

Eligibility Certifications

South Dakota Board of Directors for Educational Telecommunications (“Applicant”) certifies that the Commission has previously granted a broadcast application that found it qualified as a noncommercial educational entity with a qualifying educational program. Please see BPED-20140619AAV, granted December 8, 2014 (see also BLED-19920212KA, granted August 28, 1992; BALED-19850514KL, granted June 26, 1985). Applicant will use the proposed station to advance a program similar to that the Commission has found qualifying in Applicant’s previous application.

Applicant is the licensee of the 20 NCE full service television and radio stations that comprise South Dakota Public Broadcasting (“SDPB”), a state network established in 1965 to serve the state of South Dakota with news, emergency information, and other important programming, including NPR and locally-produced content. SDPB is a vital community resource producing and broadcasting high-quality, commercial free programs and valuable community outreach projects that educate, enlighten, and entertain. SDPB’s radio network serves the state as the designated “State Relay” and “State Primary” stations to activate Emergency Alert System messages, including AMBER, Endangered Persons, and Blue Alerts. Applicant proposes to construct and add to the SDPB state network a new NCE FM radio station to serve the communities of Mitchell, Alexandria, Mt. Vernon, Letcher, Fulton, Ethan, and Dimock, South Dakota. With studios and offices located in Vermillion, Sioux Falls and Rapid City, South Dakota, the radio portion of the network currently serves over 96 percent of South Dakotans through SDPB’s existing 11 full power radio stations. An FM station in Mitchell, South Dakota will secure SDPB’s services in one of the network’s last major population coverage holes in the state.

Applicant certifies that its enabling statute (attached) permits it to advance an educational program and that there is no provision in such statute that would restrict the Applicant from advancing an educational program or complying with any Commission rules, policies, or the Communications Act.