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September 29, 2021

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9050 Junction Drive
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701

USAC
Vice President, High Cost Division
700 12th Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No. 14-58, Annual State Certification of Support for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47C.F.R. § 54.314

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company that the telecommunication carriers included in this letter are eligible to receive federal high- cost support for the program years cited.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio certifies for the carriers listed all federal high-cost support provided to carriers within Ohio was used in the preceding calendar year (**2020**) and will be used in the coming calendar year (**2022**) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.”¹

Accompanying this letter are a copy of a Finding & Order issued by the Ohio Commission on September 23, 2020 (Attachment 1), and a list of certified carriers (Attachment 2). If you should have any questions or comments regarding this submittal, please contact me at the number below or Jason Well with the PUCO at (614) 644-8032.

Respectfully submitted,

¹ 47 C.F.R. §54.314(b) (“Carriers not subject to State jurisdiction. An eligible telecommunications carrier not subject to the jurisdiction of a State that desires to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carrier was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Support provided pursuant to the high-cost program shall only be provided to the extent that the carrier has filed the requisite certification pursuant to this section.”).

/s/Werner L. Margard

Werner L. Margard III

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Attachments

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL FILING
REQUIREMENTS FOR 2021 PERTAINING
TO THE PROVISIONING OF HIGH-COST
UNIVERSAL SERVICE.**

CASE No. 21-1115-TP-COI

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on September 23, 2021

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} In this Finding and Order, the Commission certifies to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company those carriers eligible to receive federal high-cost support.

II. APPLICABLE LAW

{¶ 2} Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.314, states that desire telecommunications carriers to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within the state was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

{¶ 3} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-09(C)(1) provides that in order to be eligible for federal universal funding in a given year, all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) receiving high-cost funding in a given year, including incumbent local exchange carriers and competitive local exchange carriers, must file no later than August 31st of each year an affidavit with the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to the carrier for service areas in Ohio will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support was intended pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 254(e).

III. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

{¶ 4} In order to comply with the FCC's certification requirements, and consistent with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-6-09(C), on August 10, 2021, the attorney examiner released an Entry in the instant docket calling for notarized affidavits from those carriers presently receiving federal universal service high-cost funding in Ohio, attesting that they will utilize such support consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e). Each Ohio high-cost ETC that anticipates funding for calendar year 2022 from any high-cost mechanism was directed to complete and file with the Commission in this proceeding a notarized copy of the affidavit form (Attachment A of the August 10, 2021 Entry). Without such certification, the FCC will not permit carriers to continue to receive federal universal service support.

{¶ 5} Consistent with the Entry of August 10, 2021, the 44 carriers set forth in Attachment A to this Finding and Order filed notarized affidavits for the corresponding study codes.

IV. DISCUSSION

{¶ 6} The Commission staff has reviewed the affidavits submitted by the 44 carriers and has concluded that the notarized affidavits satisfy the FCC's requirements for certification to receive high-cost funding consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e).

{¶ 7} The Commission finds that certification should be granted for the carriers set forth in Attachment A in order to receive federal high-cost support consistent with 47 C.F.R. 54.314.

V. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That all carriers identified in Attachment A are hereby certified to the FCC and USAC as being eligible to receive federal high-cost support as contemplated by 47 C.F.R. 54.314. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That the Commission staff send a letter to the FCC and USAC by October 1, 2021, certifying the carriers as being eligible to receive federal high-cost support for 2022. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That nothing contained in this Finding and Order shall be deemed binding upon this Commission in any subsequent investigation or proceeding involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties and interested persons of record.

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair
M. Beth Trombold
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Daniel R. Conway
Dennis P. Deters

JSA/mef

	Company Name	Study Area Code
1	Arcadia Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300585
2	Arthur Mutual Telephone Company	300586
3	AT&T Ohio	305150
4	Ayersville Telephone Company	300588
5	Bascom Mutual Telephone Company	300589
6	Benton Ridge Telephone Company	300590
7	Buckland Telephone Company	300591
8	CenturyTel of Ohio dba CenturyLink	300630
9	Champaign Telephone Company	300594
10	Chillicothe Telephone Company	300597
11	Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC	305062
12	Cincinnati Bell Extended Territories LLC	309023
13	Consolidated Communications of Ohio Company LLC	300604, 300618, 300649
14	Conneaut Telephone Company	300606
15	Continental Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300607
16	Doylestown Telephone Company	300609
17	Farmers Mutual Telephone Company	300612
18	Fort Jennings Telephone Company	300614
19	Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc.	300682
20	Frontier North Inc.	300615
21	Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc.	300619
22	Kalida Telephone Company, Inc.	300625
23	Little Miami Communication Corporation d/b/a TDS Telecom	300613
24	McClure Telephone	300598

25	Mercury Wireless Indiana, LLC	309024
26	Middle Point Home Telephone Company	300633
27	Minford Telephone Company	300634
28	New Knoxville Telephone Company	300639
29	Nova Telephone Company	300644
30	Oakwood Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300645
31	Pattersonville Telephone Company	300651
32	Ridgeville Telephone Company	300654
33	Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association, Inc.	300656
34	Sycamore Telephone Company	300658
35	Telephone Service Company	300659
36	The Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company	300650
37	United Telephone Company dba CenturyLink	300661
38	Vanlue Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300662
39	Vaughnsville Telephone Company	300663
40	Wabash Mutual Telephone Company	300664
41	W.A.T.C.H TV Company	309025
42	Windstream Ohio Inc.	300665
43	Windstream Western Reserve, Inc.	300666
44	Windstream Communications, LLC	*

*Due to the recent ETC approval, the carrier's study area code(s) for the area(s) where it has been designated as an ETC has not been assigned at this time.

ATTACHMENT 2

Presented below is a list of those Ohio carriers that have satisfied the PUCO's affidavit requirement, and thus obtained certification to receive federal high cost support, including high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support .

Carriers Having Properly Filed 254(e) Rural Affidavits

Study Area Name	SAC
Arcadia Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300585
Arthur Mutual Telephone Company	300586
AT&T Ohio	305150
Ayersville Telephone Company	300588
Bascom Mutual Telephone Company	300589
Benton Ridge Telephone Company	300590
Buckland Telephone Company	300591
CenturyTel of Ohio dba CenturyLink	300630
Champaign Telephone Company	300594
Chillicothe Telephone Company	300597
Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company LLC	305062
Cincinnati Bell Extended Territories LLC	309023
Consolidated Communications of Ohio Company LLC	300604, 300618, 300649
Conneaut Telephone Company	300606
Continental Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300607
Doylestown Telephone Company	300609
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company	300612
Fort Jennings Telephone Company	300614
Frontier Communications of Michigan, Inc.	300682
Frontier North Inc.	300615
Glandorf Telephone Company, Inc.	300619
Kalida Telephone Company, Inc.	300625

ATTACHMENT 2

Little Miami Communication Corporation d/b/a TDS Telecom	300613
McClure Telephone	300598
Mercury Wireless Indiana, LLC	309024
Middle Point Home Telephone Company	300633
Minford Telephone Company	300634
New Knoxville Telephone Company	300639
Nova Telephone Company	300644
Oakwood Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300645
Pattersonville Telephone Company	300651
Ridgeville Telephone Company	300654
Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association, Inc.	300656
Sycamore Telephone Company	300658
Telephone Service Company	300659
The Ottoville Mutual Telephone Company	300650
United Telephone Company dba CenturyLink	300661
Vanlue Telephone Company d/b/a TDS Telecom	300662
Vaughnsville Telephone Company	300663
Wabash Mutual Telephone Company	300664
W.A.T.C.H TV Company	309025
Windstream Ohio Inc.	300665
Windstream Western Reserve, Inc.	300666
Windstream Communications, LLC	*

*Due to the recent ETC approval, the carrier's study area code(s) for the area(s) where it has been designated as an ETC has not been assigned at this time.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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Case No(s). 93-4000-TP-FAD

Summary: Letter of Notification to Marlene Dortch electronically filed by Mrs. Tonnetta Y. Scott
on behalf of PUCO