



Your business  
is our business.

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

**VIA ECFS**

July 31, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Section 63.71 Application of Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for  
Authority to Discontinue Certain Services

JSI respectfully files the enclosed Application of Mid-Plains Rural Telephone  
Cooperative, Inc. for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services. This filing is made in  
compliance with Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules (47 C.F.R. § 63.71).

Sincerely,

Valerie Wimer  
Vice President

on behalf of

Rick Hurt  
General Manager  
Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Rick Hurt, Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Section 63.71 Application of ) Comp. Pol. File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mid-Plains Rural Telephone )  
Cooperative, Inc. )  
For Authority to Discontinue )  
Certain Services )

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION**

Pursuant to Sections 63.71 of the Commission’s Rules<sup>1</sup> and Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,<sup>2</sup> Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“MPRTC” or the “Cooperative”) hereby files this application to discontinue the provision of select operator services to customers that the Cooperative serves in the State of Texas (“Application”).<sup>3</sup> In support of this Application, MPRTC submits the following:

**I. Information Required by Section 63.71(a)(1) -(4)**

**A. Name and Address of Carrier**

Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
411 N. Hale Street  
Tulia, TX 79088

For purposes of this Application, the Commission may contact:

Rick Hurt, General Manager  
Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
411 N. Hale Street  
Tulia, TX 79088  
806-668-4420  
[rhurt@midplains.org](mailto:rhurt@midplains.org)

---

<sup>1</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71.

<sup>2</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

<sup>3</sup> As required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission’s Rules, MPRTC has notified and submitted a copy of this Application concurrent with this filing to the Public Utilities Commission of Texas, the Governor of Texas, and the Secretary of the Department of Defense.

**B. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance**

MPRTC will discontinue operator-assisted collect calls, third-party billed calls, credit card billed calls, busy line verification and busy line interrupt services to its customers in the State of Texas on or after October 1, 2015, upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals.

**C. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected**

Affected MPRTC local exchange customers are in the Cooperative's service area of northwest Texas which includes portions of Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Floyd, Swisher, and Randall Counties.

**D. Brief Description of the Types of Service Affected**

In the areas referenced above, MPRTC provides the following services which will be discontinued (collectively, "Affected Services"):

- Collect Call - A billing arrangement by which the charge for a call may be reversed provided the charge is accepted at the called service point.
- Bill to Third Number - A billing arrangement by which an operator-assisted call may be charged to an authorized service point other than the service point originating the call or the service point where the call is terminated.
- Bill to Credit Card - A billing arrangement by which an operator-assisted call may be charged to an authorized credit card.
- Line Status Verification/Busy Line Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.
- Busy Line Interrupt – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.

This discontinuance is limited to the Affected Services. Customers will continue to have access to all other current services without interruption.

**II. Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers**

Notices were sent to all MPRTC local exchange customers as a direct mail notice by method of U.S. Mail on July 31, 2015. Please reference Exhibit A which is a sample copy of the Notice sent to the affected customers. Note that the MPRTC address was provided to customers via the imprinted envelope of this separate, direct mailing.

**III. Status of Carrier**

MPRTC is an incumbent local exchange carrier and considered a dominant carrier with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue in the State of Texas.

**IV. Circumstances of Discontinuance**

The Cooperative's discontinuance of the Affected Services was a business decision based on a lack of customer demand for the service. In the preceding 36 months, the Cooperative has had no instances of a customer utilizing the Affected Services. Therefore, the discontinuance of these services will not adversely affect the Cooperative's customers.

**V. Certification**

On behalf of Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I, the undersigned General Manager, Rick Hurt, hereby certify that the statements contained herein are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and made in good faith.

**VI. Conclusion**

For the reasons stated herein, the Cooperative respectfully requests grant of this Application.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Rick Hurt  
General Manager  
Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
411 N. Hale Street  
Tulia, TX 79088  
806.668.4420  
[Rhurt@midplains.org](mailto:Rhurt@midplains.org)

7-31-15  
Date

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Section 63.71 Application was served this 31st day of July, 2015, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons at the addresses listed below.

Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Central Records  
1701 N Congress  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Office of Governor Greg Abbott  
State of Texas  
State Insurance Building/1100 San Jacinto  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Secretary of Defense  
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications,  
Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

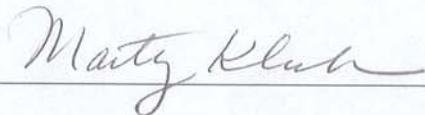
  
\_\_\_\_\_

EXHIBIT A

CUSTOMER NOTICE



Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

July 31, 2015

RE: Notice of Discontinuance of Certain Operator Services

Dear Valued Customer:

This letter is to inform you that on or after October 1, 2015, Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will no longer be providing certain operator services within the state of Texas. Customers who attempt to utilize the discontinued services will be informed by the operator that the service is not available. Specifically, the following operator services will be discontinued.

- Collect Call - A billing arrangement by which the charge for a call may be reversed provided the charge is accepted at the called service point.
- Bill to Third Number - A billing arrangement by which an operator-assisted call may be charged to an authorized service point other than the service point originating the call or the service point where the call is terminated.
- Bill to Credit Card - A billing arrangement by which an operator-assisted call may be charged to an authorized credit card.
- Line Status Verification/Busy Line Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.
- Busy Line Interrupt – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.

This discontinuance is limited to the above operator services and will not affect your Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. service in any other way. Customers will continue to access general operator services, including operator assisted dialing, handling sent-paid calls, handling emergency calls and providing rate quotes where available.

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from

another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the §63.71 Application of Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

If you have any questions about this notice or Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. discontinuance of the aforementioned operator services, please contact us at 806-668-4420.

We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve your communications needs.

Sincerely,

Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.