

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

In re the 2025 Annual Certification of Montana Eligible Telecommunications Carriers	Docket 2025.06.044 October 24, 2025
---	--

Notice of Staff Action

1. To receive federal high cost universal service support (“HCS”), a telecommunication carrier must be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e). 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) (2025). “High-cost support” refers to those support mechanisms provided pursuant to subparts D, J, K, L, M, and O of Title 47 Part 54 of the Code of Federal Regulations. 47 C.F.R. § 54.5 (2024).

2. In Montana, the Montana Public Service Commission (“Commission” or “PSC”) is authorized to designate telecommunication carriers as eligible for HCS in accordance with 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(1) and 47 U.S.C. § 254. Mont. Code Ann. § 69-3-840(1) (2025). To remain eligible to receive HCS, telecommunication carriers that have been designated as Montana ETCs eligible to receive HCS must receive annual ETC recertifications from the Commission. Mont. Admin. R. 38.5.3218; 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a) (mandating that before Montana ETCs may receive HCS, the Commission must file an annual certification with the federal government stating that all HCS provided to Montana ETCs 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).

3. On June 5, 2025, the Commission sent a notice to all Montana ETCs informing them of the requisite information that must be provided to the Commission for the 2025 annual certification (“Notice”). Letter from Mike Sheard,

PSC Regulatory Compliance Specialist, to Montana ETCs (June 5, 2025). The requisite information includes (1) an affidavit attesting the ETC only used HCS in 2024, and will only use HCS in 2026, for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which HCS is intended; and (2) information indicating the ETC has complied with all applicable federal reporting requirements associated with being a recipient of applicable HCS. *Id.* at 1-2.

4. In response to the Notice, the Commission received requests for 2025 annual certification from the telecommunications carriers identified in Attachment A. Each of the listed carriers has filed with the Commission the requisite information described in the Notice for 2025 annual certification. *See* Compliance Filings.

5. The Commission provided public notice of the requests for 2025 annual certification in Agenda No. 2025.10.21, which was published on October 17, 2025. The public notice required interested persons to submit comments no later than October 22, 2025. Agenda No. 2025.10.21 at 2. The Commission received no comments.

6. The telecommunication carriers listed in Attachment A are hereby GRANTED 2025 annual certification and are RECERTIFIED as ETCs in Montana for HCS in year 2026.

7. The Commission's jurisdiction over this matter is found in Title 69, Chapter 3 of the Montana Code Annotated; Title 38, Chapters 2 and 5 of the Administrative Rules of Montana; and any prior orders of the Commission relevant to the issues presented.

DONE AND DATED October 24, 2025, by the Montana Public Service Commission through delegation to staff.

JENNIFER FIELDER, Vice President
RANDALL PINOCCI, Commissioner
DR. ANNIE BUKACEK, Commissioner
BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner
JEFF WELBORN, Commissioner

ATTACHMENT A

STUDY AREA CODE	CARRIER NAME
480006	INLAND CELLULAR
480008	MONTANA INTERNET CORPORATION
482235	BLACKFOOT TEL - BTC
482241	HOT SPRINGS TEL CO
482242	INTERBEL TEL COOP
482244	LINCOLN TEL CO INC
482246	MID-RIVERS TEL COOP
482247	NEMONT TEL COOP-MT
482248	NORTHERN TEL COOP
482249	CENTURYTEL-MONTANA
482250	PROJECT TEL CO
482251	RANGE TEL COOP-MT
482252	RONAN TEL CO
482254	SOUTHERN MONTANA TEL
482255	3-RIVERS TEL COOP
482257	TRIANGLE TEL COOP
483308	BLACKFOOT TEL - CFT
483310	CENTRAL MONTANA
484322	NORTHWEST FIBER LLC DBA ZIPLY FIBER
485104	QWEST CORP-MT
488003	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
488004	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
488005	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
488006	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
488007	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
488008	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
488011	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
488012	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
488013	COMMNET WIRELESS, LLC
488014	TRIANGLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, INC.
489001	MID-RIVERS TEL COOP
489002	INTERBEL TEL COOP
489003	3 RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
489006	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.
489007	RANGE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
489010	SAGEBRUSH CELLULAR, INC.- CL
489014	COMMNET WIRELESS, LLC DBA COMMNET 4 CORNERS, LLC
489016	GALLATIN WIRELESS INTERNET, LLC
489017	VIASAT
489018	BLACKFOOT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on October 24, 2025, a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was served by email to the following:

Montana Consumer Council	jbrown4@mt.gov
BroadbandMT	ssnow@mt.gov
3 Rivers Tel Coop, Inc.	bridger@broadbandmt.com
Air Voice Wireless, LLC	charlotte@broadbandmt.com
Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.	emily.gulick@3rivers.coop
Blackfoot Tel Coop, Inc.	regcompliance@fastektax.com
Triangle Telephone Coop Assoc., Inc.	teri.ohta@t-mobile.com
	regulatory@blackfoot.com
	hilltrigm@itstriangle.net
	cgate@itstriangle.net
	kpike@itstriangle.net
Central Montana	hilltrigm@itstriangle.net
	cgate@itstriangle.net
	kpike@itstriangle.net
CenturyLink CenturyTel of MT, Inc.	adam.sherr@lumen.com
CenturyLink Qwest Corp.	adam.sherr@lumen.com
Commnet Four Corners LLC	rranaraja@atni.com
Gallatin Wireless Internet, LLC	jesse.dupont@tctstaff.com
	don.jackson@tctstaff.com
Hot Springs Tel. Co.	kathe_ann@yahoo.com
	hstc@hotspringsmt.net
	tym.rutkowski@mossadams.com
IM Telecom (Infiniti)	scarmel@infinitimobile.com
Inland Cellular	anne@inlandcell.com
Interbel Tel. Coop, Inc.	jmoothart@interbel.com
Lincoln Tel Company, Inc.	bryced@lintel.net
Mid-Rivers Tel Coop, Inc.	erin.lutts@midrivers.coop
Montana Internet	josh@mt.net
Nemont Tel. Coop, Inc.	dionne.nieskens@nemont.coop
North American Local, LLC	jbellas@northamericanlocal.com
Northern Tel. Coop, Inc.	adietrich@northerntel.net
Project Telephone Company	dionne.nieskens@nemont.coop
Range Tel. Coop, Inc.	rob.johnstone@rangetel.coop
Ronan Tel. Compay	michellem@ronan.net
Sagebrush Cellular, Inc.	dionne.nieskens@nemont.coop
Siyeh Communications	brian@siycom.com
Southern Montana Tel. Company	doran@smtel.coop

Telrite Corporation d/b/a Life Wireless
Tempo Telecom. LLC
Terracom, Inc.
Tracfone Wireless
Triangle Telephone Coop Assoc., Inc.
TruConnect Communications, Inc.
Viasat Carrier Servoces, Inc.

kelly.jesel@telrite.com
bill.morris@mytempo.com
mccright@mccright.com
llang@tracfone.com
hilltrigm@itstriangle.net
RegulatoryAffairs@truconnect.com
map@compliancegroup.com
shelby.striegel@viasat.com
jessica.epley@ziply.com
jessica.epley@ziply.com
jessica.epley@ziply.com

Ziply Fiber of Montana, LLC
Ziply Fiber Pacific
Ziply Wireless

Email List(s)

General Telecommunications Services

By: /s/ Tarin Slayton
Tarin Slayton

Montana Public Service Commission