

Docket Number: TC25-036
Subject Matter: Staff's Data Request 1
Request to: Bersford Municipal Telephone Company
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: 11/18/25
Responses Due: 12/2/25

1.1. Has the company provided notice to other local exchange carriers in the area per ARSD 20:10:32:04?

Yes, we communicated with Clarity Telecom, LLC's counsel prior to the filing to amend Beresford's Certificate of Authority and the docket filing, as filed with the PUC, was also provided to the company.

1.2. Does Beresford Municipal Telephone Company intend to apply for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation in the affected area?

Yes, Beresford intends to file with the FCC to update its study area boundary, so that the area can then be added to their ETC area. The FCC with its High Cost Admin Order released in April 2024 (see attached Order) adopted new rules requiring FCC approval of all study area boundary changes.

1.3. Does the company currently provide, or does it intend to provide, Lifeline Services in the area?

There are currently no subscribers in the area. Following amendment of the Certificate of Authority and respective ETC approval at the FCC, Beresford will advertise the availability of Lifeline Service and provide the requested service within the newly annexed area to any end users that may reside in such area.

1.4. Does the company anticipate this docket revising the study area boundaries for Beresford and Clarity Telecom LLC dba Bluepeak?

Yes, as noted in response 1.2 above, Beresford will be seeking to update its study area boundary to reflect the newly annexed area. This would be consistent with the FCC Order referenced above and the federal process set forth in the FCC rules for study area boundary changes, which would also necessarily involve a corresponding change to the ILEC study area boundary of Clarity Telecom.