REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Your business is our business.

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

July 1, 2016

Via Hand Delivery

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

Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2016 ETC Annual Report of Bluffton Telephone Company
Study Area Code 240512

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Bluffton Telephone Company ("Bluffton"), JSI files the attached confidential version of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.[1] Company seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.[2] The redacted version is being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Company's Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report required by Section 54.313.[3]

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

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

[1] 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.
[2] *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, Protective Order, DA 16-296 rel. March 22, 2016 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).
[3] 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313.

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

Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2016 ETC Annual Report of Bluffton Telephone Company
Study Area Code 240512
Request for Confidentiality

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. ("JSI"), on behalf of its client Bluffton Telephone Company (the "Company") hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,[1] withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).[2]

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company's annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules ("Report").[3]

2. Pursuant to Section 54.313, Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") must file with the Commission a Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan ("Progress Report") which is contained in the attachment to the 2016 Report.[4]

3. The information contained in attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company's Progress Report provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

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[1] 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.
[2] 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).
[3] 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.
[4] 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313.

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

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

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

6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing

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

the attachment under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the Progress Report to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.

7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.

8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.

9. Not applicable.

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

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

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(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting
Data Collection Form

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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.

240512SC112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

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

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

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

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	Offered only fixed voice
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0.0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	Offered only fixed broadband
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0.0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

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

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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	240512SC510.pdf

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations
Data Collection Form

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	240512SC610.pdf

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(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	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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 --

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(710) Broadbrand Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

<711>

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

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(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

<810>	Reporting Carrier	Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Hargray Communications Group, Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc.

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

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(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

<1000>	Voice services rate comparability certification	Yes
<1010>	Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance	240512SC1010.pdf 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	240512SC1030.pdf Name of Attached Document

(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting Data Collection Form

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

240512SC1210.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

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

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

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

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

(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	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

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

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<2010> 2nd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(i) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support

<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)

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(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	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

Complete the items below to note compliance with five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

	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)}	Yes - Attach Certification	
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	240512SC3010B.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)	◉ ○
(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	240512SC3026.pdf

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

Financial Data Summary

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

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

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

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

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

Name of Reporting Carrier: BLUFFTON TEL. CO.

Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE Date 06/30/2016

Printed name of Authorized Officer: David Armistead

Title or position of Authorized Officer: GC & Sec

Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 8436861275 ext.

Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 240512 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.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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)_____ 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:

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.

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:

Name of Authorized Agent Firm:

Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: Date:

Name of Authorized Agent Employee:

Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent

Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:

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.

Attachments

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 112

Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and Progress Report

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY

Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc.'s demonstration of complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules for voice and broadband services:

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,[1] the FCC found that an ETC must make "a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers." [2] The 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.[3] In this context, the FCC stated, "to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement."[4]

Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. ("Bluffton") hereby certifies that it is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Bluffton is subject to consumer protection obligations under both federal and South Carolina state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina which disclose rates, and terms and conditions of service to customers (Section 103-612.2.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers which govern Standards and Quality of Service (Sections 103-661, 103-662, and 103-663 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Customer Relations,

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[1] *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) ("*2005 ETC Order*").
[2] *Id.* at para. 28.
[3] *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: "(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy." *Id.* at n. 71.
[4] *Id.* at n. 72.

including billing, deposits, discontinuance and termination of service (Sections 103-620 through 103-633 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Engineering and Safety Standards (Sections 103-640 through 103-646 and 103-670 through 103-672 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Inspections and Tests (Sections 103-650 through 103-653 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Records and Reports (Sections 103-610 through 103-619 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations) and Customer Complaints (Section 103-628 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (3) truth-in-billing requirements (Section 103-622.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

Bluffton 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 47 CFR § 8.3.

Bluffton Telephone Company's demonstration of ability to function in emergency situations for voice and broadband services:

Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. ("Bluffton") hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2)[1] and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Bluffton'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 Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Bluffton can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow Bluffton to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require. In addition, Bluffton has redundancy for connectivity purposes *via* additional routes and electronic equipment for voice and broadband services.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. Bluffton has battery backup at all 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. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as Bluffton has access to fuel.

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

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.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**
SC	Bluffton / Tier I		FR	14.98	0.0	0.46	2.3	17.74
SC	Bluffton / Tier II		FR	22.17	0.0	0.65	2.3	25.12

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	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

<711>

<a1>	<a2>	<b1>	<b2>	<c>	<d1>	<d2>	<d3>	<d4>
State	**Exchange (ILEC)**	**Residential Rate**	**State Regulated Fees**	Total Rates and Fees	**Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)**	Broadband Service -Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select}
SC	Bluffton	59.99	0.0	59.99	5.0	1.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance
SC	Bluffton	69.99	0.0	69.99	10.0	1.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance
SC	Bluffton	79.99	0.0	79.99	15.0	1.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance
SC	Bluffton	89.99	0.0	89.99	30.0	2.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance
SC	Bluffton	99.99	0.0	99.99	50.0	5.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance
SC	Bluffton	109.99	0.0	109.99	100.0	10.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(800) Operating Companies
Data Collection Form

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

<010>	Study Area Code	240512
<015>	Study Area Name	BLUFFTON TEL. CO.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Cissy Zareva
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436861256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	cissy.zareva@htc.hargray.com

<810>	Reporting Carrier	Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Hargray Communications Group, Inc.
<812>	Operating Company	Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc.

<813>

<a1>	<a2>	<a3>
Affiliates	**SAC**	**Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation**
Hargray Telephone Company, Inc.	240523	Hargray

Statement Regarding Certification of Voice Rate Comparability
Line 1010

Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. (BTC) is a rural, rate of return regulated incumbent local exchange carrier operating in the state of South Carolina, and is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designated by the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

BTC hereby certifies that the pricing of its voice services is no more than two standard deviations above the national average urban rate for voice service, $41.07, as specified in the April 5, 2016, Public Notice issued by the Wireline Competition Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission.

BTC Local Service Rates including the SC state USF fee and mandatory EAS are as follows:

Limited Local Service $17.74
Basic Local Service $25.12
Average Local Svc Rate $21.43

Statement Regarding Certification of Broadband Rate Comparability
Line 1030

Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. (BTC) is a rural, rate of return regulated incumbent local exchange carrier operating in the state of South Carolina, and is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designated by the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

BTC hereby certifies that the pricing of its broadband services meets the broadband public interest obligations and is no more than the applicable benchmark, as specified in the April 5, 2016 Public Notice issued by the Wireline Competition Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission.

BTC Broadband Service Rates are as follows:

Download Speed (MBPS	Upload Speed (MBPS	Usage Allowance (GB)	Benchmark Rate	BTC Rate
10	1	Unlimited	$75.20	$69.99

South Carolina Lifeline

Under the Lifeline program, telephone customers who participate in Medicaid (Healthy Connections), Food Stamps (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), School Free Lunch, Section 8, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are entitled to receive a discount up to $12.75 per month on their telephone service. If you are a telephone customer that does not participate in any of these programs but your total household income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines, you may be eligible to receive the Lifeline benefit. Hargray is eligible to provide the Lifeline benefit to qualifying residential telephone customers in Hilton Head, Hardeeville and Bluffton.

Lifeline is a government supported service. Applicants will be required to provide documentation necessary to verify eligibility. Applicants who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline benefits can be punished by fine or barred from the program. Only ONE Lifeline benefit per household. A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers.

GENERAL CUSTOMER SERVICES TARIFF

BLUFFTON TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
BLUFFTON, S.C.
REVISED: APRIL 2, 2012

SECTION 3
1st Revised Page 12
Cancels Original Page 12

S3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

S3.10 Lifeline Program (C)

S3.10.1 General

A. The Lifeline program is designed to increase the availability of telecommunications services to low income subscribers by providing a credit to monthly recurring local service for qualifying residential subscribers.

B. Lifeline is provided under the federal universal service support mechanism as a federal benefit.

C. Lifeline is mandated by the Federal Communications Commission.

S3.10.2 Regulations and Rates

Regulations and Rates shall be concurrent with those mandated by the FCC and The Public Service Commission of South Carolina. (C)

S3.10.3 Eligibility and Certification

Eligibility and Certification shall be concurrent with the requirements of the FCC and The Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

APPROVED FOR FILING - THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA - APRIL 09, 2012

S3. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

S3.1 General

3.1.1 Local exchange service rates in this tariff are as identified with the Bluffton Telephone Co., Inc. of Bluffton, South Carolina.

3.1.2 Extended Area Service (EAS)

a. Implemented pursuant to South Carolina Public Service Commission Order No. 2007-346

b. Expands local calling to include the following exchange areas:

Beaufort, SC	Bluffton, SC
Hardeeville, SC	Ridgeland, SC
Hilton Head Island, SC	Savannah, GA
Laurel Bay, SC	St. Helena, SC
Pooler, GA	Tybee Island, GA

c. Monthly recurring charge per line of service:

$2.30/Residential $4.60/Business (I)

3.1.3 Local Exchange Service Offerings

a. **Limited Local Service** allows voice calls to the areas identified in 3.1.2(b) preceding.

Voice calls made outside of 3.1.2(b) preceding, are subject to additional charges.

b. **Basic Local Service** allows calls to any location within the United States and its Territories including but not limited to Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Northern Antilles and Guam.

Applies to residential lines only and not offered in conjunction with business lines

Intended for normal voice usage equal to, or less than 3,600 usage minutes per month

In the event monthly usage exceeds 3,600 minutes per month, excess usage charges apply at $0.01 per minute for each minute in excess of 3,600 minutes

3.1.4 Rates for service and equipment not specifically shown in this section are presented in other sections of this tariff.

S3. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

S3.2 Monthly Exchange Rates

3.2.1 Monthly exchange rates are authorized by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina as shown below.

3.2.2 Limited Local Service as identified in 3.1.3(a) preceding

		Monthly Rate	
a.	Residential		
	Each Single	$ 14.98	(I)
	EAS	$ 2.30	
	Base Charge	$ 17.28	
b.	Business		
	Each Single Line, Key Trunk, PBX Trunk or Paystation	$ 29.96	(I)
	EAS	$ 4.60	
	Base Charge	$ 34.56	

3.2.3 Basic Local Service as defined in Section 3.1.3(b) preceding

a.	Residential Single Line	$ 22.17	(I)
	EAS	$ 2.30	
	Base Charge	$ 24.47	

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2016 South Carolina Lifeline Assistance Application

Step 1: Applicant Information *(fill in each block entirely)*

Your Hargray Phone #	First Name	MI	Last Name
Address Where **Service Is Located** (No PO Boxes)			City & State
Is this your permanent address? (circle one) YES NO			Zip Code
Billing Address, City, State & Zip Code (If different from Service Address) (PO Boxes Allowed)			
Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number		Date of Birth	

Step 2: Determine whether you qualify for lifeline based on participation in the eligible programs of section A, or because you meet the income eligibility requirements of section B.

Section A

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY: *check the following program(s) in which you, **or** a member of your household, currently participate. Please attach a copy of eligibility documentation. If the program participant is not you, but a member of your household, please print the name of the program participant here:*

	Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8		Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
	National School Lunch Program – Free Lunch Program		Medicaid
	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)		Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) *formerly known as food stamps*		

Section B

INCOME ELIGIBILITYGUIDELINES: If you do not participate in any of the programs above, you may still be eligible for Lifeline Assistance if your annual household income is at or below the amounts shown below (135% of FPG) depending on the size of your household. PLACE A CHECK next to the total number of people in your household. Please indicate the number of household members if more than 8.

Persons in family/household	2016 Poverty Guidelines – 135%
1 _____	$16,038
2 _____	$21,627
3 _____	$27,216
4 _____	$32,805
5 _____	$38,394
6 _____	$43,983
7 _____	$49,586
8 _____	$55,202
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add $5,616 for each additional person:	

PLEASE COMPLETE NEXT PAGE. BOTH PAGES OF THIS APPLICATION ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTATION WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

2016 South Carolina Lifeline Assistance Application

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW:

- Lifeline is a federal benefit and willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program
- Only one Lifeline service is available per household
- A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses
- A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers
- Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's (or "FCC") rules and will result in the subscriber's de-enrollment from the program
- Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and the subscriber may not transfer his or her benefit to any other person

WE CANNOT PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION WITHOUT YOUR CERTIFICATION:

Certification

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that:

- **I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline, shown above.**
- **I will notify the carrier within 30 days if for any reason I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, (a) if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support; (b) I am receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, (c) or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit.**
- **If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to Hargray within 30 days.**
- **My household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service.**
- **The information contained in this certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.**
- **I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law.**
- **I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify my continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits.**

I hereby authorize Hargray to release any of my information contained in this Lifeline Application required for the administration of the Lifeline program to the FCC or its designee, including the Universal Service Administrative Company, and to any state and federal agency, as required by law.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Statement Regarding Milestone Certification
Line 3010A

Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. (BTC) hereby certifies that it has taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service that meets the Federal Communications Commission's public interest obligations in § 54.308(a), and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY