



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](http://www.jsitel.com), e-mail: [jsi@jsitel.com](mailto:jsi@jsitel.com)

June 22, 2017

**Via Hand Delivery**

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

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58  
2017 ETC Annual Report of Ringgold Telephone Company  
Study Area Code 220382**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Ringgold 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.<sup>1</sup> Company seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:jkuykendall@jsitel.com)

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

<sup>2</sup> *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	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422



**(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	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

<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
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<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.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	

<b>(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtotel.com
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
220382ga510 .pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	

<b>(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations Data Collection Form</b>	<b>REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	220382
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	220382ga610.pdf







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

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
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<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Ringgold Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Ringgold Telephone Company

[illegible]

<b>(900) Tribal Lands Reporting</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<b>&lt;010&gt;</b> Study Area Code	220382
<b>&lt;015&gt;</b> Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<b>&lt;020&gt;</b> Program Year	2018
<b>&lt;030&gt;</b> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<b>&lt;035&gt;</b> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<b>&lt;039&gt;</b> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.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 PDF, 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

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.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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<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).

<b>(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers</b> <b>Lifeline</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	220382
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

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, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation**

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

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.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**

<p>&lt;2011&gt; 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.</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p>&lt;2022&gt; 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.</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p>&lt;2023&gt; 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.</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p>&lt;2024A&gt; Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 200px; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<p>&lt;2024B&gt; Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.</p>	<p>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</p>	<input style="width: 200px; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<p>&lt;2025A&gt; Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p>&lt;2025B&gt; 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).</p>	<p>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</p>	<input style="width: 200px; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<p>&lt;2015&gt; 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)</p>		<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

**(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)



(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	220382
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<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

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.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
		Yes - Attach Certification	
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}		
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	220382ga3010.pdf
(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)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
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)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(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)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	220382ga3026.pdf

**REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**(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

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

**Financial Data Summary**

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends



<b>(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	<b>FCC Form 481</b> <b>OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819</b> <b>July 2013</b>
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<010>	Study Area Code	220382
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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	
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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	
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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	
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<b>Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	220382
<015> Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2018
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

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

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
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.	

<b>Certification - Agent / Carrier</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	220382
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<020> Program Year	2018
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<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

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

<b>Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier</b>	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>John Staurulakis, Inc.</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:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Name of Reporting Carrier:	RINGGOLD TEL CO
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/22/2017
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Michael Wallin
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Regulatory Manager
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	7069651721 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	220382 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:**

<b>Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier</b>	
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:	RINGGOLD TEL CO
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/21/2017
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	Staff Director - Regulatory Affairs
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	7705692015 ext.1
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	220382 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

**Demonstration of Complying with Applicable Service Quality Standards and  
Consumer Protection Rules for Voice and Broadband**

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,<sup>1</sup> the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”<sup>2</sup> The FCC 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.”<sup>4</sup>

Ringgold Telephone Company, Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Company is subject to consumer protection obligations under Georgia state law and federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Georgia Public Service Commission which discloses rates, and terms and conditions of service to customers (Chapter 515-12-1-.02(5)(a) and .04(5) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia); (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers which require Service Standards (Chapter 515-12-1-.17 and .18 of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia); Customer Billing (Chapter 515-12-1-.04(4) of

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<sup>1</sup> *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*”).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at para. 28.

<sup>3</sup> *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.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at n. 72.

the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia; and Customer Complaints (Chapter 515-12-1-.08 of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia); (3) truth-in-billing requirements (Chapter 515-12-1-.04(4) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia); and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

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*.



### **Demonstration of Ability to Function in Emergency Situations for Voice and Broadband**

Ringgold Telephone Company, Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2)<sup>1</sup> and Chapter 515-12-1-.11(4) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia. 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) and Chapter 515-12-1-.11(4) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia. Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, the 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. Company has battery backup the central office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. The company’s standby generators and battery back-up support both voice and broadband network equipment should an emergency situation occur.

In addition, Company has both an Emergency Operations Plan and a Disaster Recovery Plan in place.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 220382

<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
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<020> Program Year 2018

<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Mike Wallin

<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> mwallin@rtctel.com

1/1/2017

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<703>

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(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	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<b>(800) Operating Companies</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Ringgold Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Ringgold Telephone Company

[illegible]

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GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company  
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section M  
3rd Revised Sheet 65  
Cancels 2nd Revised Sheet 65

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

M.25 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM

(C)

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:

M.25.1 Lifeline Assistance

A. General

1. Lifeline Assistance is a non-transferable retail service offering for which qualifying residential low-income subscribers pay reduced charges, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges for either voice telephony service (voice) or broadband internet access service (broadband) but not both.
2. Voice telephony service includes the following services: voice-grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; local usage; access to emergency services; and toll limitation.
3. Broadband service includes the following: the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up service.

B. Regulations

Subscribers are eligible for Lifeline Assistance if:

1. The subscriber's household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or
2. The subscriber, or one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household, receives benefits from at least one of the following qualifying programs:

Medicaid;  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps;  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI);  
Federal Public Housing Assistance;  
Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

(C)

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GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company  
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section M  
3rd Revised Sheet 66  
Cancels 2nd Revised Sheet 66

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

M.25 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (Cont'd)

(C)

M.25.1 Lifeline Assistance (Cont'd)

B. Regulations (Cont'd)

3. In addition to meeting the qualifications provided in paragraph 1. or 2. of this section, in order to constitute a qualifying low-income customer, a customer must not already be receiving a Lifeline service (voice or broadband from either a wireless provider or fixed provider), and there must not be anyone else in the subscriber's household subscribed to a Lifeline service (voice or broadband from either a wireless provider or fixed provider). Further, the customer must subscribe to broadband service that meets the minimum service standards set forth in section 54.408 of the FCC rules.
4. Until the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier has been implemented in Georgia, each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that s/he receives benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraphs (B)(1) through (B)(3), above, and must, on that same document, agree to notify the Company if s/he 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 in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.
5. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to voice Lifeline Assistance to receive toll limitation as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll limitation" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.
6. Voice Lifeline Assistance will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges unless the Company offers toll limitation without charge.
7. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate voice-only Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company, where available or if the qualifying low-income subscriber elects a calling plan that does not distinguish between toll and non-toll calls in its pricing. If toll blocking is unavailable, then the Company may charge a service deposit

(C)

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GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company  
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section M  
3rd Revised Sheet 67  
Cancels 2nd Revised Sheet 67

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

M.25 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (Cont'd)

M.25.1 Lifeline Assistance (Cont'd)

- C. If an eligible customer chooses the support for voice service, then the Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administrator of the federal Lifeline Assistance program to waive the qualifying customer's federal Subscriber Line Charge. The Company shall apply any additional federal support amount to the qualifying customer's basic local exchange service rate.
- D. Deleted
- E. To be eligible for Lifeline Assistance, qualifying customers who choose the support for voice service must subscribe to a flat-rate basic local exchange service offering that is made available in the Company's service area.
- F. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.
- G. All aspects of the Lifeline Assistance program shall be subject to the interpretation of applicable Federal regulations and any directives which may from time to time be prescribed by the Universal Service Administrative Company. These rules are separate and apart from any rules prescribed as part of a state Universal Service program.

(C)

(C)

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GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company  
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section M  
1st Revised Sheet 67.1  
Cancels Original Sheet 67.1

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

M.25 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (Cont'd)

M.25.2 Lifeline Assistance Credits

A. Voice Telephone Service -

1. The following monthly credit will apply for each customer eligible for Lifeline Assistance who chooses to apply its Lifeline Assistance to voice telephone service.

Monthly Credit	
Federal Credit	\$9.25

2. Credit amount will not exceed the basic charge for local telephone service, which includes the Subscriber Line Charge, access line and local usage.
3. Pursuant to FCC Rules 47 C.F.R. Section 54.403, stand-alone voice telephone Lifeline support or voice service bundled with broadband below the minimum standards set forth in section 54.408 of the FCC rules will be phased out as described below:
  - (i) Beginning Dec 1, 2019 - the support amount will be \$7.25 per month;
  - (ii) Beginning Dec 1, 2020 - the support amount will be \$5.25 per month;
  - (iii) Beginning Dec 1, 2021, the support amount will be \$0.00. (see Note 1)

Note 1: The support amount for standalone voice service, or voice service not bundled with broadband which meets the minimum standards set forth in section 54.408, provided by a provider that is the only Lifeline provider in a Census block will be remain at \$5.25.

A. Broadband Service -

1. The following monthly credit will apply for each customer eligible for Lifeline Assistance who chooses to apply its Lifeline Assistance to broadband service.

Monthly Credit	
Federal Credit	\$9.25

2. Credit amount will not exceed the basic charge for broadband service



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GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company  
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section C  
Twelfth Revised Sheet 3  
Cancels Eleventh Revised Sheet 3

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

C.3 Local Exchange Service Rates

C.3.1 The rates specified herein entitle subscribers to access all exchange lines in the subscribers county within the same LATA, all exchanges access lines bearing the central office designation of the subscriber's exchange and all access lines bearing the central office designation(s) of additional exchanges in the basic service area as shown following:

Basic Service Area

Exchange	Additional Exchanges
Ringgold	Chattanooga

NETWORK ACCESS CHARGE

MONTHLY

Business:

One Party	\$30.75
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Residence:

One Party	\$20.31	(I)
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Key System

Tone	\$39.95
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PBX	\$79.00
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C.4

Information previously shown on this page can now be found in Section M.

Issued: December 1, 2016

Effective: January 1, 2017

By: Alice Evitt Bandy

Title: President

**Ringgold Telephone Company, Inc. - SAC 220382**

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

Ringgold Telephone Company, Inc. - SAC 220382 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.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**