

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Tre Hargett, Chairman
Eddie Roberson, Director
Sara Kyle, Director
Mary Freeman, Director



REC-11

2008 SEP 30 PM 2:36

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM



September 22, 2008

Ms. Karen Majcher
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L. Street N.W. – Suite 200
Washington D.C. 20036

Subject: State Certification That Basic Service Rates In Rural, High-Cost Areas Served
By Non-Rural Carriers Are Reasonably Comparable To The National Urban
Rate Benchmark.

Dear Ms. Majcher:

This letter is sent as certification that rural rates for services provided by the non-rural carriers in Tennessee are reasonably comparable to the nationwide benchmark urban rate.

In October 2003, the Federal Communications Commission modified the high cost universal service support mechanism for non-rural carriers.¹ One of the modifications was that the certification process was expanded by requiring each state to provide information to the Commission regarding the comparability of the rates in rural areas served by non-rural carriers within the state to urban rates nationwide. To ensure comparability of the rural rates, the Commission established a “safe harbor” bench mark national urban rate² and determined that other relevant factors, such as poor service quality or limited calling areas, should also be considered.³

Pursuant to the Commission’s direction, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“Authority”) has reviewed the residential rates charged by the non-rural carrier in rural areas and found them to be below the “safe harbor” benchmark established by the Commission. In addition, the Authority has considered other relevant factors of service quality and the calling scopes associated with rates, and determined that the rate comparability is not limited by these factors.

¹ *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Memorandum Opinion and Order*, FCC 03-249 (October 27, 2003).

² *Id.*, ¶ 81.

³ *Id.*, ¶ 90.

Accordingly, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority certifies that non-rural carrier rates for residential service in Tennessee's rural areas are reasonably comparable to the national urban rate benchmark.

This filing is made pursuant to CC Docket 96-45.

Sincerely,



Tre Hargett
Chairman



Sara Kyle
Director



Mary Freeman
Director

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September 22, 2008

Ms. Karen Majcher
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division
Universal Service Administration Company
2000 L Street, NW – Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

RE: Pursuant to Federal Rule 54.314(a), October 1st Certification Requirement for High-Cost Universal Service Support, CC Docket No. 96-45.

Dear Ms. Majcher:

This letter is sent to certify that all eligible carriers subject to the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“Authority”)¹ have provided self certification that 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, will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act. No non-rural carriers in Tennessee are eligible to receive this support. A list of all eligible rural carriers under the jurisdiction of the Authority and the Study Area Code (“SAC”) for each follows:²

<u>State</u>	<u>SAC</u>	<u>Company Name</u>
TN	290280	Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc.
TN	299001	Ben Lomand Communications, Inc.
TN	299007	Budget Phone, Inc.
TN	290552	CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc.
TN	290557	CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc.
TN	290574	CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc.
TN	299008	Cinergy Communications Company

¹ According to Tennessee statutes, telephone cooperatives are not subject to Authority jurisdiction; therefore, they are not being certified in this letter. It is our understanding that cooperatives must file appropriate certification directly with the FCC and USAC. Tennessee has ten (10) telephone cooperatives operating in the state.

² All the listed Tennessee rural incumbents have certified to the TRA that they are not disaggregating and are targeting high-cost support pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.315(b) except Citizens Telecommunications Company of Tennessee, LLC. Citizens Telecommunications Company of Tennessee, LLC submitted its Disaggregation Plan to the TRA for approval pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.315(c) in TRA Docket No. 04-00098. The TRA approved the plan on May 24, 2004.

<u>State</u>	<u>SAC</u>	<u>Company Name</u>
TN	290580	Citizens Telecommunications Company of the Volunteer State, LLC
TN	294336	Citizens Telecommunications Company of Tennessee, LLC
TN	290559	Concord Telephone Exchange
TN	290561	Crockett Telephone Company, Inc.
TN	290566	Humphreys County Telephone Company
TN	290570	Loretto Telephone Company, Inc.
TN	290571	Millington Telephone Company, Inc.
TN	290576	Peoples Telephone Company, Inc.
TN	290578	Tellico Telephone Company, Inc.
TN	290575	Tennessee Telephone Company
TN	290581	United Telephone Company
TN	299009	VCI Company
TN	290583	West Tennessee Telephone Company Inc.

The following company was designated by the Authority as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier on July 28, 2008.

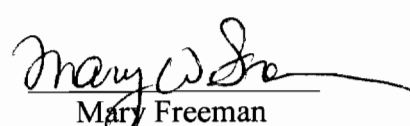
TN PENDING Aeneas Communications, LLC

This filing is made pursuant to CC Docket 96-45.

Sincerely


 Tre Hargett
 Chairman


 Sara Kyle
 Director


 Mary Freeman
 Director