchanges.

4. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a) and (b), SDCL § 49-31-73 and A.R.S.D. 20:10:32:43 this Commission is vested with the authority to grant or deny Midcontinent’s Petition.

5. Santel has a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding as this Commission’s decision may, directly or indirectly, impact the telecommunications services provided by Santel to its customers. Santel has concerns about the completeness of the Application and whether or not the requested designation is in the public interest.

6. Santel desires to intervene in order that it may fully review the application, receive documents, comment, present testimony, cross-examine witnesses and produce evidence either seeking to clarify or oppose Midcontinent’s Petition, to the extent that such actions are required in the above entitled proceeding. Santel seeks to make certain that Midcontinent’s Petition fully complies with all legal requirements and Commission orders.

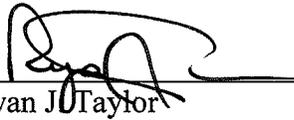
WHEREFORE, Santel respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Petition to Intervene and authorize Santel to participate in the above entitled proceeding with full rights as a formal party and for such other relief as the Commission may deem proper.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

CUTLER LAW FIRM, LLP

By: _____



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