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October 25, 2022

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 (2021) and will be used in the coming calendar year (2023) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.”¹

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.”).

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,

/s/Werner L. Margard

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**On behalf of Staff of the
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

Attachments

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL FILING
REQUIREMENTS FOR 2022 PERTAINING
TO THE PROVISIONING OF HIGH-COST
UNIVERSAL SERVICE.**

CASE No. 22-1115-TP-COI

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on October 19, 2022

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 July 28, 2022, 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 2023 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 July 28, 2022 Entry). Without such certification, the FCC will not permit carriers to continue to receive federal universal service support. Although the Entry stated that the filing deadline with the FCC was September 30, 2022, this deadline was extended to October 31, 2022, pursuant to the FCC's September 6, 2022 Public Notice, DA 22-928.

{¶ 5} Consistent with the Entry of July 28, 2022, the 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 43 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 31, 2022, certifying the carriers as being eligible to receive federal high-cost support for 2023. 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 d/b/a 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 |

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 |

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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in

Case No(s). 93-4000-TP-FAD, 22-1115-TP-COI

Summary: Correspondence Regarding 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 electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly M. Naeder on behalf of PUCO