

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: 2014 ETC REPORTING FORMS	DOCKET NO. IAC-2014-3906
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ORDER REQUIRING FILING

(Issued April 9, 2014)

On November 18, 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a comprehensive order reforming the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation system (ICC) (USF/ICC Transformation Order).¹ In the USF/ICC Transformation Order, the FCC adopted or modified several reporting requirements for eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that receive high-cost support. These changes affect both the Utilities Board (Board), as the state agency that designates ETCs, and the eligible carriers. The FCC revised the annual certification for ETCs regarding the use of high-cost support. In its revised rule at 47 C.F.R. 54.314, the FCC now requires that the Board certify that all federal high-cost support was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the new calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

The Board's existing rules on ETC designation and certification contain a certification form in 199 IAC 39.6(3) which carriers file with the Board to enable the

¹ See *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 11-161 (rel. Nov. 18, 2011).

Board, in turn, to certify to the FCC that support will be used for required purposes. That form does not include the requirement that carriers certify that support has been used in the preceding year for required purposes. In an order issued in Docket No. WRU-2014-0006-4081, the Board waived the requirement that the affected ETCs use the current certification form included in the Board's rules at 199 IAC 39.6(3).

The Board will require all ETCs that propose to continue to receive high-cost support to file the attached certification form, which reflects the new FCC requirement that carriers certify how high-cost support was and will be used in the preceding and coming calendar years. The certification form also refers to support being used in the current year for its intended purpose. ETCs that wish to continue to receive high-cost support shall file the attached certification form with the Board by July 1, 2014. ETCs shall file the attached form using an ETR docket designation. Other changes to the Board's ETC reporting requirements, including reports regarding network improvement and maintenance plans, will be addressed by the Board in revised reporting forms to be posted on the Board's Web site.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Eligible telecommunications carriers wishing to continue to receive federal high-cost support shall complete and file the attached certification form with the Board no later than July 1, 2014.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

/s/ Nick Wagner

ATTEST:

/s/ Joan Conrad
Executive Secretary

/s/ Sheila K. Tipton

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 9th day of April 2014.

CERTIFICATION OF [COMPANY NAME]

STATE OF IOWA
COUNTY OF _____

I, [authorized corporate officer], [office], [company name], being of lawful age and duly sworn, depose and state:

[Company name], [SAC number], certifies that all federal high-cost support provided to [company name] within Iowa was used in the preceding calendar year (2013) and will be used in the current calendar year (2014) and coming calendar year (2015) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. In addition, [company name] certifies that it will comply with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules, certifies that it is able to maintain a minimum of two hours of backup power to ensure functionality without an external power source, certifies that it is offering a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the ILEC in the relevant service areas, and certifies that it acknowledges that the FCC may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other eligible carrier is providing equal access, within [company name's] ETC designated service area. As an eligible telecommunications carrier, [company name] agrees to provide timely responses to board requests for information related to the status of local voice service markets or facilities.

I further state that I am authorized by [company name] to make this statement.

[authorized officer]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public