



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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 20, 2016

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
2016 ETC Annual Report of Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp. f/k/a
Polar Telecommunications
Study Area Code 381614**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp. f/k/a polar Telecommunications (“Polar”), 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. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Company’s Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report required by Section 54.313(a)(1).³

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).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313(a)(1).



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June 20, 2016

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

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2016 ETC Annual Report of Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp. f/k/a
Polar Telecommunications
Study Area Code 381614
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. (“JSI”), on behalf of its client Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp. f/k/a Polar Telecommunications (the “Company”) hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission’s rules,¹ withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).²

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company’s annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission’s rules (“Report”).³
2. Pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(1), Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) must file with the Commission a Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan (“Progress Report”) which is contained in the attachment to the 2016 Report.⁴
3. The information contained in attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company’s Progress Report provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment.

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(1).

Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the subject attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information is of a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The Line 112 attachment contains competitively sensitive information related to proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance the Company's network.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC. The FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories."⁵ The Company's Progress Report updates this information as well as provides maps and detailed information as to whether or not network improvement objectives were achieved at the wire center level. Accordingly, because the Company is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file Progress Reports which contain proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network including the specific locations of customers as well as describe proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area. Specifically, this information sets forth services provided by the Company over its existing network including specific locations of customers as well as planned network improvement and maintenance for the years 2015 through 2019 including project start and completion dates, population that will be impacted by the improvements and upgrades at the wire center level and projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades and operating costs associated with maintaining the network including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network as well as detailed plans at the wire center level for network upgrades and maintenance projected for the years 2015 through 2019.

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the Line 112 attachment is information that is not customarily released to the public. This information is proprietary to the Company, is unique to the Company's serving territory and is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors who would be able to target their marketing to specific customers. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive. If publicly disclosed, it would enable competitors to craft business plans that capitalize on their knowledge of the locations of the Company's customers which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.

⁵ See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) ("*March 5, 2013 Order*") at para 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

Request for Confidentiality

Page 3

6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing the attachment under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the Progress Report to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.
7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. Not applicable.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's Progress Report provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



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

**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	381614
<015> Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Shari Flanders
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com
Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<111>	If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, please file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

381614nd112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113>** Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114>** Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115>** How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality
- <116>** How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage
- <117>** How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity
- <118>** Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

Yes

**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form**

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

<010> Study Area Code	381614
<015> Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

<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
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<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com
<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	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	381614nd510.pdf

**(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	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	381614nd610.pdf

**(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	381614
<015> Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

<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 document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <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.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

(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	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

<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 Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

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
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<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

<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

<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP <http://www.polarcomm.com/resources/phone-assistance-program/>

"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.

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
<i>Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers</i>	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

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

<2010> 2nd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(i) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 1 recipients of Incremental Support	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<2022> Recipient certifies, representing year two 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.	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<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 two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100%; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input style="width: 100%; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<2025A> Round 1 or Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 1 for year three and Round 2 for year two) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input style="width: 100%; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

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

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

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?

<2017B> Attach information for Phase II - 54.313(e)(1) - list of geocoded locations already meeting the 54.309 public interest obligations at the end of calendar year 2015 and total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2015.

<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)(2)(ii)

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)(2)(v)

<2020> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 40% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2017 - 54.313(e)(3)

<2021> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 60% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2018 - 54.313(e)(4)

<2026> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 80% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2019 - 54.313(e)(5)

<2027> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 100% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2020 - 54.313(e)(6)

<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

Complete the items below to note compliance with five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring 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.

(3009) Progress Report on 5 Year Plan
Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)

(3010A) Milestone Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)} Yes - Attach Certification

(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

(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) for 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)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

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

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

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]

**(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form**

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

<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

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
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<010>	Study Area Code	381614
<015>	Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

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
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<010> Study Area Code	381614
<015> Study Area Name	POLAR TELECOMM.
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Shari Flanders
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7012844343 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	sflanders@polartel.com

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) <u>JSI</u> 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:	JSI
Name of Reporting Carrier:	POLAR TELECOMM.
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/20/2016
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	David Dunning
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	GM/CEO
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	7012847221 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	381614 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2016
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:	POLAR TELECOMM.
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	JSI
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/20/2016
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	Cassandra Heyne
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	Consultant
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	3014597590 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	381614 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2016
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

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 112

**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and
Progress Report**

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY

Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp.’s Demonstration of Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules

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

Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp. f/k/a Polar Telecommunications

(“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 federal law and, to a limited extent under North Dakota state law as a telecommunications carrier subject to North Dakota Public Service Commission regulation. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) adherence to state requirements that the Company complies with consumer protection

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.

and service quality standards pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Code Article 69, including customer requests for lowest price service alternatives (69-09-05-01), discontinuance of telecommunications services (69-09-05-02), deposits and guarantees (69-09-05-03); (2) truth-in-billing requirements, and (3) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

The Company also provides service in Minnesota and is subject to consumer protection obligations under Minnesota state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of Minnesota Public Utility Commission which disclose rates, terms and conditions of service to customers; (2) adherence to state consumer protection and service quality requirements governing telephone providers which require compliance with the Minnesota Administrative Rules listed below; (3) truth-in-billing requirements; and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

Minnesota Administrative Rules:

RECORDS AND REPORTS

7810.0400 RETENTION OF RECORDS.
7810.0500 DATA TO BE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION.
7810.0600 REPORT TO COMMISSION ON SERVICE DISRUPTION.
7810.0900 LOCATION OF RECORDS.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS

7810.1000 INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMER AND PUBLIC.
7810.1100 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.
7810.1200 RECORD OF COMPLAINT.

CUSTOMER BILLING; DEPOSIT AND GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS

7810.1400 CUSTOMER BILLING.
7810.1500 DEPOSIT AND GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS.
7810.1600 DEPOSIT.
7810.1700 GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT.

DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE; SERVICE DELAY

- 7810.1800 PERMISSIBLE SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS WITH NOTICE.
- 7810.1900 PERMISSIBLE SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS WITHOUT SERVICE.
- 7810.2000 NONPERMISSIBLE REASONS TO DISCONNECT SERVICE.
- 7810.2100 MANNER OF DISCONNECTION.
- 7810.2200 RECONNECTION OF SERVICE.
- 7810.2300 NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.
- 7810.2400 BILL DISPUTES.
- 7810.2500 ESCROW PAYMENTS.
- 7810.2600 WAIVING RIGHT TO DISCONNECT; EMERGENCY STATUS.
- 7810.2800 DELAY IN INITIAL SERVICE OR UPGRADE.

DIRECTORIES

- 7810.2900 CONTENT OF DIRECTORIES.
- 7810.3000 MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.
- 7810.3100 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

ENGINEERING

- 7810.3200 CONSTRUCTION OF TELEPHONE PLANT.
- 7810.3300 MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.
- 7810.3900 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

INSPECTIONS, TESTS, SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

- 7810.4100 ACCESS TO TEST FACILITIES.
- 7810.4300 ACCURANCE REQUIREMENTS.
- 7810.4900 ADEQUACY OF SERVICE.
- 7810.5000 UTILITY OBLIGATIONS.
- 7810.5100 TELEPHONE OPERATORS.
- 7810.5200 ANSWERING TIME.
- 7810.5300 DIAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.
- 7810.5400 INTEROFFICE TRUNKS.
- 7810.5500 TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.
- 7810.5800 INTERRUPTIONS OF SERVICE.
- 7810.5900 CUSTOMER TROUBLE REPORTS.
- 7810.6000 PROTECTIVE MEASURES.
- 7810.6100 SAFETY PROGRAM.

The Company is 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* when it becomes effective.

Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp.’s Demonstration of Ability to Function in Emergency Situations

Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp. f/k/a Polar Telecommunications (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2)¹ and North Dakota Administrative Code 69-09-05-12. The Company’s voice and broadband 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, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. The Company’s central office can maintain 8 hours, plus or minus 15 percent, of battery reserve rated for peak traffic load requirements, and a permanent auxiliary power unit is installed or a mobile power source is available which can be delivered and connected within four hours. The Company has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites capable of running for a minimum of 8 hours, plus or minus 15

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.”

percent. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as the Company has access to fuel. The Company tests the batteries at least once per year.

The Company also provides service in Minnesota. Pursuant to Minnesota Administrative Rule 7810.3900, "Emergency Operations," the Company has established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from failures of lighting or power service, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness of operators or from fire, storm, or acts of God including provisions for emergency power that meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:

- A minimum of four hours of battery service in each central office.
- A permanently installed power unit in exchanges exceeding 5,000 lines.
- Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and which can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.

The Company has informed employees as to the procedures to be followed, including reasonable rerouting of traffic around damaged facilities and the deployment of emergency power in the event of emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telecommunications service. The Company complies with the FCC's backup power requirements, effective October 16, 2015.

Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp (SAC 381614)

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

Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corp hereby certifies that throughout 2015, 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, and offering broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is reasonable, the Company offers broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY