

Montana Public Service Commission



Brad Molnar, President
Jennifer Fielder, Vice President
Randall Pinocci, Commissioner
Dr. Annie Bukacek, Commissioner
Jeff Welborn, Commissioner

June 5, 2025

RE: Docket No. 2025.06.044 – In re the 2025 Annual Certification of Montana Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated § 69-3-840, the Montana Public Service Commission (“Commission”) is authorized to designate telecommunications carriers as eligible for federal universal service support (“federal support”) in accordance with 47 U.S.C. §§ 214(e)(1) and 254. Carriers that have been designated by the Commission as eligible for federal support are Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”). The Commission is required to recertify ETCs no later than October 1 of each year pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.314.

Commission staff requests the following information from ETCs that seek recertification for purposes of receiving federal support in 2026. All information should be filed with the Commission under Docket No. 2025.06.044.

- A letter from the ETC to the Commission requesting ETC recertification for purposes of receiving federal support in 2026. The letter should list each study area code (“SAC”) for which the carrier would like to be recertified as an ETC and should note, for each SAC, if the ETC designation is applicable for both high cost and low-income federal support, or for low-income federal support only.
- For carriers whose ETC designation is for both high-cost and low-income federal support, please provide:
 - For each SAC, the name of each universal service high-cost program from which the ETC will receive federal support (e.g., Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II, Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM), Enhanced ACAM, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), etc.).
 - Confirmation that Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) Form 481 has been or will be filed with the Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) in accordance with FCC rules. (Annual reporting requirements for ETCs that receive high-cost federal support are generally set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313.)
 - A summary or statement of compliance with any applicable defined broadband or other service deployment obligations for each SAC with such deployment obligations. Also, please confirm that the ETC has submitted the necessary broadband deployment data for 2024 into the High Cost Universal Broadband (“HUBB”) portal pursuant to federal requirements.

- A sworn affidavit from a corporate officer attesting that the ETC used all federal support in the preceding calendar year and will use all federal support in the upcoming calendar year for the purposes for which the federal support is intended. For example, high-cost federal support must be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the federal support is intended. A sample affidavit is attached to this letter.

Commission staff request that the above information be filed with the Commission under Docket No. 2025.06.044 no later than July 7, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Mike Sheard
Regulatory Compliance Specialist
Montana Public Service Commission

☎ 1-800-646-6150

✉ mike.sheard@mt.gov

🌐 <http://psc.mt.gov/>

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 5th day of June, 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

bridger@broadbandmt.com

charlotte@broadbandmt.com

3 Rivers Tel Coop, Inc.

emily.gulick@3rivers.coop

Air Voice Wireless, LLC

regcompliance@fastektax.com

Assurance Wireless USA, L.P.

teri.ohta@t-mobile.com

Blackfoot Tel Coop, Inc.

regulatory@blackfoot.com

Triangle Telephone Coop Assoc., Inc.

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

kelly.jesel@telrite.com

Tempo Telecom. LLC
Terracom, Inc.
Tracfone Wireless
Triangle Telephone Coop Assoc., Inc.
TruConnect Communications, Inc.
Viasat Carrier Servoces, Inc.

Ziply Fiber of Montana, LLC
Ziply Fiber Pacific
Ziply Wireless

Email List(s)

General Telecommunications Services

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

By: /s/ *Tarin Slayton*

Tarin Slayton

Montana Public Service Commission

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

In re 2025 Annual Certification of
Montana Eligible Telecommunications
Carriers for 2026 High Cost and Low
Income Support

Docket 2025.06.044

Affidavit of _____

I, _____, being duly sworn upon oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I am _____ of _____. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.

2. _____ used all federal universal service support in 2024, and will use 2025 support, only for the purposes for which the support is intended.

3. _____ has complied with all applicable reporting requirements per CFR 47 §54.313, §54.422, §54.304, and §54.1009(c).

4. _____ does provide federal Lifeline and Tribal Linkup services to low income customers per the provisions of CFR 47, §54-Subpart E – Universal Service Support for Low-Income Consumers.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2025

Signature

State of _____
County of _____

Signed and sworn to before me on _____ by _____.
Date Print name of signer

Notary Signature

[Montana notaries must complete the
following, if not part of stamp.]

Printed Name of Notary
Notary Public for the State of _____
Residing at _____
My Commission expires: _____ ,
20__