

Received & Inspected

JUN 29 2015

FCC Mail Room

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

June 25, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *In the Matter of ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, Connect America Fund, A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, High-Cost Universal Service Support, Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Lifeline and Link-Up, Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund, WC Docket Nos. 14-58, 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, GN Docket No. 09-51, WT Docket No. 10-208*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Venture Communications Cooperative (“Venture”), please find enclosed two copies of Venture’s FCC Form 481, along with the redacted versions of the Confidential Financial Information.

Also enclosed are copies of Venture’s redacted progress reports on its five-year service quality improvement plan.

One copy of the FCC Form 481, containing Confidential Financial Information is being filed under separate cover.

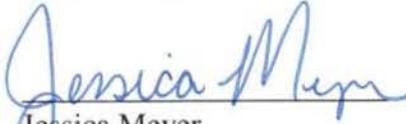
Please do not hesitate to contact me at (402) 441-4315 if you have any questions regarding this submission.

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

0+1



Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Meyer
Consultant
Consortia Consulting, Inc.

Encl.

<010> Study Area Code	391680	
<015> Study Area Name	VENTURE COMM. COOP	Received & Inspected
<020> Program Year	2016	
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Judy Christiansen	JUN 29 2015
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	4028181322 ext.	FCC Mail Room
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com	

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS

		54.313 Completion Required	54.423 Completion Required
<100> Service Quality Improvement Reporting	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<200> Outage Reporting (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<210> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <-- check box if no outages to report		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<300> Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<310> Detail on Attempts (voice)	[Redacted] (attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<330> Detail on Attempts (broadband)	[Redacted] (attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)			
<410> Fixed	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<420> Mobile	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<430> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<440> Fixed	0.12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<450> Mobile	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<510> [Redacted]	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<600> Functionality in Emergency Situations	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<610> [Redacted]	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<700> Company Price Offerings (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<710> Company Price Offerings (broadband)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<800> Operating Companies and Affiliates	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<900> Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)?	(if yes, complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1010> [Redacted]	(attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No)	(if not, check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1110>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet

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

<2000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<2005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

<3000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<3005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(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 391680

<015> Study Area Name VENTURE COMM. COOP

<020> Program Year 2016

<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Judy Christiansen

<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 4028181322 ext.

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

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

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, then you are required to 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.

391680sd112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

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

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

Yes
Not Applicable

(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 391680
 <015> Study Area Name VENTURE COMM. COOP
 <020> Program Year 2016
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Judy Christiansen
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 4028181322 ext.
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate ("SWO") Tribe
 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

391680sd920.pdf

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable
Yes
Yes

(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	391680
<015>	Study Area Name	VENTURE COMM. COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Judy Christiansen
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4028181322 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

<1120> Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

<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

FCC Form 481

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

July 2013

Lifeline

Data Collection Form

<010> Study Area Code	391680
<015> Study Area Name	VENTURE COMM. COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Judy Christiansen
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4028181322 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

391680d1210.pdf

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

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

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,
- <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	391680
<015>	Study Area Name	VENTURE COMM. COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	JUDY CHRISTIANSEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4028181322 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen 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)
- <2011a> 3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)
- <2011b> Attachment (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))

- <2012> 2013 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1))
- <2013> 2014 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2))
- <2014> 2015 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3))
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4))

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))

- <2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification
- <2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification
- <2019> Interim Progress Certification
- <2020> Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

- <2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

<010> Study Area Code 391680
 <015> Study Area Name VENTURE COMM. COOP
 <020> Program Year 2016
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Judy Christiansen
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 4028181322 ext.
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its 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.

(3010) Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Milestone Certification [47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)]
 391680sd3010.pdf
 Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3011) Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

(3012) Community Anchor Institutions [47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)]
 391680sd3012.pdf
 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 document(s), 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) for 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
 391680sd3017.pdf
 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

(3020) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3021) Management letter and 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

(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3050-0819

July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	391680
<015> Study Area Name	VENTURE COMM. COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Judy Christiansen
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4028181322 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.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]

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3050-9986/OMB Control No. 3050-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	391680
<015> Study Area Name	VENTURE COMM. COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Judy Christiansen
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4028181322 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

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

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0988/OMB Control No. 3060-0118 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	391680
<015> Study Area Name	VENTURE COMM. COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Judy Christiansen
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4028181322 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

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

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>Judy Christiansen</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	Judy Christiansen
Name of Reporting Carrier:	VENTURE COMM. COOP
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Randy Houdek
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	General Manager/CEO
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	6058522224 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	391680
	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
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:	VENTURE COMM. COOP
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Judy Christiansen
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Judy Christiansen
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Consultant
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	4028181322 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	391680
	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
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

Venture Communications Cooperative
(SAC 391680)

**Certification of Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards and
Consumer Protection Rules**

This document details the processes and procedures that Venture Communications Cooperative (the "Company") follows to ensure compliance with service quality standards and consumer protection rules as laid out in FCC Form 481 Instructions.

The Company provides voice grade access to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) at a flat rate, enabling access to emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations such as 911.

For service quality standards that are affected by plant issues, the Company engineers and installs its plant and other facilities in such a way as to ensure safe, adequate and continuous service at all times.

In addition, employees are periodically trained on service quality standards and consumer protection issues. In particular, if any set of issues appear to be prevalent, employees are given briefings on how to handle such issues beyond the normal guidelines in place for resolution of customer complaints. A recent example is the call completion problems that have arisen and the customer calls that are generated as a result. Although this is not a service quality problem caused by the Company, it does affect customers of the Company and, therefore, deserves the attention of the Company employees.

The Company also periodically reviews its operating procedures to be sure that those operating procedures are in compliance with service quality standards and that the operating procedures are not in violation of consumer protection rules. Internally a compliance officer ensures annual employee training and dictates the disciplinary process for improper use of consumer information. If concerns arise beyond the compliance officer, legal counsel is sought to assist with a resolution.

If complaints are filed with the Company related to service quality standards or consumer protection rules, the complaint is immediately investigated, the matter tracked and any corrective action noted. This process ensures that problems are addressed and corrections made. It should be noted that the Company has received no customer complaints in the past five years regarding service quality standards or consumer protection rules as they relate to the service offered by the Company.

The Company advertises the availability of its services and the charges using media of general distribution and on its website.

Venture Communications Cooperative
(SAC 391680)

Statement Demonstrating Functionality in Emergency Situations

At line 600 of FCC Form 481, Venture Communications Cooperative (the "Company") certified that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. §54.202(a)(1)(ii). This means that the Company has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations. This statement will detail how the Company is prepared to ensure continued service in an emergency situation.

Back-Up Power

The Company has a back-up generator available with a minimum of a four hour power supply for its central office. In addition, it has portable generators available for remote sites.

Rerouting of Traffic Around Damaged Facilities

The Company has route redundancy for long distance service, E-911 trunking and SS7 signaling trunking.

In the case of isolated groups of customers that may suffer damage due to a cable cut, the Company maintains sufficient staff and other resources to be able to put customers back in service in a very short amount of time. The Company's emergency service equipment is located within its exchange and requires very little time to dispatch.

Traffic Spikes

The Company's outside plant is designed, engineered and built with sufficient capacity to handle traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations and has been able to do so in the past. The Company is in an area where severe weather strikes periodically and has been able to handle communication needs at those times and has the experience from those situations to be able to handle such emergency situations in the future.

**Venture Telecommunications Cooperative
(SAC 391680)**

Description of Tribal Engagement

The Company provides services in two tribal areas, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (“SWO”) Tribe and Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. With regard to the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Company periodically and when requested actively engages in discussions with Tribal leaders that include deployment of services to Tribal anchor institutions, and feasibility and sustainability planning of those services. The Company markets its services in a culturally sensitive manner, including advertisements and written notifications via certified mail of required filings of services and rates. The Company is in compliance with right of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting and environmental and cultural preservation review processes. The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe has no business and licensing requirements.

With regard to the SWO Tribe, Company completed an extensive fiber-to-the-home project in tribal areas in 2014. Accordingly, as part of that project, Company engaged in numerous discussions (including written correspondence, email messages, telephone calls, and face-to-face meetings) with appropriate Tribal government leaders and entities throughout the course of the project, which continued into 2014. Company engaged in extensive discussions with tribal leaders with regards to needs assessment and deployment planning, with a focus on provisioning of services to Tribal community anchor institutions so as to meet tribal deadlines. Company has continued its communications and discussions with Tribal leaders as to feasibility and sustainability planning. The Company markets its services in a culturally sensitive manner, including advertisements and written notifications via certified mail of required filings of services and rates. In the course of completion of its construction project, and as a matter of ordinary practice, Company is in compliance with right of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting and environmental and cultural preservation review processes. Company is in compliance with SWO business and licensing requirements.

Venture Communications Cooperative (SAC 391680)

Lifeline Terms and Conditions

Venture Communications Cooperative ("Venture") offers Lifeline program-supported service to qualified low-income residential consumers for one telephone line per eligible household. The Lifeline program provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline. Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

Lifeline Program Eligibility Information

Program Based Eligibility

Consumers are eligible for Lifeline if they, one of their dependents or their household participate in one of the following qualifying assistance programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means.

Acceptable documentation of program-based eligibility includes: current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; program participation documents; or another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.

Income Based Eligibility

In addition, consumers are eligible for Lifeline if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines – 135%

Household Size	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$15,889	\$19,872	\$18,292
2	\$21,505	\$26,892	\$24,745
3	\$27,121	\$33,912	\$31,198
4	\$32,737	\$40,932	\$37,651
5	\$38,353	\$47,952	\$44,104
6	\$43,969	\$54,972	\$50,557
7	\$49,585	\$61,992	\$57,010
8	\$55,201	\$69,012	\$63,463
For each additional person, add	\$5,616	\$7,020	\$6,453

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes: prior year's state, federal or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; social security statement of benefits; Veterans Administration statement of benefits; retirement/pension statement of benefits; unemployment/workmen's compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice of letter participating in General Assistance; or a divorce decree or child support award or other official document containing income information.

Tribal Eligibility

A subscriber who lives on Tribal lands and is an eligible resident of Tribal lands is eligible for Tribal Lifeline service or Tribal Link Up if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following Tribal-specific federal assistance programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Numbers of Minutes-of-Use Provided as Part of Lifeline Program Service

Venture's Voice Lifeline service includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Venture's Voice Lifeline Plan does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll. Toll is billed at the standard toll rate depending on which interexchange carrier the consumer subscribes to for toll service. As part of the Lifeline service, Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

Rates

Subscribers may receive the Lifeline credit on any type or grade of local service, including bundled services that are normally offered by Venture. Advertised rates do not include any applicable taxes or surcharges.

Recertification of Lifeline Eligibility

Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility annually. Failure to properly recertify a recipient's continued eligibility for the Lifeline program will result in termination of the Lifeline recipient's monthly Lifeline discount and de-enrollment from the Lifeline Program.

Additional Lifeline Program Information

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.