

**TDS TELECOM**

*Government and Regulatory Affairs*

Ms. Blanca Bayo  
Clerk, Records and Reporting  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

March 17, 1998

RECEIVED

**Re: CC Docket 96-45, Report and Order, In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service - Self-certification as a Rural Telephone Company**

Dear Ms. Bayo

The above captioned proceeding states that all carriers "must notify the Commission and its state commission that, for the purposes of universal service support determination, it meets the Section 3(37) definition of a rural carrier." Attached is the requisite self-certification letter for the local exchange carrier owned by TDS TELECOM that operates in Florida.

Please forward any response regarding this certification to

Mark A. Jenn  
Senior Administrator - Federal Regulatory Affairs  
TDS TELECOM  
301 South Westfield Road  
P.O. Box 5158  
Madison WI 53717-1799

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at (608) 845-4196.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Jenn  
Senior Administrator - Federal Regulatory Affairs

Attachments / 1

cc Tom McCabe

CMU  
LEG  
SEL

03706

03706

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**Re: CC Docket 96-45, Report and Order, In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service - Self-certification as a Rural Telephone Company**

Dear Ms. Bayo

On behalf of our local operating company, **Quincy Telephone Company**, TDS TELECOM files this certification statement pursuant to the above captioned proceeding. In that Report and Order, the FCC stated that a carrier "must notify the Commission and its state commission that, for the purposes of universal service support determination, it meets the Section 3(37) definition of a rural carrier."

Section 3(37) states that the term "rural telephone company" means a local exchange carrier operating entity to the extent that such entity--

- (A) provides common carrier service to any local exchange carrier study area that does not include either--
  - (i) any incorporated place of 10,000 inhabitants or more, or any part thereof, based on the most recently available population statistics of the Bureau of the Census, or
  - (ii) any territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in an urbanized area, as defined by the Bureau of the Census as of August 10, 1993.
- (B) provides telephone exchange service, including exchange access, to fewer than 50,000 access lines,
- (C) provides telephone exchange service to any local exchange carrier study area with fewer than 100,000 access lines, or
- (D) has less than 15 percent of its access lines in communities of more than 50,000 on the date of enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

I, Mark Jenn, hereby certify that Quincy Telephone Company d/b/a TDS TELECOM, NECA Study Area Codes 210338 & 220338, with headquarters at 107 West Franklin Street, P.O. Box 189, Quincy, Florida 32351-0189, qualifies as a rural telephone company under Section 3(37)(A), (B), (C) and (D) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Quincy qualifies because it i) provides common carrier service to a study area that includes neither an incorporated place of 10,000 inhabitants nor an urbanized area, ii) provides telephone exchange service to 13,524 access lines, iii) provides service to a study area with 13,524 access lines, and iv) has no access lines in communities of more than 50,000. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 608-845-4196.

Sincerely,



Mark Jenn  
Senior Administrator - Federal Regulatory Affairs