

Custer Telephone Cooperative Inc.

Friday, June 30, 2023 4:13:34 PM

IDAHO PUBLIC

UTILITIES COMMISSION

PO Box 324 • 1101 E. Main Ave. Challis, ID. 83226 • Telephone: (208) 879 2281 • Fax: (208) 879 5211

June 30, 2023

Ms. Jan Norijuki Commission Secretary Idaho Public Utilities Commission 11331 W. Chinden Blvd. Bldg. 8, Suite 201-A Boise, Idaho 83714

RE: 2023 Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Annual Reporting Requirements with the IPUC – Case Number GNR-T-23-01

Dear Ms. Norijuki,

Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("the Company") has completed the online filing of the Form 481 with the Universal Service Administrative Corporation ("USAC") for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 54.313 and 54.422. Section 54.313 applies to eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs") receiving high-cost federal USF support and Section 54.422 applies to ETCs receiving low-income support. Both sections require the Company to file the annual report with the FCC, USAC and the Commission. I have enclosed the signed Affidavit pursuant to Commission Order 29841.

Please review the online filing and include our Company in your Annual Use Certification Letter to USAC and the FCC.

If you have any questions or need any further information, do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

James D Bennetts CEO / General Manager

State of <u>Idaho</u>)) ss County of <u>Custer</u>) CERTIFICATION BY ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER OF COMPLIANCE WITH SERVICE QUALITY AND CUSTOMER PROTECTION, ABILITY TO REMAIN FUNCTIONAL IN EMERGENCIES, AND USE OF FEDERAL HIGH-COST SUPPORT.

AFFIDAVIT OF BUSINESS OR CORPORATE OFFICER

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission Order No. 29841 requires that Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETC) certify that it is compliant with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules; and ETCs must demonstrate the ability to remain functional in emergencies. In addition, the Commission must file an annual certification with the USAC and the FCC that all federal high-cost support provided to ETCs within the State of Idaho will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Accordingly, the undersigned states and verifies under oath the following:

- 1. I am an officer of <u>Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.</u>, an eligible telecommunications carrier for receiving federal universal service support under section 214(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in the state of Idaho.
- 2. I am familiar with the Company's day-to-day operations in the state of Idaho and with the State's service quality standards and consumer protection rules as set forth in Commission Order No. 29841.
- 3. <u>Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.</u> is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules of the Federal Communications Commission and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.
- 4. I certify to the Commission that the Company is able to remain functional in emergencies as set forth in Commission Order No. 29841 and in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2).
- 5. I also certify that all federal universal service support funds received by <u>Custer Telephone</u> <u>Cooperative, Inc.</u> during the current calendar year will be used in a manner consistent with section 254(e); that is, for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The company will continue to comply for the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, to be eligible for federal universal service fund support.
- 6. This verification and affidavit is provided to be the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to enable the IPUC to certify to the FCC that federal universal service support received by the eligible carriers in the state will be used in a manner consistent with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act.

CEO/GM day of

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this

Notary Public for Custer Tel, residing at Charles, Jo My Commission expires 5-18-2027

KRISTA KOEPPEN Notary Public - State of Idaho Commission Number 65303 My Commission Expires 05-18-2027