REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Your business is our business.

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 19, 2017

Via Hand Delivery

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

Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2017 ETC Annual Report of Sledge Telephone Company
Study Area Code 280466

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Sledge Telephone Company ("Company"), JSI files the attached confidential version of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.[1] Company seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.[2] The redacted version is being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System.

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

[1] 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.
[2] *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, Protective Order, DA 16-296 rel. March 22, 2016 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Robert Sledge
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<210> For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages? No

<220>

<a> NORS Reference Number	<b1> Outage Start Date	<b2> Outage Start Time	<b3> Outage End Date	<b4> Outage End Time	<c1> Number of Customers Affected	<c2> Total Number of Customers	<d> 911 Facilities Affected (Yes / No)	<e> Service Outage Description (Check all that apply)	<f> Did This Outage Affect Multiple Study Areas (Yes / No)	<g> Service Outage Resolution	<h> Preventative Procedures

(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice) 0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband) 0

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	Offered only fixed voice
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0.0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	Offered only fixed broadband
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0.0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	280466ms510.pdf
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations
Data Collection Form

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FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	280466ms610.pdf

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Robert Sledge
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2017
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	

<703>

<a1>	<a2>	<a3>	<b1>	<b2>	<b3>	<b4>	<b5>	<c>
State	**Exchange (ILEC)**	**SAC (CETC)**	**Rate Type**	**Residential Local Service Rate**	**State Subscriber Line Charge**	**State Universal Service Fee**	**Mandatory Extended Area Service Charge**	**Total per line Rates and Fees**

-- See attached worksheet --

(710) Broadbrand Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
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<020>	Program Year	2018
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<711>

<a1>	<a2>	<b1>	<b2>	<c>	<d1>	<d2>	<d3>	<d4>
State	**Exchange (ILEC)**	**Residential Rate**	**State Regulated Fees**	**Total Rate and Fees**	**Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)**	**Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)**	**Usage Allowance (GB)**	**Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {*select*}**
			-- See attached worksheet --					

(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<810>	Reporting Carrier	Sledge Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Sunflower Enterprises, Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	Sledge Telephone Company

<813>

<a1>	<a2>	<a3>
Affiliates	**SAC**	**Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation**

-- See attached worksheet --

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986 /OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Robert Sledge
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

		Select Yes or No or Not Applicable
<921>	Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.	
<922>	Feasibility and sustainability planning;	
<923>	Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;	
<924>	Compliance with Rights of way processes	
<925>	Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements	
<926>	Compliance with Facilities Siting rules	
<927>	Compliance with Environmental Review processes	
<928>	Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes	
<929>	Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.	

(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<1000>	Voice services rate comparability certification	Yes
<1010>	Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance	Name of Attached Document
<1020>	Broadband comparability certification	No
<1030>	Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance	280466ms1030.pdf Name of Attached Document

(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Robert Sledge
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<1100>	Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)	Yes
<1130>	Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).	

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

280466ms1210.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

<1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, ✔

<1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, ✔

<1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. ✔

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form
Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.

<2022> Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.

<2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.

<2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?

<2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<2025A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?

<2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form
Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017C> Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)

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(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Robert Sledge
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Progress Report on 5 Year Plan

(3009) Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii) — Yes - Attach Certification

(3010A) Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)} — 280466ms3010.pdf

(3010B) Please Provide Attachment — Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3012A) Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)} — No - No New Community Anchors

(3012B) Please Provide Attachment — Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3013) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)} — (Yes/No) ◉ ○

(3014) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report — (Yes/No) ◉ ○

Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:

(3015) Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers) — ✔

(3016) Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows — ✔

(3017) If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation — Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information — 280466ms3017.pdf

(3018) If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited? — (Yes/No) ○ ○

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3019) Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers

(3020) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3021) Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.

If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3022) Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers

(3023) Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant

(3024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.

(3025) Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3026) Attach the worksheet listing required information — Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

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(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue	[redacted]
(3028) Operating Expenses	[redacted]
(3029) Net Income	[redacted]
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)	[redacted]
(3031) Total Assets	[redacted]
(3032) Total Debt	[redacted]
(3033) Total Equity	[redacted]
(3034) Dividends	[redacted]

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)
Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission's public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information _____

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481. Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information _____

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area. Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information _____

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients

I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.

Name of Reporting Carrier:

Signature of Authorized Officer: Date

Printed name of Authorized Officer:

Title or position of Authorized Officer:

Telephone number of Authorized Officer:

Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: Filing Due Date for this form:

Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

Certification - Agent / Carrier
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier

I certify that (Name of Agent) John Staurulakis, Inc. **is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.**

Name of Authorized Agent: John Staurulakis, Inc.

Name of Reporting Carrier: SLEDGE TEL CO

Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/16/2017

Printed name of Authorized Officer: Robert SledgeJr

Title or position of Authorized Officer: President

Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 6625693311 ext.

Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 280466 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017

Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier

I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.

Name of Reporting Carrier: SLEDGE TEL CO

Name of Authorized Agent Firm: John Staurulakis, Inc.

Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/16/2017

Name of Authorized Agent Employee: Wes Robinson

Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent Manager - Regulatory Affairs

Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: 5123380473 ext.

Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 280466 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017

Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

Attachments

Sledge Telephone Company

Study Area Code: 280466

Response to Line 510 – Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rule Compliance for Voice and Broadband

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,[1] the FCC found that an ETC must make "a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers."[2] The Commission found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA's Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement" and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.[3] In this context, the FCC stated, "to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement."[4]

Sledge Telephone Company ("Company") hereby certifies that it is complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Mississippi Public Service Commission which disclose rates, terms, and conditions of service to customers; (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone

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[1] *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) ("*2005 ETC Order*").

[2] *Id.* at para. 28.

[3] *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: "(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy." *Id.* at n. 71.

[4] *Id.* at n. 72.

providers under Title 39 Utilities, Part III rules and Regulations Governing Public Utility Service, Subpart 1, General Rules, and Subpart 3, Special rules – Telephone Companies, including requirements for customer service, billing, consumer complaints, rates and charges, and slamming, under Mississippi Code Annotated Title 77, Chapter 3 statutes; (3) truth-in-billing requirements; and (4) CPNI rules, and (5) red flag rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

The Company is also subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in F.C.C. 47 C.F.R. Part 8 §8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the *2015 Open Internet Order*, as it applies to the Company.

Sledge Telephone Company

Study Area Code: 280466

Response to Line 610 - Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

Sledge Telephone Company ("Company") hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 54, Subpart C, §54.202(a)(2)[1] and in accordance with the orders in Mississippi Public Service Commission Docket No. 2005-AD-662. The Company's network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). The Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow the Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically in accordance with the orders in Mississippi Public Service Commission Docket No. 2005-AD-662, the Company has a reasonable amount of backup power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic and manage traffic spikes. In addition, the Company has comprehensive emergency operations plans in place and will adhere to the Federal Communications Commission's reporting requirements regarding outages and provide copies of such reports to the Mississippi Commission upon request.

The Company's standby generators and battery back-up support both voice and broadband network equipment should an emergency situation occur.

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[1] Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to "demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations."

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Robert Sledge
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2017
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	

<703>

<a1>	<a2>	<a3>	<b1>	<b2>	<b3>	<b4>	<b5>	<c>
State	**Exchange (ILEC)**	**SAC (CETC)**	**Rate Type**	**Residential Local Service Rate**	**State Subscriber Line Charge**	**State Universal Service Fee**	**Mandatory Extended Area Service Charge**	**Total per line Rates and Fees**
MS	Sunflower		FR	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0

(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Robert Sledge
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<711>

<a1> State	<a2> Exchange (ILEC)	<b1> Residential Rate	<b2> State Regulated Fees	<c> Total Rates and Fees	<d1> Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	<d2> Broadband Service -Upload Speed (Mbps)	<d3> Usage Allowance (GB)	<d4> Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select}
MS	Sunflower	59.95	0.0	59.95	1.5	1.5	999999.0	Other, Unlimited Data
MS	Sunflower	69.95	0.0	69.95	3.0	1.5	999999.0	Other, Unlimited Data
MS	Sunflower	79.95	0.0	79.95	6.0	1.5	999999.0	Other, Unlimited Data
MS	Sunflower	89.95	0.0	89.95	10.0	3.0	999999.0	Other, Unlimited Data
MS	Sunflower	109.95	0.0	109.95	15.0	3.0	999999.0	Other, Unlimited Data
MS	Sunflower	159.95	0.0	159.95	20.0	20.0	999999.0	Other, Unlimited Data

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	280466
<015>	Study Area Name	SLEDGE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Robert Sledge
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6625693311 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	rsledge@deltaland.net

<810>	Reporting Carrier	Sledge Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Sunflower Enterprises, Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	Sledge Telephone Company

<813>

<a1>	<a2>	<a3>
Affiliates	**SAC**	**Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation**
Lakeside Telephone Company	280457	

Sledge Telephone Company (SAC 280466)

Response to Line 1030 – Broadband Rate Comparability

Sledge Telephone Company provides broadband service that exceeds the FCC's minimum broadband speeds, including up to 20 Mbps symmetric broadband service. However, the Company is located in a very rural part of Mississippi and the cost to deploy broadband services are much higher than in more populated areas. The Company's customer density is low, which makes it difficult for the Company to recover costs of deploying broadband networks. As such, the Company's rates are both reasonable for its customers and provides some ability for the Company to recover its investment.

As an example, the Company's FCC-approved tariff for voice-data ADSL service was $96.54 per month for 10/1 broadband service. However, the FCC's broadband benchmark rate is set at $77.98. The FCC's broadband benchmark rates are based on average rates in urban areas and do not take into account, in fact show a disconnect from, the cost of deploying broadband in rural areas. Further, the Company's tariffed ADSL voice-data rates are expected to increase on July 1, 20176 based on information provided by NECA.

Additionally, due to the distance between the Company and the Internet POP and the additional cost from the NECA tariff, the Company's middle-mile transport costs greatly exceed those of urban Internet providers, further hindering the Company's ability to offer broadband service at the urban benchmark rates.

Sledge Telephone Company

Study Area Code: 280466

Rates, Terms and Conditions for Lifeline Service

(Response to Form 481, Line 1210)

Local exchange service rates and charges as specified below are for basic local exchange service, including Tone Dialing Service, and facilities only. The rates for other ancillary services not specifically shown below are presented in Sledge Telephone Company's tariff(s) on file with the Mississippi Public Service Commission. Unless otherwise specified, the rates and charges quoted below are for a period of one month, payable in advance and provide unlimited flat rate calling within the local exchange calling scope.

Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rates are provided in Line 700 included herein this ETC Annual Report. The residential local service rates listed in Line 700 do not include all mandatory taxes, fees and surcharges, including, but not limited to, state and local taxes, 9-1-1 fees and municipal franchise fees. Qualified Lifeline customers are eligible for Lifeline credits or discounts as outlined in the attached Lifeline tariff.

SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

General

The Company, as part of its obligations as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, offers a low-income assistance program. This program, Lifeline Assistance, is offered under the terms and conditions provided below:

Lifeline Assistance

A. **General**

Lifeline Assistance is a retail service offering available to qualifying low-income subscribers, as provided for below. Effective December 2, 2016, Lifeline program consumers will have the choice (where applicable) of applying their benefit to one of the following service offerings: fixed voice (home phone); mobile voice (cell phone); fixed broadband; mobile broadband or broadband-voice bundle. An eligible customer receives credit for the Low-Income Program, pursuant to the Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration FCC 16-38 adopted March 31, 2016 and the MPSC Docket 07-AD-487. (T)

B. **Regulations**

1. Unless other eligibility requirements are established by the Commission or the FCC, Lifeline Assistance is available to all residential subscribers who participate in one of the following programs: (N)

   a) Medicaid,
   b) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps,
   c) Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
   d) Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA),
   e) Federal Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit. (T)
   f) (D)
   g) (D)

   Income-Based Criteria :

   Household gross monthly income that does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, pursuant to the Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration FCC 16-38 adopted March 31, 2016 amending the definition of income to align with the Internal Revenue Service's definition of gross income. (N)

2. Each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that he/she receives benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph B.1., above, and must, on the same document, agree to notify the Company if he/she ceases to participate in the program(s). The certification form shall conform to the requirements described herein, and shall be made available upon request to any subscriber. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications pursuant to FCC Order 12-11 and Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration FCC 16-38 adopted March 31, 2016 in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators. (N)

SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Continued)

Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

B. **Regulations (Continued)**

3. All applications for this service are subject to verifications with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program until such time the FCC establishes the (N)
National Verifier System and it is in effect for verification. The Company may request any (N)
additional documentation deemed necessary prior to providing Lifeline benefits such as an administrating agency's official designation of eligibility in a particular means-based program sub-paragraph B.1., above, and that the telephone subscriber is the financially responsible party for the qualifying member of his or her household, or that the eligible household member is the telephone subscriber's dependent pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service.

4. Effective through December 31, 2016, the Company will reconcile and confirm eligibility periodically pursuant to FCC Order 12-11 and Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order (T)
and Order on Reconsideration FCC 16-38 adopted March 31, 2016. Lifeline subscribers who are (N)
subsequently determined to be ineligible shall be notified of their ineligibility in writing by (D)
the Company and provided 60 days from the date of such notice to rectify or otherwise demonstrate their eligibility prior to the discontinuance of their Lifeline benefits. All unresolved disputes regarding Lifeline eligibility shall be brought to the attention of the Commission for resolution.

5. Beginning January 1, 2017, subscribers already enrolled will be subject to the rolling (N)
recertification's based on their current service initiation date. The rules establishing and |
related to rolling recertification will be effective for all enrollments made beginning on or |
after January 1, 2017. Under the FCC Third Report and Order and the Order on |
Reconsideration, FCC 16-38 (adopted March 31. 2016), the order establishes the creation of |
a National Verifier. Upon establishment of the National Verifier the Company will comply |
with the rules and regulations of the National Verifier system for determining subscriber |
lifeline eligibility. (N)

6. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll blocking as part of Lifeline Assistance at no charge. "Toll Blocking" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence. Local service deposit requirements will be waived for customers who voluntarily receive Toll Limitation Service.

SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Continued)

Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

B. **Regulations (Continued)**

7. Lifeline Assistance will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges, however, in the event toll charges are not paid within 10 days of the mailing of the Company bill, the Company will implement Toll Blocking immediately thereafter. In addition, the Company will not deny re-establishment of local service to customers who are eligible for Lifeline Assistance and have previously been disconnected for non-payment of toll charges. Lifeline Assistance will not be connected if an outstanding balance is owed by the customer for local service.

8. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company, where available. If toll blocking is unavailable, then the Company may charge a service deposit.

9. To increase Lifeline service stability, the FCC Order implements port freezes. A subscriber must stay enrolled in a qualifying Lifeline supported broadband internet access service for twelve (12) months and with Lifeline supported voice telephone provider for sixty (60) days. Exception to these rules are: (N)

   a. A subscriber who is moving to another location, or
   b. The service provider is ceasing to offer services in the area where the subscriber resides. (N)

10. Only one Lifeline service is available per residential household pursuant to FCC Order 12-11 and Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38 (adopted March 31, 2016). A household is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him/her, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians. A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. (N) (N)

11. A Lifeline customer may subscribe to any local service offering available to other residential customers.

12. The PIC charge will not be billed to Lifeline customers who subscribe to toll blocking and do not presubscribe to a long distance carrier.

SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

SERVICE CHARGES

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Continued)

Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

C. **Credits**

1. The following credit* will apply for each customer eligible for Lifeline Assistance:

		Monthly Credit*
a)	Lifeline Credit ①	$ 9.25

2. The Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administrator of the Federal Lifeline Assistance program to the qualifying customer's service, pursuant to FCC Order 12-11 and Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38 (adopted March 31, 2016) and MPSC Docket 2007-AD-487. (T) (N) (N)

3. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.

* Credit amount will not exceed the total of the basic Residential Local Exchange and Subscriber Line Charge rate.

①Rates are in compliance with FCC Order 12-11 and are effective on dates determined by the FCC under Order 12-11 and Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38 (adopted March 31, 2016). (N) (N)

Sledge Telephone Company

Study Area Code: 280466

Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

Sledge Telephone Company ("Company") hereby certifies that throughout 2016, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time. If a request for broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is unreasonable, the Company offers broadband service at the highest available speed.

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ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY