

**CIRCLE TELEPHONE & ELECTRIC, LLC**

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April 4, 2019

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Connect America Fund – Alaska Plan*, WC Docket 16-271 Biennial Performance Plan Review

Circle Telephone & Electric, LLC “CTE” is a local exchange carrier receiving universal service high cost support under the *Alaska Plan Order*.<sup>1</sup> CTE is listed in the Alaska Plan Order as a carrier approved to maintain service at existing levels and therefore is subject to a biennial performance plan review.<sup>2</sup>

On April 1, 2019, Julie Donn, CTE accountant, contacted Jesse Jachman at the Wireline Competition Bureau for guidance in regard to the biennial review process. As a follow-up to that conversation, CTE respectfully submits the following information for use in the performance plan review:

- 1) CTE has not deployed broadband service. Terrestrial backhaul is not available in CTE’s service area. CTE must rely on satellite or microwave backhaul.
- 2) CTE continues to meet its Alaska Plan performance obligation by maintaining its existing voice telecommunication service.
- 3) CTE utilizes copper cable facilities to provision its local exchange voice service. CTE is considering upgrading its existing outside plant facilities to fiber but the upgrade is still in the research phase.
- 4) The backhaul needed to provide voice long distance service is provided via satellite by AT&T.
- 5) CTE continues to monitor broadband backhaul options. In 2018, CTE learned that broadband service was being deployed 35 miles from Circle in the town of Central, Alaska. CTE immediately contacted United Utilities, Inc. “UUI”, the local exchange carrier for Central, to see if terrestrial backhaul was being deployed. UUI stated that satellite backhaul was being used and expressed their concern as to how costly it had been to deploy the broadband service.

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<sup>1</sup> *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 10139 (2016) (*Alaska Plan Order*).

<sup>2</sup> *Alaska Plan Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 10158, para. 62.

- 6) CTE had not considered the use of microwave backhaul. CTE will research the use of microwave backhaul and will report its findings in CTE's next FCC Form 481 filing.

If any additional information is needed, please contact me at [damasephol@gmail.com](mailto:damasephol@gmail.com) or Julie Donn at [juliedonn55@gmail.com](mailto:juliedonn55@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Masephol". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Masephol  
President

Cc: Jesse Jachman  
Wireline Competition Bureau