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TELECOMMUNICATIONS


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September 24, 2009

Received & Inspected

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
415 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

SEP 28 2009

FCC Mail Room

Ms. Karen Majcher
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Certification of Support for Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.314, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256 and Annual Report for Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.209

Dear Mss. Dortch and Majcher:

Enclosed, please find the annual Certification of Support and Annual Report as filed by Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. ("FMTI"), a rural incumbent local exchange carrier owned by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona, California and Nevada. As a tribally-owned carrier, FMTI is not subject to the jurisdiction of any state commission and was designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier by the Federal Communications Commission.

Please note that the enclosed filing is confidential and proprietary. A redacted version of this filing was electronically filed with the Commission today and electronically mailed to USAAC. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to me.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Jarvis, Consultant to Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc.
Senior Financial Consultant
TCA, Inc.

cc: Jose Manatane, Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc.

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BIABOSE

TCA Headquarters

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SEP 28 2009

FCC Mail Room

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

In the Matter of)
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service) CC Docket No. 96-45
)
)

**Request of Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc.
For Confidential Treatment**

Pursuant to Section 0.459 of the Commission's Rules, Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. ("FMTI") requests confidentiality with respect to the submission of the Annual Certification of Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. in CC Docket 96-45.

The following information is submitted pursuant to Section 0.459(b) of the Commission's rules:

- (1) FMTI requests that the Annual Certification and Exhibit A attached herewith be given confidential treatment.
- (2) The Annual Certification and Exhibit A are submitted to the Commission pursuant to *Report and Order in the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, FCC 05-46, CC 96-45, rel. March 17, 2005.
- (3) Specific details, including financial, contained in the Annual Certification and Exhibit A are confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection in accordance with Section 0.457(d) of FCC Rules.
- (4) The information contained herein is of both a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The telecommunications industry is highly competitive.
- (5) The financial and competitive information provided herein is information that would not customarily be released to the public. Due to the competitive environment of the marketplace, release of this information could substantially harm FMTI's business and physical infrastructure.

- (6) In order to prevent unauthorized disclosure of the subject information, the attached Annual Certification and Exhibit A are being filed via express delivery service.
- (7) The subject information is not available to the public or any third parties.
- (8) Pursuant to Section 0.457(d) of the Commission's rules the subject material is not routinely available for public inspection and should continue to be withheld from public inspection at any time now or in the future.
- (9) Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Jose W. Matanane
General Manager
Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc.
8490 South Highway 95, Suite 104
Mohave Valley, AZ 86440
(928) 346-2500

September 24, 2009

SEP 28 2009

FCC Mail Room

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ARIZONA)	
)	
FORT MOJAVE INDIAN TRIBE)	CC Docket No. 96-45
OF ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA AND)	
NEVADA)	

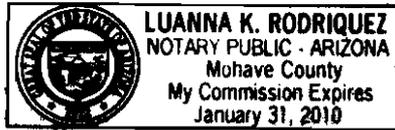
BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Jose Matanane of Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. ("FMTI"), Study Area 452200 who on his oath deposed and said:

1. My name is Jose Matanane and I am employed by FMTI in the position of General Manager. I am personally familiar with all federal universal service support received by FMTI and how such funds are used by FMTI.
2. FMTI is owned by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona, California and Nevada and serves solely on its own land. Therefore, FMTI is not subject to the jurisdictions of the Arizona Corporation Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission or the Nevada Public Utility Commission.
3. FMTI was designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier by the Federal Communications Commission by order dated February 27, 1998 which authorized FMTI to receive universal service support retroactive to January 1, 1998 (CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 98-393).
4. FMTI hereby certifies that all federal high-cost universal service support received will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which support is intended, consistent with Section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
5. Pursuant to federal regulations (47 C.F.R. §54.314), this Affidavit is submitted to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company, the current Administrator of the high-cost universal service support mechanism.

6. The matters addressed above are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

Jose W. Matanane
Jose Matanane

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this the
23 day of September 2009.



Luanna K. Rodriguez
Notary Public
State of Arizona

SEAL:

SEP 28 2009

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

FCC Mail Room

In the Matter of)
)
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service) CC Docket No. 96-45
)

Annual Certification of Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc.

Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. (“FMTI” or the “Company”) study area code 452200, an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) serving on the federally-recognized lands of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe in the states of Arizona, California and Nevada, hereby submits this annual certification in compliance with the Commission’s Order¹ in the above-noted proceeding. The Commission designated FMTI as an ETC on February 27, 1998 and authorized FMTI to receive universal service support retroactive to January 1, 1998.²

1. Construction Plan Progress and Use of Support

Within the Certification Order, the Commission requires that FMTI, as an ETC, submit “progress reports on the ETC’s five-year service quality improvement plan...”³ FMTI has previously filed with the Commission a five-year service quality improvement plan for the years 2008 – 2013.⁴ It hereby provides progress on its plan (see Exhibit A).

FMTI received a total of \$669,315 in federal high cost support during 2008. Over that same time period, the company made investment and incurred costs of \$1,334,173 to provide telecommunications service to the residents of the Fort Mojave Reservation.

¹ *Report and Order in the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, FCC 05-46, rel. March 17, 2005 (“Certification Order”).

² Memorandum Opinion and Order In the Matter of Designation of Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc., Gila River Telecommunications, Inc., San Carlos Telecommunications, Inc. and Tohono O’odham Utility Authority as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act, DA 98-393, rel. February 27, 1998 (“FMTI ETC Order”).

³ Certification Order, para. 69.

⁴ Annual Certification of Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc., CC Docket 96-45, filed September 24, 2008, Exhibit A.

FMTI was established in 1988 by purchasing facilities and lines located on the Fort Mojave Reservation from the then incumbent provider, Citizens Communications. At the time of the acquisition, telephone penetration rates stood at an abysmal thirty-five percent. The network covered approximately twenty-five percent of the reservation. Both the facilities and network were antiquated and consisted solely of analog technology.

In part, through federal high-cost support, FMTI has invested in a superior digital network, laying over ninety miles of fiber throughout its service area in order to vastly improve the quality of the communications infrastructure. Telephone penetration rates currently stand at ninety-eight percent and one hundred percent of the service area has access to the network.

2. Outage Reporting

In the previous twelve month period, FMTI has experienced no outages of at least thirty minutes in duration and affecting at least ten percent of its customers within its service area.

3. Service Requests

In the previous twelve month period, FMTI had no unfulfilled requests for service from potential customers within its service area. FMTI's facilities provide total coverage throughout its service area and, therefore, as directed by the Commission,⁵ would be able to immediately provide service to any requesting end user.

4. Consumer Complaints

In the previous twelve month period, FMTI had zero complaints per 1,000 lines.

5. Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

FMTI provides wireline services throughout its service area and is regulated by the sovereign authority of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, including the duly elected Fort Mojave Tribal Council. As such, FMTI is not regulated by state regulatory authorities. As a tribally-

⁵ Certification Order, para. 22.

regulated entity, FMTI complies with service quality standards as promulgated by the Tribal Council.

FMTI adheres to consumer protection standards as set out by the Tribal Council and other governing bodies of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. FMTI's local service tariff, containing its rates, terms and conditions, is available to the public at its offices. As a common carrier, FMTI is also regulated by this Commission. As such, it must and does comply with consumer protection rules including Truth-In-Billing, Customer Proprietary Network Information and slamming regulations.

6. Ability to Remain Functional in Emergencies

FMTI's network is engineered to remain functional in emergencies, including power outages. All of its exchanges and digital loop carrier units have backup battery systems and access to generators. Half of FMTI's four exchanges have permanent generators installed with the remaining exchanges served by two portable generators.⁶ FMTI's battery backup system is capable of a minimum of eight hours of power.

FMTI has devised a plan to remain functional in the event of an emergency. This plan revolves around FMTI's business office being designated the command center in the case of a natural disaster or other emergency.⁷ FMTI has installed various backup battery systems and backup fuel for the batteries behind its technical firewall for business operations. These actions have resulted in a communications and Internet Service Provider network that can continue operations for twenty days without primary commercial power.

⁶ The remaining exchanges currently served by portable generators are being upgraded to permanent generators.

⁷ FMTI's business office is located adjacent to the tribal government's office as well as the tribal police force. Therefore, designating it as the command center is reasonable.

7. Local Usage Plan

The Commission requires that FMTI certify that it, as an ETC, “is offering a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent LEC in the relevant service areas...”⁸ FMTI is the incumbent LEC and offers local calling throughout its service area which extends into three states and covers the federally-recognized reservation of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona, California and Nevada.

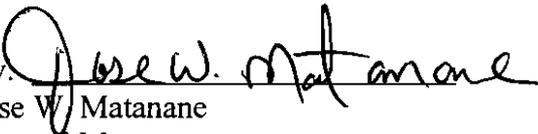
8. Equal Access to Long Distance Carriers

FMTI hereby certifies that it currently provides equal access to long distance carriers to all of its customers.

CONCLUSION

FMTI is confident that the information contained herein is sufficient and in compliance with the requirements as promulgated by the Commission in the Certification Order. If the Commission has any questions regarding this filing, please contact FMTI’s authorized representative noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Jose W. Matanane

General Manager
Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc.
8490 South Highway 95, Suite 104
Mohave Valley, AZ 86440
(928) 346-2500

September 24, 2009

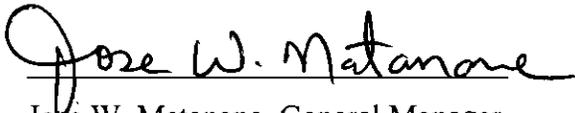
⁸ Certification Order, para. 69.

Declaration Under Penalty of Perjury

I, Jose W. Matanane, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

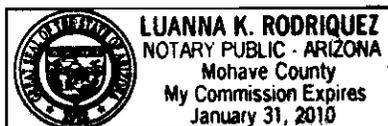
1. I am the General Manager of Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. ("FMTI").
2. This Affidavit is submitted in support of FMTI's Annual Compliance Filing, pursuant to *Report and Order in the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, FCC 05-46, (rel. March 17, 2005) and Sections 54.202 and 54.209 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules.
3. I declare under penalty of perjury that the statements contained in the foregoing Annual Compliance Filing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on September 24, 2009



Jose W. Matanane, General Manager
Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc.

SUBSCRIBED, SWORN AND ACKNOWLEDGED before me this 23 day of
September 2009.




NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires on: Jan 31, 2010

Exhibit A

**Further Information Regarding Past Federal High Cost Support
and Planned Investments**

Uses of Past Federal High Cost Support

Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Inc. ("FMTI") was designated an ETC by the Commission on February 27, 1998 and was authorized to receive universal service support retroactive to January 1, 1998. FMTI was established in 1988 after purchasing facilities and approximately 150 lines from the then incumbent provider, Citizens Communications. At that time, while the service area included all tribal lands of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe within the states of Arizona, California and Nevada, only 25 percent of the reservation could access the network. Telephone penetration rates were at the 37 percent level. The network solely consisted of copper lines, rendering an analog system.

Since becoming an incumbent local exchange carrier in 1988 and an ETC in 1998, FMTI has vastly improved the telecommunications network that serves the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. FMTI uses federal high cost support to provision high-quality telecommunications services and extend and maintain its network. This work has resulted in the success of extending the network to wholly cover the service area within three states and has dramatically increased penetration rates to 98 percent. FMTI's service area is now served purely by digital services. High cost support is needed to continue to provide and maintain sophisticated telecommunications services today and into the future.

FMTI received \$669,315 in federal high-cost support during funding year 2008. It also made specific supportable investments including:

1. The completion of a fiber ring to provide redundancy throughout FMTI's service area and network connections to the most remote portion of the service area.
2. Installation of a D4 channel bank for diversification and further redundancy of SS7 links.

3. Extended fiber network to provide direct connections to the Cultural Preservation and Education Center and library.
4. Extended fiber network to provide broadband access to seasonal residents.
5. Connected business customers to FMTI's wire centers via a fiber route to provide greater capacity from premise to exchange as well as improved quality of service.

5-Year Investment Plan

FMTI intends to continue providing superior communications service within its certificated service area. In the upcoming five-year period, FMTI has planned the following projects and supported investments:⁹

1. Complete construction of multiple interoffice fiber rings.¹⁰ Several of these rings will have fiber routes connecting the tribally-owned power plant and the Highway 95 business corridor. This includes a tribally-owned truck stop and several other economic development projects. The estimated cost of this project is \$1,392,000.
2. Complete the installation of fiber-to-the-premise to all businesses and residences within FMTI's serving area. The estimated cost of this project is \$912,000.
3. Replace an outdated tandem switch with a soft switch for interoperability in the provisioning of Internet Protocol services. The estimated cost of this project is \$450,000.
4. Install and maintain advanced communications infrastructure, including advanced Digital Loop Carrier Units, for a planned commercial development within FMTI's serving area. The estimated cost of this project is \$250,000.

⁹ All cost and budget figures are estimated.

¹⁰ These are rings contained within FMTI's fiber ring that encircles its serving area.

5. Install and implement an alternate toll route with a fiber extension. The estimated cost of this project is \$166,600.

6. Install and maintain eleven advanced Digital Loop Carrier Units for improved integration of services throughout FMTI's service area. The estimated cost of this project is \$640,000.