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NEWS RELEASE

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PRC Vice Chair Becenti-Aguilar Announces Appointments to State Rural Service Fund Advisory Board

SANTA FE—New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (Commission) Vice Chair Theresa Becenti-Aguilar announced two new appointments to the New Mexico State Rural Service Fund (NMRUSF) Advisory Board (Advisory Board). During the Commission’s regular Open Meeting held on September 13, Utility Division Staff recommended the Commission to appoint Loretta Armenta of Albuquerque and Brian Tagaban (Navajo) of Tohatchi, New Mexico to the board.

Vice Chair Becenti-Aguilar stated, “Today it is a great distinction that Brian Tagaban has accepted to serve on the Advisory Board. He will be responsible to build consensus on matters relating to the administration of the NMRUSF, where deemed necessary. Mr. Tagaban and other Advisory Board members can make recommendations to the Commission on matters to strengthen telecommunication services. We have a real opportunity to work together.”

The Advisory Board provides recommendations to the Commission on the management of the NMRUSF, which was created to allow for the statutorily mandated reduction in intrastate access rates paid by telephone carriers to complete in-state long distance calls. The NMRUSF collects and disburses approximately \$24 million annually through an independent administrator and is funded through a state universal service fund surcharge levied on all intrastate telecommunications services in the state.

Ms. Armenta was appointed to a three-year term replacing Michael Horcasitas as the CenturyLink representative for the Non-Rural local exchange companies on the board.

She said, “I am honored to have been asked to serve on the Mexico State Universal Service Fund Advisory Board and look forward to working with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and distinguished telecommunication leaders.”

Ms. Armenta is the State Director of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs for CenturyLink Corporation, and previously served as President of New Mexico Operations for Qwest Communications International Inc. since December 2004. Before joining Qwest, Armenta served seven years as the president and chief executive officer

of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. As a native New Mexican, she has worked and lived in New Mexico most of her life. She has earned several certificates in executive management from the University of New Mexico, Dallas Catholic University and the University of Florida.

In March 2011, Mr. Tagaban was re-appointed as the executive director of the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission and is a member of the Navajo Broadband Workgroup. He will serve on the Advisory Board without a term limit as the representative of Native American consumers, until concluded by Commission Order.

“It’s an honor to be selected to represent the New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos on the State Rural Universal Service Fund Advisory Board,” he stated from his office. “It has a great deal of influence over a limited vital resource directed toward servicing the essential need of telecommunications on tribal lands.”

This year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) named Tagaban to their newly created FCC-Native Nations Broadband Task Force. In a span of eight years, he also worked for the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation in 2003 and then at the Division of Health in 2007. Tagaban has a bachelor’s of computer science and engineering degree from Northern Arizona University.

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About the NMPRC

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal’s Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, New Mexico, Pipeline Safety Bureau and the Corporations Bureau, which registers state corporations. The NMPRC is also responsible for the oversight of the New Mexico Insurance Division and the state’s superintendent of insurance.