

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

July 1, 2016

Accepted / Filed

HAND DELIVERY

JUL - 1 2016

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

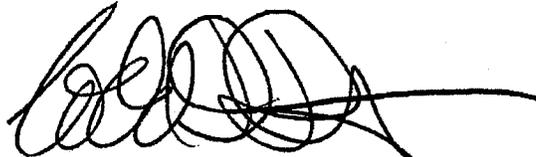
Re: WC Docket No. 14-58 and 10-90: FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form of Southern Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless for Alabama (SAC 259010) and Georgia (SAC 229006)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules, Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless ("SouthernLINC Wireless"), by its attorney, hereby submits a copy of its FCC Form 481-Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form, which was timely filed with the Universal Service Administrative Company on or before July 1, 2016. Portions of this filing are confidential and are being filed under seal in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission's *Protective Order* in the above-captioned Docket WC 14-58.¹ A letter requesting confidential treatment of this information is attached.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Todd D. Daubert

Counsel to Southern Communications
Services, Inc. d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless

No. of Copies rec'd 0+1
List ABCDE

¹ *Connect America Fund, et al., WC Docket Nos. 14-58, 10-90, 31 FCC Rcd 2089 (WCB 2016)(Wireline Competition Bur. & Wireless Telecom. Bur., rel. March 22, 2016).*

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REDACTED- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Rule Section 0.459 Request for Confidential Treatment
Southern Communications Services, Inc. for Alabama (SAC 259010) and Georgia (SAC
229006) FCC Form 481 — Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Southern Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless ("SouthernLINC Wireless"), enclosed please find a copy of SouthernLINC Wireless' FCC Form 481. In filing FCC Form 481, SouthernLINC Wireless has provided company-specific information that is not ordinarily disclosed to any person or entity. Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,¹ SouthernLINC Wireless requests that the Commission afford confidential treatment to the portions of the attached FCC Form 481 marked for redaction (the "Redacted Information").

The information for which SouthernLINC Wireless requests confidential treatment constitutes sensitive commercial information that falls within Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA").² Specifically, SouthernLINC Wireless requests confidential treatment of the Redacted Information because the information that SouthernLINC Wireless is disclosing is not ordinarily disclosed in the industry, and disclosure could have adverse competitive consequences for SouthernLINC Wireless.

Exemption 4 allows parties to withhold from public information "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from any person and privileged or confidential categories of materials not routinely available for public inspection." Applying Exemption 4, the courts have stated that commercial or financial information is confidential if its disclosure will have either of the following effects: (1) impairment of the government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future; or (2) causation of substantial harm to the competitive position of the person from whom the information was obtained.³

Section 0.457(d)(2) of the Commission's rules allows persons submitting materials that they wish to be withheld from public inspection in accordance with Section 552(b)(4) of the FOIA to file a request for

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

² See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4); 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(d).

³ See *National Parks and Conservation Ass'n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765, 770 (D.C. Cir. 1974) (footnote omitted); see also *Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871, 879-80 (D.C. Cir. 1992), cert. denied, 507 U.S. 984 (1993).

non-disclosure. The requirements governing such requests are set forth in Section 0.459(b). In accordance with the specifications delineated in that rule, SouthernLINC Wireless hereby submits the following:

I IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR WHICH CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT IS SOUGHT (SECTION 0.459(B)(1))

SouthernLINC Wireless seeks confidential treatment of its Redacted Information, as the information contained therein comprises commercially sensitive information that falls within Exemption 4 of the FOIA.

II IDENTIFICATION OF THE COMMISSION PROCEEDING IN WHICH THE INFORMATION WAS SUBMITTED OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES GIVING RISE TO THE SUBMISSION (SECTION 0.459(B)(2))

FCC Form 481 and the accompanying instructions require filers to submit the Redacted Information.

III EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION IS COMMERCIAL OR FINANCIAL, OR CONTAINS A TRADE SECRET OR IS PRIVILEGED (SECTION 0.459(B)(3))

SouthernLINC Wireless' Redacted Information contains specific information about SouthernLINC Wireless' commercial operations; information which SouthernLINC Wireless does not ordinarily disclose. Accordingly, the Redacted Information for which SouthernLINC Wireless seeks confidential treatment contains sensitive commercial information that competitors could use to SouthernLINC Wireless' disadvantage. The Commission has broadly defined commercial information, stating that "[c]ommercial" is broader than information regarding basic commercial operations, such as sales and profits; it includes information about work performed for the purpose of conducting a business's commercial operations."⁴

IV EXPLANATION OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INFORMATION CONCERNS A SERVICE THAT IS SUBJECT TO COMPETITION (SECTION 0.459(B)(4))

SouthernLINC Wireless provides a variety of wireless communications services, an industry segment in which substantial competition exists. The presence of numerous competitors makes imperative the confidential treatment of sensitive commercial information.

V EXPLANATION OF HOW DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPETITIVE HARM (SECTION 0.459(B)(5))

Release of the information for which SouthernLINC Wireless requests confidentiality could have a significant impact on SouthernLINC Wireless' commercial operations and would provide competitors with an unfair competitive advantage.

VI IDENTIFICATION OF ANY MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE (SECTION 0.459(B)(6))

SouthernLINC Wireless does not ordinarily disclose the Redacted Information.

⁴ Southern Company Request for Waiver of Section 90.629 of the Commission's Rules, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 14 FCC Rcd 1851, 1860 (1998) (citing *Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA*, 704 F.2d 1280, 1290 (D.C. Cir. 1983)).

VII IDENTIFICATION OF WHETHER THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE EXTENT OF ANY PREVIOUS DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES (SECTION 0.459(B)(7))

The Redacted Information is not available to the public, and has been disclosed solely pursuant to FCC Form 481.

VIII JUSTIFICATION OF PERIOD DURING WHICH THE SUBMITTING PARTY ASSERTS THAT THE MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE (SECTION 0.459(B)(8))

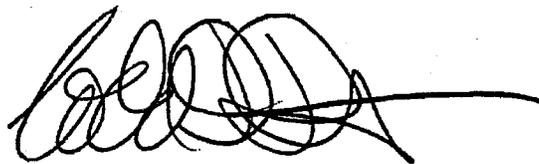
If released, such disclosure could jeopardize SouthernLINC Wireless' business. Among other things, competitors of SouthernLINC Wireless could use the Redacted Information to gain an unfair competitive advantage, particularly since SouthernLINC Wireless filed the Redacted Information solely to comply with FCC requirements. SouthernLINC Wireless respectfully requests that the Commission withhold the information from public inspection indefinitely.

As demonstrated above, the information for which SouthernLINC Wireless seeks confidential treatment is entitled to exemption from disclosure under both FOIA and the Commission's rules. SouthernLINC Wireless would suffer substantial competitive injury if this information were to be disclosed and SouthernLINC Wireless has taken steps to safeguard all of the information contained in the Redacted Information from disclosure. Accordingly, SouthernLINC Wireless requests that its Redacted Information be withheld from public inspection.

In the event that any person or entity requests disclosure of the enclosed Redacted Information, please notify counsel for SouthernLINC Wireless immediately using the contact information provided above in order to permit it to oppose such request or take such other action to safeguard its interests as it deems necessary.

Please direct any questions as to this matter, including the request for confidential treatment, to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Todd D. Daubert

*Counsel to Southern Communications
Services, Inc. d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless*

FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3045-0044/OMB Control No. 3045-0044 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	229006
<015> Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Bryant Peters
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	6784431716 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	wbpeters@southernco.com
Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

(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 229006
 <015> Study Area Name SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
 <020> Program Year 2017
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Bryant Peters
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 6784431716 ext.
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> wbpeters@southernco.com

<110> Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?
 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)
 <111> (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	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

(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
DMR Control No. 3060-0986/OMR Control No. 3060-0819
JULY 2013

<010> Study Area Code 229006

<015> Study Area Name SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.

<020> Program Year 2017

<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Bryant Peters

<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 6784431716 ext.

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

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0868/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	225004
<015>	Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	BRYAN POTTER
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line	6784622716 wct
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line	bpotter@psncc.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	

(300) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Data Collection Form		FCC Form 483 OMB Control No. 3060-0086/OMB Control No. 3060-0019 July 2013
<010> Study Area Code	328066	
<015> Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC	
<020> Program Year	2011	
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	BRYAN BOWEN	
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8744431714 ext	
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	bbowen@csnet.kornet.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	229006ga510 . pdf	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--	--

<010> Study Area Code	229000
<015> Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
<020> Program Year	2010
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	BRYANT DELAY
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4784637724 ext
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	bpdelay@comcast.net
<600> Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610> Descriptive document for functionality in Emergency Situations	2290069a610.pdf

1800) Operating Companies
 Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
 EMB Control No. 3060-0806 / OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 229006

<015> Study Area Name SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.

<020> Program Year 2017

<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Bryant Peters

<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 6784431716 ext.

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

<810> Reporting Carrier Southern Communications Services, Inc.

<811> Holding Company Southern Company

<812> Operating Company Southern Communications Services, Inc.

<813>	<01>	<02>	<03>
Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation	
-- See attached worksheet --			

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

FC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3063-0286 / OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 28 12

<010>	Study Area Code	229006
<015>	Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Bryant Peters
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6784411716 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	bpeters@southernco.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

(1106) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
 Data Collection Form

FCO Form 483
 OMB Control No. 3060-0085/OMB Control No. 3056-0019
 July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 279886

<015> Study Area Name SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.

<020> Program Year 2017

<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Bryant Petets

<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 6784431716 ext.

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

(0200) Terms and Conditions for Lifeline Subscribers
Lifeline Data Collection Form

FCC Form 487
 OMB Control No. 3060-9986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 229006
 <015> Study Area Name SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
 <020> Program Year 2017
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Bryant Peters
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 6784431716 ext.
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> bwpeters@southernco.com



Name of Attached Document

HTTP <https://www.southerninc.com/service-plans/lifeline/>

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

<1220> Link to Public Website

*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) Prior to Carrier Additional Information
 Data Collection Form
 Including Rate of Return Carriers Affected with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0086/OMB Control No. 3060-0019
 July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 229066
 <015> Study Area Name SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
 <020> Program Year 2017
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAAC should contact regarding this data Bryant Peters
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 578431716 ext.
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> bpceter@southcomco.com

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental 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)		

(2008) Price Cap Carrier Additional Expenditure Report (CapEx) Form
 Data Collection Form
 Including Rates of Return Carriers of Interest with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers
 FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0064 (OMB Control No. 3060-0019)
 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.

<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)

<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)

		Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
		Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(2009) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation Data Collection Form	FCC Form 488 OMB Control No. 3060-0184/OMB Control No. 3060-0019 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	229006
<015>	Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Bryant Peters
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6784431716 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	wbpeters@southernco.com

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

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

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

(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

(3031) Name of System Owner / Administrator / Design Authority (Required)
 Southern Communications Services, Inc.
 (3032) Study Area Code
 229006
 (3033) Study Area Name
 SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
 (3034) Program Year
 2017
 (3035) Contact Name - Person USAF should contact regarding this data
 Bryant Peters
 (3036) Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line (3035)
 678431716 ext.
 (3037) Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line (3035)
 bpeters@calhounco.com

FDD Form 481
 DMS Control No. 1640-9994/CMR Control No. 3060-0019
 July 2013

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	

4005 Rural Broadband Data Collection Form	Experiment Additional Documentation	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0984/OMB Control No. 3060-0619 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	229116
<015>	Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES INC
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	BRYAN BETTS
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6744411710 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	wbpeterson@southcom.net

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

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

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-58 (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 14-58 (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. 3060-0386/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	229006
<015>	Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Bryant Peters
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6784431716 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	wbpeters@southernco.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: SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date 06/29/2016
Printed name of Authorized Officer: John Battis	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: Finance Manager	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 6784431563 ext.	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 229006	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.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form		FCC Form 483 OMB Control No. 3060-0096/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010> Study Area Code	229006	
<015> Study Area Name	SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.	
<020> Program Year	2017	
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Bryant Peters	
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6784431716 ext.	
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	wbpeters@southerncco.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.	

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Attachments

**Southern Communications Services, Inc.,
d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless
229006ga112**

July 1, 2016, § 54.313 and § 54.422 Progress Report

Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless (“SouthernLINC,” “Company”) hereby files its progress report on its Five-Year Service Improvement Plan in WC Docket No. 14-58 and WC Docket No. 10-90 (“Plan”) describing completed and planned improvements in certain wire centers in the State of Georgia.

This report is comprised of two (2) schedules and one (1) map which collectively describe SouthernLINC Wireless' progress in improving signal strength, coverage and capacity during the period January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015. Schedules 1 and 2 provide the amount of high-cost support, by wire center, the Company received during the period January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015. Schedules 1 and 2 also provide an estimate, by wire center, of the amount of high-cost support the Company expects to receive from the Universal Service Fund during the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, and the intended use of such support.

The Plan reflects the phased reduction in the amount of high-cost support the Company receives from the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's Connect America Fund Order & FNPRM released November 18, 2011.

Southern Communications Services, Inc.,
d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless
229006ga112

July 1, 2016, § 54.313 and § 54.422 Progress Report

Universal Service Fund Support Received by Wire Center

The following two schedules show the amount of high-cost support SouthernLINC Wireless received from the Universal Service Fund during calendar year 2015 and the amount it is projected to receive during the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, for each of the wire centers within the States of Georgia for which SouthernLINC Wireless is designated as a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier (“CETC”). The support amounts for 2015 are derived from the actual high-cost support provided to SouthernLINC Wireless from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, based on information obtained from the USAC website. The support amounts for January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, reflect the freeze currently in effect of the planned phase-out of high-cost support to CETCs pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's Connect America Fund Report and Order released June 10, 2014.¹

¹ *In the Matter of Connect America Fund; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; WC Docket 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208; WC Docket No. 14-58; WC Docket No. 07-135, CC Docket No. 01-92, Report And Order, Declaratory Ruling, Order, Memorandum Opinion And Order, Seventh Order On Reconsideration, And Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, Adopted April 23, 2014, Released June 10, 2014.*

Schedule 1
SouthernLINC Wireless
ETC Designated Areas in Which SouthernLINC Wireless
Did Not Receive Universal Service Support

July 1, 2016, § 54.313 and § 54.422 Progress Report
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SouthernLINC Wireless did not received high-cost support from the Universal Service Fund ("USF") in 2015 in the following study areas and currently does not expect to receive legacy high-cost support in these study areas.

State	SAN	CLLI
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Schedule 2
SouthernLINC Wireless
Progress Report on its Five Year Service Improvement Plan
in Designated Service Areas Receiving High-Cost Universal Service Support

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State	SAN	CLLI	High-Cost Support			Progress Report Notes
			2015	2016	2015 - 2016	

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**Southern Communications Services, Inc.,
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229006ga112**

July 1, 2016, § 54.313 and § 54.422 Progress Report

Material Modifications to Improve Signal Strength, Coverage and Capacity

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Map 1
Base Radios Added at Cell Sites in 2015



Coverage at 01-01-15
Base Radios Added in 2015

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Southern Communications Services, Inc.
d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless
229006ga510

**Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless
Certification Required by 47 C.F.R. §54.313(a)(5) - WC Docket No. 10-90**

Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless hereby certifies that it is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(3).

SouthernLINC Wireless' Consumer Protection Practices conforms to the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Service in the following ways:

- Disclosure of Rates and Terms of Service to Consumers
- Making Available Maps Showing Where Service is Generally Available
- Providing Contract Terms to Customers and Confirm Changes in Service
- Allowing a 15-Day Trial Period for New Service
- Providing Specific Disclosure in Advertising
- Separately Identifying Carrier Charges from Taxes on Billing Statements
- Providing Customers the Right to Terminate Service for Changes to Contract Terms
- Providing Ready Access to Customer Service
- Promptly Respond to Consumer Inquiries and Complaints Received from Government Agencies
- Abiding by Policies for Protection of Customer Privacy, including CPNI
- Providing Consumers Free Usage Notification for Voice, Data and Messaging Usage

By:



Tami M. Barron
President and CEO, Southern Communications Services, Inc.
d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless

Date: 6-15-2016

Southern Communications Services, Inc.
d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless
229006ga610

**Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless
Certification Required by 47 C.F.R. §54.313(a)(6) - WC Docket No. 10-90**

This certification is submitted on behalf of Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless ("SouthernLINC Wireless") in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(6).

On behalf of SouthernLINC Wireless I, Tami M. Barron, hereby certify that SouthernLINC Wireless is capable of functioning in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2) as described in the accompanying document.

By: Tami M. Barron
Tami M. Barron
President and CEO, Southern Communications Services, Inc.
d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless

Date: 6-15-2016

Southern Communications Services, Inc.,
d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless
229006ga610

July 1, 2016 § 54.313 and § 54.422 Progress Report

Southern Communications Services, Inc., d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless

(“SouthernLINC,” “Company”) operates a wireless communications network in the States of Alabama and Georgia, in the southeast portion of Mississippi and in the panhandle of Florida. SouthernLINC provides dispatch radio, cellular, text and data services to commercial customers and to the electric utility subsidiaries of its parent, The Southern Company (“Southern,” “Parent”). The Company’s commercial customers include first and second responder public safety entities.

SouthernLINC’s service territory experiences severe weather including, hurricanes, ice storms, severe thunderstorms and tornados. To ensure that its network performs during such events, its **REDACTED** cell sites are connected to a ring protected terrestrial backhaul system. Of the **REDACTED** cell sites in service at December 31, 2015, all were equipped with on-site battery back-up power facilities capable of maintaining cell site operations should commercial power be lost. Back-up power generators and batteries are both available at **REDACTED** of the cell sites. SouthernLINC also has **REDACTED** cell sites on wheels (“COWS”), **REDACTED** cell augmentation trailers (“CATS”), **REDACTED** generators on a trailer (“GOATS”), **REDACTED** emergency microwave units (“EMU”) and **REDACTED** satellite on wheels (“SOWs”) that can be deployed to restore service in impacted areas.

SouthernLINC has an incident response team (“IRT”) comprised of subject matter experts from all departments of the Company that convenes as severe weather approaches. The Company has written processes that are followed before and during severe weather incidents and these written processes are reviewed and adjusted as appropriate subsequent to a storm or other

**Southern Communications Services, Inc.,
d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless
229006ga610**

July 1, 2016 § 54.313 and § 54.422 Progress Report

emergency incident. The IRT and written processes are also useful in addressing unexpected incidents.

The following is an excerpt from the written processes that would be used approximately two days before a hurricane is predicted to make landfall. In this excerpt, “operating companies” and “OpCos” refers to the electric utility subsidiaries of SouthernLINC’s Parent and “SCS” refers to a services company subsidiary of the Parent.

Alert Level 4 (Orange) – Action/Response Indicated

Hurricane: 48 hours or 2 days before forecasted landfall. Severe weather has caused damage within the SouthernLINC footprint and site repair, expansion or communications support may be necessary.

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The Company’s full written processes similarly details steps to be taken beginning five days in advance of a hurricane’s predicted landfall. Additionally, since SouthernLINC is the primary wireless communications service provider to the electric utility operating companies of Southern, it coordinates its storm preparedness and recovery activities with those companies.

SouthernLINC Wireless believes that its network design, extensive on-site back-up power facilities and emergency preparedness activities demonstrates it is capable of remaining functional in an emergency consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2).

