

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 Pierce Telephone Company, Incorporated (“Pierce”), please find enclosed two copies of Pierce’s FCC Form 481, along with the redacted versions of the Confidential Financial Information.

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

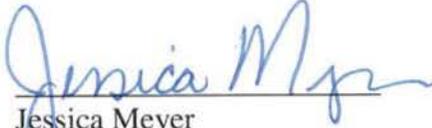
One copy of the FCC Form 481, containing Confidential Financial Information is being filed under separate cover.

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

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



Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Meyer
Consultant
Consortia Consulting, Inc.

Encl.

<010> Study Area Code	371581
<015> Study Area Name	PIERCE TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Judy Christiansen
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	4018181322 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

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 FCC Mail Room

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS

	54.313 Completion Required	54.422 Completion Required
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<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)	(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)	(attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<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	0.0	<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> 371581ne510.pdf	(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> 371581ne610.pdf	(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>	(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

<2000> Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers	(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
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<010> Study Area Code	371581
<015> Study Area Name	PIERCE TEL CO
<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>	4018181322 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) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<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) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

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.

371581n0112.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 371581
 <015> Study Area Name PIERCE TEL CO
 <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> 4018181322 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

<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:

- <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

(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	371581
<015>	Study Area Name	PIERCE TEL CO
<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>	4018181322 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 Lifeline Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	371581
<015>	Study Area Name	PIERCE TEL CO
<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>	4018181322 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

371581.ne1210

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	371581
<015>	Study Area Name	PIERCE TEL CO
<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>	4016161322 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 371581
 <015> Study Area Name PIERCE TEL CO
 <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> 4018181322 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)]
 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)]
 Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3013) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)) (Yes/No) Yes No
 (3014) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report (Yes/No) 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
 Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3018) If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited? (Yes/No) 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 491
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	371581
<015> Study Area Name	PIERCE TEL CO
<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>	4018181322 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. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	371581
<015> Study Area Name	PIERCE TEL CO
<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>	4018181322 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. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	371581
<015> Study Area Name	PIERCE TEL CO
<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>	4018181322 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:	PIERCE TEL CO
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/25/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Mary Bichlmeier
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Assistant Treasurer
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	4023296225 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	371581 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:	PIERCE TEL CO
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Judy Christiansen
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/25/2015
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:	371581 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

Pierce Telephone Company
Certification of Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards and
Consumer Protection Rules for Voice and Broadband Services

Service quality standards and consumer protection rules for broadband are not as defined as the rules for voice services. The Company complies with any service quality standards and consumer protection rules for broadband that are out there now and any that will be defined in the future.

Service Quality Standards

For voice services, the Company:

- Provides voice grade access to the public switched network.
- Provides flat rated local exchange service with no additional charge to end users.
- Provides access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911.
- Provides toll blocking and toll limitation services.

For voice and broadband services, the Company:

- Advertises the availability of its services and the charges using media of general distribution and/or on its website.
- Maintains a business office providing customers with access to a customer service representative either in person or via a local telephone call or toll-free telephone number during business hours.
- Directs after hour calls to the Company's voice mail which allows customers to leave a message and a repairman will be paged.
- Directs trouble reports to the on-call technician.
- Tracks all service orders to ensure they are completed in a timely manner.
- Measures its service connection and service interruption performance on a regular basis.
- Trains employees to:
 - Answer all incoming calls promptly.
 - Respond to all inquiries for information promptly and courteously.
 - Investigate thoroughly all customer complaints and handle appropriately according to the Company's guidelines for resolution of customer complaints.
 - Be knowledgeable about products and service offerings so they can assist the customer with selecting the best service option.
- Has a process for periodic inspection, testing and preventive maintenance of its equipment to permit the rendering of safe, adequate and continuous service at all times.
- Meets or exceeds the standards established by the state commission and provides any reports required in accordance with the state commission's rules.

Consumer Protection Rules

The Company has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with applicable consumer protection rules which include compliance with the Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) rules. The operating procedures include:

- Appointment of a compliance officer.
- A manual detailing the specific procedures for protecting consumer information.
- Employee training on an annual basis.
- A disciplinary process for improper use of consumer information.

If complaints are filed with the Company regarding 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.

Pierce Telephone Company, Inc.

Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations for Voice and Broadband Services FCC Form 481 – Line 610

1. Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. (PTC) has been providing high quality service in Nebraska since 1955. This includes operating in adverse conditions including blizzards, ice storms, thunderstorms, tornadoes and during prolonged power outages. PTC's management team, plant supervisors, plant technicians and customer service representatives have the training, experience and equipment necessary to respond to, manage and operate in emergency situations.
2. Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. follows applicable Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Telecommunications program practices and guidelines including the Telecommunications Engineering and Construction Manual (TE&CM) and other industry standards available to small telecommunications carriers. Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. also meets the requirements of the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) as applied to local exchange service.
3. Back-Up Power

3.1. Central Office

- 3.1.1. Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. maintains storage batteries designed to provide a minimum reserve capacity consistent with RUS TE&CM 1751E-302, Power Requirements for Digital Central Office Equipment. 1751E-302 paragraph 2.3.4 recommends a minimum reserve capacity of 8 hours, or 3 hours if the central office is equipped with an emergency standby generator. This is consistent with Title 291, NPSC Telecommunications Rules and Regulations, Chapter 5, paragraph 002.05 Emergency Operations and Power.
- 3.1.2. Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. maintains a dedicated standby generator fueled with a 50 gallon reserve supply of diesel fuel at the Pierce central office and a standby generator fueled with a 500 gallon reserve supply of liquid propane gas (LPG) at the Hoskins central office. The standby units are equipped with an automatic transfer switch so that in the event of an interruption of the commercial electric power lasting more than a few minutes, the standby generator starts automatically and provides electrical power to the central office equipment, air conditioning and building lighting. The automatic transfer switch also exercises the standby unit periodically and an alarm indication is sent if the standby generator does not start so that telecommunications personnel can perform proactive maintenance.

Pierce Telephone Company, Inc.

Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations for Voice and Broadband Services
FCC Form 481 – Line 610

3.2. Remote Equipment Cabinets

3.2.1. Where electronic equipment in cabinets located remotely from the central office, is used to provide service, the cabinets are equipped with batteries designed to operate for a minimum of eight hours without commercial electrical power. In addition, Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. maintains portable AC standby generators for use in the event of prolonged commercial power interruptions and the cabinets are equipped with external receptacles to facilitate connection to portable generators.

4. Rerouting Traffic around Damaged Facilities

4.1. In the event of damage to cable facilities owned by Pierce Telephone Company, Inc., our maintenance personnel would restore service using emergency splice kits kept on hand for these types of service disruptions. If the damaged facilities are not owned by Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. we would work with the carrier directly affected to identify the source of disruption and the estimated amount of time before service is restored.

4.2. Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. currently has diverse fiber routes. One route supports toll calling and the other route supports Internet service. In the event of an extended outage, contact would be made with the other service provider to provision temporary alternate routes supporting originating and terminating toll calls. Emphasis would first be placed on establishing connections to nearby PSAP, law-enforcement and emergency services.

5. Managing Traffic Spikes

5.1. Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. meets Title 291, NPSC Telecommunications Rules and Regulations, Chapter 5, paragraph 002.12 Dial Service Objectives for sufficient central office capacity and equipment during the "...average busy hour-busy season..."

5.2. Pierce Telephone Company, Inc. follows applicable RUS practices 522 and 322 when specifying, administrating, and assigning facilities within its control (as opposed to facilities ordered by connecting interexchange carriers).

Pierce Telephone Company, Inc.

**Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations for Voice and Broadband Services
FCC Form 481 – Line 610**

- 5.3. The Pierce and Hoskins central office switches are Genband DMS-10's operating at the 602.20 software release. The Pierce DMS-10 is equipped with 1175 access lines and the Hoskins DMS-10 is equipped with 302 access lines. The DMS-10's are designed to support up to 12,000 access lines by adding line and trunk interface equipment and network equipment only. In its current configuration the DMS-10's have additional capacity over and above the minimums specified to meet NPSC and RUS guidelines.
- 5.4. When traffic volumes greatly exceed specified criteria and additional capacity of the switch or connecting facilities, the DMS-10 continues to process calls but with potentially longer waiting times for dial tone, higher post-dialing delays and a higher probability of callers receiving all trunks busy indications (fast busy) and having to redial calls. Depending on the magnitude and duration of extreme peak demand, PTC would examine alternatives such as provisioning additional facilities and work with connecting carriers to expedite additional capacity.

Pierce Telephone Company

Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program Terms and Conditions

Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program

The Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program (NTAP) is available for qualifying customers of Pierce Telephone Company. NTAP assistance reduces the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$12.75 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in NTAP. 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.

NTAP is administered by the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

NTAP Eligibility Information

Program Based Eligibility

To qualify for NTAP, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program/Kids Connection (SAM, MAC or EMAC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); (formerly the Food Stamps Program)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch program
- State assistance programs (if applicable)

To receive an NTAP application, contact your local *Health and Human Services* agency caseworker or the *Nebraska Public Service Commission*, 1200 N Street, Suite 300, PO Box 94927, Lincoln, NE 68508-4927, Phone: 402-471-3101, Toll Free: 1-800-526-0017 or http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/ntips/ntips_ntap.html

NTAP 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 NTAP 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.

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

Pierce Telephone Company's Voice NTAP service includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Pierce Telephone Company's Voice NTAP 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 NTAP service, Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

Rates

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

Recertification of NTAP Eligibility

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