

JUL 02 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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, 14-58, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, GN Docket No. 09-51, WT Docket No. 10-208*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Midstate Communications, Inc. ("Midstate"), please find enclosed two copies of Midstate's FCC Form 481, along with the redacted versions of the Confidential Financial Information.

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

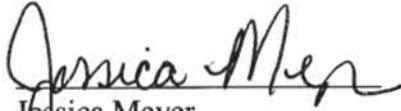
One copy of the FCC Form 481, containing Confidential Financial Information is being filed under separate cover.

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	391670	
<015> Study Area Name	MIDSTATE COMM., INC.	Received & Inspected
<020> Program Year	2016	
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Kathy Taylor	JUL 02 2015
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	6057786221 ext.	FCC Mail Room
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	kathy@midstaff.net	

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS		54.313 Completion Required	54.422 Completion Required
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		(check box when complete)	
<100> Service Quality Improvement Reporting	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
<300> Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<310> Detail on Attempts (voice)	<input type="text"/> (attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<330> Detail on Attempts (broadband)	<input type="text"/> (attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
<440> Fixed	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<450> Mobile	0.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<510> <input type="text"/> 391670sd510.pdf	(attach 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> <input type="text"/> 391670sd610.pdf	(attach descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<700> Company Price Offerings (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<710> Company Price Offerings (broadband)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
<1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1010> <input type="text"/>	(attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No)	(if not, check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1110>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	(complete attached worksheet)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
<2005>		(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

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

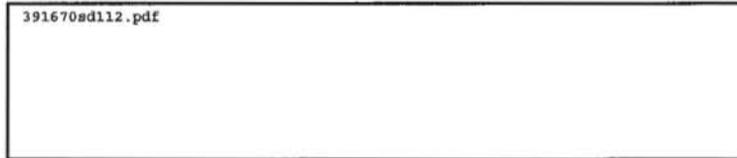
**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting
Data Collection Form**

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

<010> Study Area Code	391670
<015> Study Area Name	MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Kathy Taylor
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6057786221 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kathy@midstaff.net
<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 <111> year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> (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.



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 391670
 <015> Study Area Name MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
 <020> Program Year 2016
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Kathy Taylor
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 6057786221 ext.
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> kathy@midstaff.net

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

Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Authority

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

391670sd920.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	391670
<015> Study Area Name	MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Kathy Taylor
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6057786221 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kathy@midstaff.net

<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

<010> Study Area Code	391670
<015> Study Area Name	MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Kathy Taylor
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6057786221 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kathy@midstaff.net

<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	391670
<015>	Study Area Name	MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	KATHY TAYLOR
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6057786221 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kathy@midstaff.net

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

[3000] Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

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

<010> Study Area Code 391670
 <015> Study Area Name MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
 <020> Program Year 2016
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Kathy Taylor
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 6057786221 ext.
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> kathy@midstaff.net

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)]
 391670sd3010 .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)(iii)]
 391670sd3012 .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
 391670sd3017 .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. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	391670
<015> Study Area Name	MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Kathy Taylor
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6057786221 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kathy@midataff.net

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. 3060-0086/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	391670
<015> Study Area Name	MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Kathy Taylor
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6057786221 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kathy@midstaff.net

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:	MIDSTATE COMM., INC.
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date 06/30/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Mark Renton
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	General Manager/CEO
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	6057786221 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	391670 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.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	391670
<015> Study Area Name	MIDSTATE COMM. , INC.
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Kathy Taylor
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6057786221 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kathy@midstaff.net

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: ext. _____	
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 or Employee of Agent: _____	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	Date: _____
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: ext. _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

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

Service Quality Standards

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.
- Advertises the availability of its services and the charges using media of general distribution and 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 normal business hours.
- Directs after hour calls to the Company's help desk.
- 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.

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.

Functionality in Emergency Situations

Back-Up Power

With our current infrastructure there are three locations within our network, where backup battery is a concern; central offices, remote cabinets and ONT's locations at the customer premise. Each are addressed below:

CO

Midstate Communications has 10 central offices which serve 100% of our customer base. The switching and transport systems inside these CO's are powered by DC power with current draws ranging from approx 20 amps to 250 amps. The runtime of each battery system is slightly different based on current draw and geographical location but they range from approx. 12 hours to 40 hours. Each central office is equipped with an on-site generator and an automatic transfer switch; thus we expect the **required** run time of these battery systems to be only a few seconds but have designed them to support our network for significantly longer runtimes in case of a generator failure. We also possess a 60 KW portable generator for deployment ensuring Central Office operation throughout an on-site generator failure.

REMOTE CABINETS

Approximately 5% of our current customer base is served by these remote cabinets located in the field within 3 miles of the subscriber premises served. Each DC system inside these cabinets is designed to support 8 hours of runtime in case of a power failure. We possess 22 portable generators in all, with several of them being staged in strategic geographical locations for easy deployment in the event of a power failure.

ONT

The ONT's are located at the customer premise in our Fiber-To-The-Home network configurations. We have approximately 3000 deployed ONT's delivering service to approximately 40% of our subscribers. Any ONT located within the city limits are equipped with a 7.2 amp-hour batteries and provide an expected runtime of 8 hours. Knowing the power failure outside the city limits can be

longer, we deploy a larger battery providing additional run time. These batteries are 20AH and deliver an expected runtime of greater than 16 hours.

RE-ROUTING OF TRAFFIC AROUND DAMAGED FACILITIES

ALL core network connections are ring protected and any established traffic is automatically re-routed without impact to these customers. Any call not yet established or in a "setup" state during a reroute situation (fiber cut, central office failure, etc.) would fail and these callers would need to reacquire dial tone and replace the call. The time the routes would be unavailable is less than one second, thus any subsequent call attempts would be successful.

Our connection to the outside world is via our centralized equal access provider: South Dakota Network. The Kimball office is positioned in the logical center of our network and houses a node on the above mentioned statewide DWDM MPLS network. This network utilized alternate fiber routes throughout the state of South Dakota functioning in a mesh environment to deliver our traffic to the SDN location in Sioux Falls, SD. As for our intra-company Interexchange facilities; they include 3- EPS Rings (Calix), 1 – OC-48 ring (Fujitsu), and 1 MPLS ring (Brocade) functioning in a mesh environment.

TRAFFIC SPIKES

Currently Midstate provides dial tone to approximately 4225 subscribers. The soft-switch we utilize is manufactured by Meta Switch and can support 250,000 subscribers before any expansion or upgrade is required. Our customer connections to this switch are MGCP and in this configuration the switch can support 1.3 M Busy Hour Call Attempts. As for the trunking, we have toll and 911 routes to South Dakota Network and CenturyLink. These routes are actively monitored for overflow and near overflow states. Any near overflow or overflow situations are addressed immediately after receiving any alarm.

**Midstate Communications, Inc.
Description of Tribal Engagement**

Midstate Communications, Inc. study area 391670 (Midstate) provides services in areas of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. Midstate 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. Midstate recently reached a resolution with Crow Creek Sioux Tribe to begin planning for a fiber to the home deployment in 2016. Midstate markets its services in a culturally sensitive manner, including advertisements and written notifications via certified mail of required filings of services and rates. Midstate is in compliance with right of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, and environmental and cultural preservation review processes. Midstate is in compliance with Crow Creek Sioux Tribe business and licensing requirements

Midstate Communications study are 399011, (formerly Midstate Telecom) provides services in areas of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. Midstate 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. Midstate markets its services in a culturally sensitive manner, including advertisements and written notifications via certified mail of required filings of services and rates. Midstate is in compliance with right of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting and environmental and cultural preservation review processes. Midstate is in compliance with Lower Brule Sioux Tribe business and licensing requirements.

Midstate Communications, Inc.

Lifeline Terms and Conditions

Midstate Communications, Inc. 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