ITCI Interstate Telcom Consulting, Inc.
Independent Telecommunications Consultants

June 27, 2016

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

Re: REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN WC Docket No. 14-58:
Form 481 - Annual Reporting Requirements for High-Cost and Low Income Recipients

Pursuant to Section 54.313 and 54.422 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules, enclosed is a redacted version of Form 481 Annual Reporting Requirements and Certifications for Bernard Communications, Inc., Study Area Code 359103. Bernard Communications, Inc. is a state-designated ETC, and as such, is submitting to the Commission information from FCC Form 481.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at roxih@interstatetelcom.com or by phone at 320/848-6641.

Sincerely,

Roxi Hacker
Regulatory Consultant

Enclosures:

Cc: Kyle Manders

130 Birch Avenue West • P.O. Box 668 • Hector, Minnesota • 55342-0668
Telephone (320) 848-6641 • Fax (320) 848-2466 • Email: itci@interstatetelcom.com

FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form

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

<010>	Study Area Code	359103
<015>	Study Area Name	BERNARD COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Roxi Hacker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.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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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.com

<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no)
<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)

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.

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.

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

FCC Form 481
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July 2013

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

<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

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

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice) 0

<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

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July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.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 mobile voice
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	0.0
<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.	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

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

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.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	359103IA510BernardComm.pdf

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations
Data Collection Form

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.com
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	359103IA610BernardComm.pdf

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

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

<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2016
<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

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<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*}**

(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form

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July 2013

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

<810>	Reporting Carrier	Bernard Communications
<811>	Holding Company	Bernard Telephone Company, Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	Bernard Communications

<813>	<a1>	<a2>	<a3>
	Affiliates	**SAC**	**Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation**

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
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July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.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:

		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

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

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification: Not Applicable

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification

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

<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

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

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

359103IA1210BernardComm.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP http://www.iwireless.com/support/customer-service/lifeline.aspx

"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
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	359103
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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

<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

<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.

<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.

<2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?

<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

<2025A> Round 1 or Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?

<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

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

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)
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?

<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 cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2015.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<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)

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

FCC Form 481
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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.

Progress Report on 5 Year Plan

(3009) Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)

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

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

(3012A) Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}

(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

(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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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	

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013

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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 _____

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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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	359103
<015>	Study Area Name	BERNARD COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.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) ITCI **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: ITCI

Name of Reporting Carrier: BERNARD COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/22/2016

Printed name of Authorized Officer: Kyle Manders

Title or position of Authorized Officer: General Manager

Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 5638793203 ext.

Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 359103 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2016

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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: BERNARD COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Name of Authorized Agent Firm: ITCI

Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/22/2016

Name of Authorized Agent Employee: Roxi Hacker

Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent Regulatory Consultant

Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: 3208486641 ext.

Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 359103 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

SAC: 359103
State: Iowa
Bernard Communications, Inc.
Form 481 Line No.: 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

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As required by Iowa Administrative Rule "199-22.6(476) Standards of Quality of Service", the local services provided by Bernard Communications, Inc. are provided under internal company operating procedures which are in compliance with applicable Iowa Utility Board orders and rules including:

22.6(1) *Service connection.* Each local exchange utility using its facilities to provide service shall make all reasonable efforts to maintain a five-business-day standard for primary connection service or within the customer-requested service connection date. All reasonable efforts to maintain the above standard shall be measured by the following:

a. Eighty-five percent of all customers provided service within five business days of the request or the customer-requested date, whichever is later. Compliance will be measured based on a three-month rolling average.

b. Ninety-five percent of all customers provided service within ten business days of the request or the customer-requested date, whichever is later. Compliance will be measured based on a three-month rolling average.

c. Ninety-nine percent of all customers provided service within 30 business days of the request or the customer-requested date, whichever is later. Compliance will be measured based on a three-month rolling average.

22.6(2) *Held orders.*

a. During such period of time as a local exchange utility using its facilities to provide service may not be able to supply primary telephone service to prospective customers within five business days after the date applicant desires service, the telephone utility shall keep a record, by exchanges, showing the name and address of each applicant for service, the date of application, the date that service was requested, and the class of service applied for, together with the reason for the inability to provide new service to the applicant.

b. When, because of a shortage of facilities, a utility is unable to supply primary telephone service on the date requested by applicants, first priority shall be given to furnishing those services which are essential to public health and safety. In cases of prolonged shortage or other emergency, the board may require establishment of a priority plan, subject to its approval for clearing held orders, and may request periodic reports concerning the progress being made.

c. When the local exchange utility using its facilities to provide service fails to provide primary local exchange service to any customer requesting service within 15 business days, the local exchange utility shall provide the customer with an alternative form of service until primary local exchange service can be provided. The alternative form of service provided shall be wireless telephone service unless the customer agrees otherwise.

d. If an alternative form of primary service is provided, the local exchange utility is authorized to charge the customer the regular rates (if applicable) for the alternative primary service ordered, if such rates are less than the regulated rate for primary local exchange service. Otherwise, the customer will be charged the regulated rate for primary local exchange service. Where an alternative form of service is impossible to provide, the facilities-based local exchange utility shall waive all usual installation charges and, once primary local exchange service is provided, shall credit the customer's account in an amount equal to the pro-rata monthly primary local exchange charge for each day service was not provided.

SAC: 359103
State: Iowa
Bernard Communications, Inc.
Form 481 Line No.: 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

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22.6(3) *Service interruption.*

a. Each telephone utility using its facilities to provide primary service shall make all reasonable efforts to prevent interruptions of service. When interruptions are reported or found by the utility to occur, the utility shall reestablish service with the shortest possible delay. Priority shall be given to a residential customer who states that telephone service is essential due to an existing medical emergency of the customer, a member of the customer's family, or any permanent resident of the premises where service is rendered. All reasonable efforts shall be measured by the following:

(1) Eighty-five percent of all out-of-service trouble reports cleared within 24 hours. Compliance will be measured based on a three-month rolling average.

(2) Ninety-five percent of all out-of-service trouble reports cleared within 48 hours. Compliance will be measured based on a three-month rolling average.

(3) One hundred percent of all out-of-service trouble reports cleared within 72 hours.

(4) The response time for all utilities responsible to test and attempt to correct any interexchange trunk problem., except a total outage, shall be within 24 hours after the problem is reported. If the problem is not corrected within that time, the utility responsible for doing so shall keep all other affected telephone utilities advised as to the current status on a daily basis. For a total outage, the response time shall be immediate.

b. Arrangements shall be made to have adequate personnel and equipment available to receive and record trouble reports and also to clear trouble of an emergency nature at all times.

c. Calls directed to the published telephone numbers for service repair or the business offices of the telephone utility shall be acknowledge within 20 seconds for 85 percent of all such calls and within 40 seconds for 100 percent of all such calls.

d. If a customer's service must be interrupted due to maintenance, the utility shall notify the affected customer, in advance, if possible. The company shall perform the work to minimize inconvenience to the customer and strive to avoid interruptions when there is conversation on the line.

e. Each telephone utility shall keep a written record showing all interruptions affecting service in a major portion of an exchange area for a minimum of six years. This record shall show the date, time, duration, time cleared and extent and cause of the interruption. This record shall be available to the board upon request.

f. Whenever a trouble report is received, a record shall be made by the company and if repeated within a 30-day period by the same customer, the case shall be referred to an individual for permanent correction.

g. When a customer's service is reported or is found to be out of order, it shall be restored as promptly as possible.

h. Each local exchange utility using its facilities to provide service shall maintain its network to reasonably minimize customer trouble reports. The rate of customer trouble reports on the company side of the demarcation point will not exceed four per 100 access lines per month per wire center.

i. When a subscriber's service is interrupted and remains out of service for more than 24 consecutive hours after being reported to the local exchange company or being found by the company to be out of order, whichever occurs first, the company shall make appropriate adjustments to the subscriber's account. This rule does not apply if the outage occurs as a result of:

SAC: 359103
State: Iowa
Bernard Communications, Inc.
Form 481 Line No.: 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

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(1) A negligent or willful act on the part of the subscriber;
(2) A malfunction of subscriber-owned telephone equipment;
(3) Disasters or acts of God; or
(4) The inability of the company to gain access to the subscriber's premises.

The adjustment, either a direct payment or a bill credit, shall be the proportionate part of the monthly charges for all services and facilities rendered inoperative during the interruption. The adjustment shall begin with the hour of the report or discovery of the interruption. Adjustments not in dispute shall be rendered within two billing periods after the billing period in which the interruption occurred.

2.6(4) *Repair – missed appointments.* When a utility makes an appointment for installation or repair within a given range of time, and misses that appointment by over an hour, the customer will receive one month's primary local service free of charge. This is applicable to each missed appointment.

2.6(5) *Emergency operation.*

a. Each telephone utility shall make reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from failures of power service, climate control, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness of operators, or from fire, explosion, water, storm, or acts of God, and each telephone utility shall inform affected employees, at regular intervals not to exceed one year, of procedures to be followed in the event of emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telephone service.

b. All central offices shall have adequate provision for emergency power. Each central office shall contain a minimum of two hours of battery reserve. For offices without permanently installed emergency power facilities, there shall be access to a mobile power unit with enough capacity to carry the load which can be delivered on reasonably short notice and which can be readily connected.

c. An auxiliary power unit shall be permanently installed in all toll centers and at all exchanges exceeding 4,000 access lines.

d. Each local exchange utility shall maintain and make available for board inspection, its current plans for emergency operations, including the names and telephone numbers of the local exchange utility's disaster services coordinator and alternates.

2.6(6) *Business offices.*

a. Each local exchange utility shall have one or more business offices or customer service centers staffed to provide customer access in person or by telephone to qualified personnel, including supervisory personnel where warranted, to provide information relating to services and rates, accept and process applications for service, explain charges on customer's bills, adjust charges made in error, and, generally, to act as representatives of the local exchange utility. If one business office serves several exchanges, toll-free calling from those exchanges to that office shall be provided.

b. Upon the closing of any local exchange utility's public business office, the company must provide to the board, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the closing of the office the following information:

(1) The exchange(s) and communities affected by the closing;
(2) The date of the closing;
(3) A listing of other methods and facility locations available for payment of subscriber's bills in the affected exchanges; and
(4) A listing of other methods and locations available for obtaining public business office services.

Bernard Communications, Inc. certifies it has complied with these requirements and those of the FCC including Lifeline Requirements and Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) rules.

SAC: 359103
State: Iowa
Bernard Communications, Inc.
Form 481 Line No.: 610 Description of Functionality in Emergency Situations

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Bernard Communications, Inc. pursuant to Iowa Administrative Rule "199-22.6(5)a-d Emergency Operation" has:

- Established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from failures of power service, climate control, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness of operators or from fire, explosion, water, storm, or acts of God including provisions for emergency power that meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:
    - A minimum of two hours of battery service in each central office.
    - A permanently installed power unit in exchanges exceeding 4,000 lines.
    - Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and which can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.
- 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.
- Has current plan available of emergency operations for board inspection and the plan contains:
    - Names and telephone numbers of the telephone company's disaster service coordinator and alternates.

(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	359103
<015>	Study Area Name	BERNARD COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.com

<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2016
<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**
IA	Bernard		FR	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0

SAC: 359103
State: Iowa
Bernard Communications, Inc.
Form 481 Line No.: 1210 Terms and Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline

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- Bernard Communications, Inc.'s Lifeline service offerings are listed in their Local Service Catalog.
- All Lifeline subscribers must meet the terms and conditions of Federal Lifeline Eligibility Rules.

Bernard Communications, Inc. does adhere to all Federal Lifeline eligibility rules and regulations as well as Iowa Administrative Code "199-39.6(476) – Universal Service Support for low-income consumers (Lifeline program and Tribal Link-Up program)" which states:

199—39.6(476) Universal service support for low-income consumers (Lifeline program and Tribal Link Up program).
39.6(1) *Carrier obligation to offer Lifeline.* Pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.405, which specifies the Lifeline obligations of eligible telecommunications carriers, all eligible telecommunications carriers must make available Lifeline service, as defined in 47 CFR § 54.401, to qualifying low-income consumers, defined as consumers who meet the qualifications for Lifeline as specified in 47 CFR §54.409.
39.6(2) *Customer notification.* Eligible telecommunications carriers shall include a description of their Lifeline offerings or discounts in their residential service agreements. Eligible telecommunications carriers shall provide the board with information about their residential service agreements upon request. Eligible telecommunications carriers shall publicize the availability of Lifeline service in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for service as required by 47 CFR § 54.405(b).
39.6(3) *Consumer qualification for Lifeline.* To constitute a qualifying low-income consumer, a consumer's household income as defined in 47 CFR § 54.400(f) and (h) must be at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for a household of that size or such percentage as may be determined by the FCC or the consumer, one or more of the consumer's dependents, or the consumer's household must participate in one of the following federal assistance programs: Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8); Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; National School Lunch Program's free lunch program; or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. A consumer who lives on tribal lands is eligible for Lifeline service as a qualifying low-income consumer if the consumer meets the qualifications for Lifeline specified in 47 CFR § 54.409(a) or if the consumer, one or more of the consumer's dependents, or the consumer's household participates in one of the following tribal-specific federal assistance programs specified in 47 CFR § 54.409(b): Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance; tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Head Start (only those households meeting its income qualifying standard); or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. A consumer may only receive Lifeline service from one telephone provider per household.
39.6(4) *Determination of subscriber eligibility.* Iowa eligible telecommunications carriers are responsible for establishing consumer eligibility for Lifeline assistance. Iowa eligible telecommunications carriers shall ensure that their Lifeline subscribers are eligible to receive Lifeline services in accordance with 47 CFR §54.410. Eligible telecommunications carriers shall:

a. Implement policies and procedures for ensuring that their Lifeline subscribers are eligible to receive Lifeline services;

SAC: 359103
State: Iowa
Bernard Communications, Inc.
Form 481 Line No.: 1210 Terms and Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline

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b. Confirm a subscriber's income-based or program-based eligibility according to 47 CFR § 54.410(b) or (c);

c. Provide prospective subscribers Lifeline certification forms that comply with 47 CFR § 54.410(d); and

d. Recertify all subscribers' Lifeline eligibility annually and at 90-day intervals (where subscribers have provided a temporary address) in accordance with 47 CFR § 54.410(f) and (g).

39.6(5) *Annual certifications by eligible telecommunications carriers.* Eligible telecommunications carriers shall make and submit to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) annual certifications relating to the Lifeline program as required by 47 CFR § 54.416. Eligible telecommunications carriers shall file their annual Lifeline certifications with the board as provided in 39.7(1)*"a"* and, if applicable, with the relevant tribal governments.

39.6(6) *Tribal Link Up.* A telecommunications carrier receiving high-cost support on tribal lands that is offering the Tribal Link Up assistance program, as defined in 199—39.2(476), to eligible residents of tribal lands, as defined in 47 CFR § 54.400(e), must provide (1) a 100 percent reduction of the customary connection charge for commencing service at a subscriber's residence, and (2) a deferred schedule of interest-free payments for the connection charge, pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.413. Prior to enrolling an eligible resident of tribal lands in the Tribal Link Up program, an ETC must obtain from the resident a certification form that complies with 47 CFR § 54.410.

39.6(7) *Audits.* Eligible telecommunications carriers shall file with the board finalized reports of audits involving the audited ETC's operations in Iowa conducted pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.420 requiring low-income program audits. The audit reports will not be considered or deemed confidential. The audit reports shall be filed with the board within 30 days of issuance of the final audit report.

Lifeline

LOW-INCOME TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LIFELINE

Low-income telephone assistance is available to qualifying low-income Iowans through the "Lifeline" federal telephone assistance program. Supporting documentation will need to be provided for participation in the program.

Iowans who participate in at least one of the following programs are eligible for telephone assistance: Medicade, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF), National School Lunch Program (NSL).

Iowans who do not participate in one of the above programs are eligible if their income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Eligible subscribers may only receive low-income assistance from one wireline or wireless telephone provider. To apply applicants should call 1.888.550.4497 and request an application. Or, download a Lifeline Application.

Wireless Emergency Alert
Digital Millennium Copyright Act Notice

LIFELINE

iWireless participates in the Lifeline Program.

For more information call 1.888.550.4497

In the state of Iowa, iWireless offers lifeline eligible post-pay and pay in advance unlimited 30 day calling plans that will receive a $9.25 or equivalent monthly telephone bill credit. All lifeline rate programs include the following services:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network
- Free local usage
- Single party service
- Dual tone multi-frequency signaling
- Access to emergency services
- Access to operator services
- Access to inter-exchange service
- Toll limitation

HELPFUL LINKS

My Account
Refill
Data Calculator
International Calling
Switch and Save
Prepaid Cards
Contact Us
Return Policy
Store Locator
Handset Protection
Plan Comparison
About Us
Coverage
Español
Colocation
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Like Share 6,238 people like this. Sigr to see what your friends lik

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