



GVNW CONSULTING, INC.

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October 18, 2013

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

VIA FedEx and ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Confidential Financial Information Subject to Protective Order in WC Docket Nos. 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. Before the Federal Communications Commission.
Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection, 2013

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc. (“La Ward”), GVNW Consulting, Inc. hereby submits the attached redacted and confidential versions of its “FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection” information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission’s rules, as filed with the Universal Service Administrative Company. A copy is also being submitted to the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

La Ward requests confidential treatment under the Protective Order adopted in this proceeding for the section 54.313(f)(2) financial information included in this report on the grounds that it is competitively sensitive information that is secure from public access and this information should not be released publicly for inspection as it could be used to disadvantage or harm La Ward.

In accordance with the Protective Order, two redacted copies marked “REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION” and one non redacted confidential version marked “CONFIDENTIAL – NOT FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION” are being filed with the Commission. A redacted copy has also been filed via the Electronic Comment Filing System.

If you have any questions, please contact me at sgatto@gvnw.com or 830-895-7226.

Sincerely,

Stephen Gatto
Consultant
GVNW Consulting, Inc.

Enclosures

Cc: Mr. Charles Tyler, FCC Telecommunications Access Policy Division (two copies, confidential)

FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form	Form ID: 10-0-0386/CM, Control No: 010-0119 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	442103
<015> Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
<020> Program Year	2014
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Terri Parker
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	361-872-2211
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS	54913 Completion Required	54922 Completion Required
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			(check box when complete)	
<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			
<300>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<310>	Detail on Attempts (voice)	(attach descriptive document)		
<320>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)			
<330>	Detail on Attempts (broadband)	(attach descriptive document)		
<400>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<410>	Fixed	<input type="text" value="0.0"/>		
<420>	Mobile	<input type="text"/>		
<430>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)			
<440>	Fixed	<input type="text"/>		
<450>	Mobile	<input type="text"/>		
<500>	Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<510>	<input type="text" value="442103tx510"/>	(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" value="442103tx610"/>	(attach descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<700>	Company Price Offerings (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)		
<710>	Company Price Offerings (broadband)	(complete attached worksheet)		
<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 type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
<1000>	Voice Services Rate Comparability	(check to indicate certification)		
<1010>	<input type="text"/>	(attach descriptive document)		
<1100>	Terrestrial Backhaul (Y/N)?	(if not, check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<1110>		(complete attached worksheet)		
<1200>	Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	(complete attached worksheet)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet

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

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

Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

<3000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<3005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<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	442103
<015>	Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Terri Parker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	361-872-2211
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

<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.

Name of Attached Document (.pdf)

Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached PDF, 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 (USF) was used to improve service quality
- <116> How (USF) was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How (USF) was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

(900) Tribal Lands 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	442103
<015>	Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Terri Parker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	361-872-2211
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

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

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document (.pdf)

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, 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, No, NA)

(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	442103
<015> Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
<020> Program Year	2014
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Terri Parker
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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

<1120> Please check this box to confirm no terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(G)

<1130> Please check this box to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(G)

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers		FCC Form 481
Lifeline		OMB Control No. 3060-0936/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
Data Collection Form		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	442103
<015>	Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Terri Parker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	361-872-2211
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans 442103tx1210
Name of attached document (.pdf)

<1220> Link to Public Website HTTP _____

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached PDF, 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 <i>Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap/Local Exchange Carriers</i>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442103
<015>	Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Terri Parker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	361-872-2211
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

CHECK the boxes below 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)}	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2011>	3rd Year Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(2)}	<input type="checkbox"/>
Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification {47 CFR § 54.312(a)}		
<2012>	2013 Frozen Support Certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2013>	2014 Frozen Support Certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2014>	2015 Frozen Support Certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2015>	2016 and future Frozen Support Certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}		
<2016>	Certification Support Used to Build Broadband	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}		
<2017>	3rd year Broadband Service Certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2018>	5th year Broadband Service Certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2019>	Interim Progress Certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2020>	Please check the box to confirm that the attached PDF, 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<2021>	Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information _____

(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation Data Collection Form	FCC Form 421 OMB Control No. 3060-0886 / OMB Control No. 3060-0819 JULY 2015
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<010>	Study Area Code	442103
<015>	Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Terri Parker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	361-872-2211
<035>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

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.

Progress Report on 5 Year Plan

(3010) Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)) Please check this box to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3012,	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3011) contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(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.		
(3012) Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)) (3013) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)) (3014) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes/No) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes/No)
(3015) Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3016) PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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	442103tx3017
(3018) If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited? 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:	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes/No)
(3019) Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3020) PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3021) Management letter 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:		<input type="checkbox"/>
(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,		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023) Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025) PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026) Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	<input type="checkbox"/>

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0086/OMB Control No. 3060-0086 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	442103
<015>	Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Terri Parker
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

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	OMB Form 481 OMB Control No. 0600-0956 OMB Control No. 3206-0111 10/1/2013
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<010> Study Area Code	442103
<015> Study Area Name	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
<020> Program Year	2014
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Terri Parker
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	361-872-2211
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	terri@laward.org

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>Stephen Gatto</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:	Stephen Gatto
Name of Reporting Carrier:	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 10/02/2013
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Terri Parker
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Sec/Treas
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	361-872-2211
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	442103 Filing Due Date for this form: 10/15/2013
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:	LA WARD TEL EXCHANGE
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Steve Gatto
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 10/02/2013
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Steve Gatto
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Consultant
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	830-895-7226
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	442103 Filing Due Date for this form: 10/15/2013
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

LA WARD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, INC. – SAC 442103

FCC Form - Program Year 2014

Line 510

COMPLIANCE WITH SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION RULES - §54.313(a)(5)

La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc. (“La Ward” or “the Company”) complies with all applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules as required by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (“PUC”) and the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”).

The rates, terms and conditions under which the Company operates are identified in its Local Exchange Tariff, which is approved by the PUC. The Company’s tariff contains provisions regarding its customer service and protection practices, including resolving customer disputes, applying for, refusing, disconnection and cancellation of service. Rates and terms of service are disclosed to customers upon application for service as part of a packet of information for new customers.

Service quality standards are established by the PUC and La Ward consistently meets or exceeds those requirements. The Company provides quarterly reports to the Texas PUC pursuant to the commission’s rules.

The protection of its customers’ privacy and information is a constant part of La Ward’s quality of service. The Company has a policy and operating procedures that comply with the FCC’s Customer Proprietary Network Information (“CPNI”) rules (47 C.F.R 64.2001 – 64.2011). Certification of La Ward’s compliance with the FCC’s CPNI rules is filed with the FCC annually.

LA WARD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, INC. – SAC 442103

FCC Form 481 - Program Year 2014

Line 610

ABILITY TO FUNCTION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS - §54.313(a)(6)

La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc. ("La Ward" or "the Company") is capable of functioning in emergency situations. La Ward has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without a commercial external power source. The Company has a permanently installed standby power generators at its exchange switching offices and remote switching locations have a minimum of eight (8) hours of backup battery capacity. These remote sites are also equipped to accept portable emergency power if necessary. The Company's network is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency conditions.

La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc.

General Exchange Tariff

5th Revised Sheet No. 4-7

Replacing 4th Revised Sheet No. 4-7

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

4. Local Exchange Service (Cont'd)

4.5 Lifeline Service Programs.

4.5 Lifeline Service Program.

(T)(D)

Scope and Purpose. Through this section the commission seeks to extend Lifeline Service to all qualifying customers, establish a procedure for Lifeline Automatic Enrollment and Lifeline Self-Enrollment, and define the responsibilities of participating telecommunications carriers, qualified customers, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC), and the Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) Program. This section applies to designated eligible telecommunications carriers as defined by §26.418 of this title (relating to Designation of Common Carriers as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers to Receive Federal Universal Service Funds) and designated eligible telecommunications providers as defined by §26.417 of this title (relating to Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Providers to Receive Texas Universal Service Funds (TUSF)), collectively referred to in this section as participating telecommunications carriers.

Lifeline Service. Each participating telecommunications carrier shall provide Lifeline Service as provided by this section. A customer with an income at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or participate in, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in a program identified in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409 and in P.U.C. Substantive Rule 26.412 regarding consumer qualification for Lifeline services.

.5.1 Lifeline Service Program.

Lifeline Service is a retail local service offering available to qualifying low-income customers sponsored by the FCC and available to qualifying low-income consumers.

(T)(D)

Terri Parker - General Manager
Hwy. 172 - P.O. Box 246
La Ward, TX 77970-0246
(361) 872-2211

Issue Date: 7/23/2012

Tariff Control No. 40225

Effective Date: 8/1/2012

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

4. Local Exchange Service (Cont'd)

4.5 Lifeline Service Program, (Cont'd)

(T)(D)

4.5.1 Lifeline Service Program, (Cont'd)

4.5.1.1 Provision of Lifeline Service. Lifeline Service shall be provided according to the following requirements and the terms of the Low-Income Discount Procedural Guide (the Guide). The Guide compiles the regulatory and statutory requirements for, and roles of, participants in the rate reduction program, including participating telecommunications carriers, THHSC, the LIDA, and customers, and sets out administrative information, including the required data formats and deadlines for transmitting information to the LIDA, other program participants, and the commission. The initial version of the Guide will be approved by the commission, but it may be updated to reflect statutory or commission-approved changes in rules and program requirements, or to modify the format or timing of the provision of information by participating telecommunications carriers and the LIDA, with the approval of the Executive Director.

- Designated Lifeline Services. The participating telecommunications carriers shall offer the services or functionalities enumerated in Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, §54.10(a)(1-9) (relating to Supported Services for Rural, Insular and High Cost Areas).
- Toll Blocking. The participating telecommunications carriers shall offer toll blocking to all qualifying low-income customers at the time such customers subscribe to Lifeline Service. If the customer elects to receive toll blocking, that service shall become part of the customer's Lifeline Service and the customer's monthly bill will not be increased by otherwise applicable toll blocking charges.

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

4. Local Exchange Service (Cont'd)

4.5 Lifeline Service Program, (Cont'd)

(T)(D)

4.5.1 Lifeline Service Program, (Cont'd)

4.5.1.1 Provision of Lifeline Service, (Cont'd)

- Disconnection of Service,

Disconnection prohibition. Participating telecommunications carriers may not disconnect Lifeline Service for non-payment of toll charges.

Discontinuance of Lifeline Discounts for customers automatically enrolled. The eligibility period for automatically enrolled customers is the length of their enrollment in THHSC benefits plus a period of 60 days

for renewal. Automatically enrolled customers will have an opportunity to renew their THHSC benefits or self enroll with LIDA upon the expiration of their automatic enrollment.

Discontinuance of Lifeline Discounts for customers who have self-enrolled. Individuals not receiving benefits through THHSC programs, but who have met Lifeline income qualifications in subsection 4.5 of this section, are eligible to receive the Lifeline Discount for seven months, which includes a period of 60 days during which the customer may renew their eligibility with LIDA for an additional seven months.

- Service Deposit Prohibition. If the qualifying low-income customer voluntarily elects toll blocking from the participating telecommunications carrier, the carrier may not collect a service deposit pursuant to §26.24 of this title (relating to Credit Requirements and Deposits) in order to initiate Lifeline Service.

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

4. Local Exchange Service (Cont'd)

4.5 Lifeline Service Program, (Cont'd)

(T)(D)

4.5.2 Lifeline Support.

4.5.2.1 Lifeline support amounts. Lifeline support amounts per qualifying low-income customer shall be provided to participating telecommunications carriers pursuant to Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, §54.403 (relating to Lifeline Support Amount) and according to any applicable provisions of the Guide. Tribal Land discounts will be provided pursuant to Title 47, code of Federal Regulations, §54.403.

- Lifeline Service Discounts. The Company shall grant qualifying low-income consumers support of \$9.25 per month or equal to the support amount as directed by the Federal Communications Commission in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations regarding Lifeline Support.

Additional state reduction. A participating telecommunications carrier shall give a qualifying low-income customer the following:

an additional state-approved reduction of up to a maximum of \$3.50 in the monthly amount of intrastate charges.

(T)(D)

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

4. Local Exchange Service (Cont'd)

4.5 Lifeline Service Program, (Cont'd)

(T)(D)

4.5.2 Lifeline Support, (Cont'd)

4.5.2.2 Recovery of support amounts. Participating telecommunications carriers shall be entitled to recover the support amount required by the C.F.R., §54.101 pursuant to C.F.R., §54.407 (relating to Reimbursement for offering Lifeline). The support amount described in subparagraph "Additional state reduction ..." of this paragraph can be recovered through the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF).

4.5.3 RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

(T)

(D)

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

4. Local Exchange Service (Cont'd)

4.5 Lifeline Service Program (Cont'd)

4.5.3 RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

4.5.4 Obligations of the customer and the participating telecommunications carrier.

4.5.4.1 Obligations of the customer. Customers who meet the low-income requirement for qualification but do not receive benefits under the programs listed in subsection 4.5 of this section may provide the LIDA with self-enrollment for Lifeline Service benefits. Customers receiving benefits under the programs listed in subsection 4.5 of this section and who have telephone service will be subject to the Lifeline automatic enrollment procedures as provided by the LIDA pursuant to the terms of the Guide unless they provide the LIDA with a request to be excluded from Lifeline Service. Customers receiving benefits under the programs listed in subsection 4.5 of this section who do not have telephone service must initiate a request for service from a participating telecommunications carrier providing local service in their area.

(T)(D)

(T)(D)

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

4. Local Exchange Service (Cont'd)

4.5 Lifeline Service Program (Cont'd)

(T)(D)

4.5.4 Obligations of the customer and the participating telecommunications carrier. (Cont'd)

4.5.4.2 Obligation of the participating telecommunications carrier.

- Lifeline Service.

A participating telecommunications carrier shall provide Lifeline Service to all eligible customers identified by the LIDA within its service area in accordance with this section and the Guide.

- A participating telecommunications carrier shall identify those customers on the initial database provided by the LIDA to whom it is providing telephone service and shall begin reduced billing for those qualifying low-income customers in accordance with the terms of the Guide.

- The eligible customer shall not be charged for changes in telephone service arrangements that are made in order to qualify for Lifeline Service, or for service order charges associated with transferring the account into Lifeline Service. If the eligible customer changes the telephone service or initiates new service, the participating telecommunications carrier shall begin reduced billing at the time the change of service becomes effective or at the time new service is established.

Upon receipt of the monthly update provided by the LIDA pursuant to the terms of the Guide a participating telecommunications carrier shall begin reduced billing for those qualifying low-income customers subscribing to services within the timeframe established by the Guide.

The LIDA shall provide a self-enrollment form by direct mail at the customer's request. The LIDA shall maintain customers' self-enrollment forms and provide a database of self-enrolling customers to all participating telecommunications carriers.

(D)

(T)(D)

Terri Parker - General Manager
Hwy. 172 - P.O. Box 246
La Ward, TX 77970-0246
(361) 872-2211

Issue Date: 7/23/2012

Effective Date: 8/1/2012

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

4. Local Exchange Service (Cont'd)

4.5 Lifeline Service Program (Cont'd)

(T)(D)

4.5.5 Notice of Lifeline Service.

A participating telecommunications carrier shall provide notice of Lifeline Service in any directory it distributes to its customers and shall provide an annual bill message advising customers of the availability of Lifeline Service. In any instance where the carrier provides bilingual (English and Spanish) information in its directory and annual bill messages, the carrier must also provide its notice regarding Lifeline Service in a bilingual format.

4.5.6 Confidentiality agreements.

Participating telecommunications carriers must execute a confidentiality agreement with THHSC pursuant to the terms of the Guide prior to receiving the LIDA's eligibility database. The agreement will specify that client information is released by THHSC to carriers for the sole purpose of providing Lifeline Service to eligible customers and that the information cannot be released by the carrier or used by the carrier for any other purpose.

4.5.7 Opportunity for contest.

- A customer who believes that their self-enrollment application has been erroneously denied may request that LIDA review the application, and the customer may submit additional information as proof of eligibility.
- A customer who is dissatisfied with LIDA's action following a request for review under the preceding subparagraph of this subsection may request an informal hearing to be conducted by the commission staff.
- A customer dissatisfied with the determination after an informal hearing under the preceding subparagraph of this subsection may file a formal complaint pursuant to §22.242(e) of this title (relating to Complaints).

4.5.8 Low-Income Discount Procedural Guide.

In the event of conflicts between the language of the Guide and the language of §26.412 (relating to Lifeline Service Program), §26.412 shall prevail.

(T)(D)

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0572-0031. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 4 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

USDA-RUS OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	This data will be used by RUS to review your financial situation. Your response is required by 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq. and, subject to federal laws and regulations regarding confidential information, will be treated as confidential.	
	BORROWER NAME The La Ward Telephone Exchange, Incorporated (Prepared with Audited Data)	
INSTRUCTIONS-Submit report to RUS within 30 days after close of the period. For detailed instructions, see RUS Bulletin 1744-2. Report in whole dollars only.	PERIOD ENDING December, 2012	BORROWER DESIGNATION TX0643
CERTIFICATION We hereby certify that the entries in this report are in accordance with the accounts and other records of the system and reflect the status of the system to the best of our knowledge and belief. ALL INSURANCE REQUIRED BY 7 CFR PART 1788, CHAPTER XVII, RUS, WAS IN FORCE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD AND RENEWALS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FOR ALL POLICIES. DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT PURSUANT TO PART 1788 OF 7 CFR CHAPTER XVII (Check one of the following)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All of the obligations under the RUS loan documents have been fulfilled in all material respects		
<input type="checkbox"/> There has been a default in the fulfillment of the obligations under the RUS loan documents. Said default(s) is/are specifically described in the Telecom Operating Report		
Terri Parker	3/11/2013	
DATE		

PART A. BALANCE SHEET					
ASSETS	BALANCE PRIOR YEAR	BALANCE END OF PERIOD	LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	BALANCE PRIOR YEAR	BALANCE END OF PERIOD
CURRENT ASSETS			CURRENT LIABILITIES		
1. Cash and Equivalents			25. Accounts Payable		
2. Cash-RUS Construction Fund			26. Notes Payable		
3. Affiliates:			27. Advance Billings and Payments		
a. Telecom, Accounts Receivable			28. Customer Deposits		
b. Other Accounts Receivable			29. Current Mat. L/T Debt		
c. Notes Receivable			30. Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev.		
4. Non-Affiliates:			31. Current Mat.-Capital Leases		
a. Telecom, Accounts Receivable			32. Income Taxes Accrued		
b. Other Accounts Receivable			33. Other Taxes Accrued		
c. Notes Receivable			34. Other Current Liabilities		
5. Interest and Dividends Receivable			35. Total Current Liabilities (25 thru 34)		
6. Material-Regulated			LONG-TERM DEBT		
7. Material-Nonregulated			36. Funded Debt-RUS Notes		
8. Prepayments			37. Funded Debt-RTB Notes		
9. Other Current Assets			38. Funded Debt-FFB Notes		
10. Total Current Assets (1 Thru 9)			39. Funded Debt-Other		
NONCURRENT ASSETS			40. Funded Debt-Rural Develop. Loan		
11. Investment in Affiliated Companies			41. Premium (Discount) on L/T Debt		
a. Rural Development			42. Recaptured Debt		
b. Nonrural Development			43. Obligations Under Capital Lease		
12. Other Investments			44. Adv. From Affiliated Companies		
a. Rural Development			45. Other Long-Term Debt		
b. Nonrural Development			46. Total Long-Term Debt (36 thru 45)		
13. Nonregulated Investments			OTHER LIAB. & DEF. CREDITS		
14. Other Noncurrent Assets			47. Other Long-Term Liabilities		
15. Deferred Charges			48. Other Deferred Credits		
16. Jurisdictional Differences			49. Other Jurisdictional Differences		
17. Total Noncurrent Assets (11 thru 16)			50. Total Other Liabilities and Deferred Credits (47 thru 49)		
PLANT, PROPERTY, AND EQUIPMENT			EQUITY		
18. Telecom, Plant-in-Service			51. Cap. Stock Outstanding & Subscribed		
19. Property Held for Future Use			52. Additional Paid-in-Capital		
20. Plant Under Construction			53. Treasury Stock		
21. Plant Adj., Nonop. Plant & Goodwill			54. Membership and Cap. Certificates		
22. Less Accumulated Depreciation			55. Other Capital		
23. Net Plant (18 thru 21 less 22)			56. Patronage Capital Credits		
24. TOTAL ASSETS (10+17+23)			57. Retained Earnings or Margins		
			58. Total Equity (51 thru 57)		
			59. TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (35+46+50+58)		

Total Equity = [REDACTED] % of Total Assets

USDA-RUS		BORROWER DESIGNATION	
OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS		TX0643	
INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2		PERIOD ENDING December, 2012	
PART B. STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS OR MARGINS			
ITEM	PRIOR YEAR	THIS YEAR	
1. Local Network Services Revenues			
2. Network Access Services Revenues			
3. Long Distance Network Services Revenues			
4. Carrier Billing and Collection Revenues			
5. Miscellaneous Revenues			
6. Uncollectible Revenues			
7. Net Operating Revenues (1 thru 5 less 6)			
8. Plant Specific Operations Expense			
9. Plant Nonspecific Operations Expense (Excluding Depreciation & Amortization)			
10. Depreciation Expense			
11. Amortization Expense			
12. Customer Operations Expense			
13. Corporate Operations Expense			
14. Total Operating Expenses (8 thru 13)			
15. Operating Income or Margins (7 less 14)			
16. Other Operating Income and Expenses			
17. State and Local Taxes			
18. Federal Income Taxes			
19. Other Taxes			
20. Total Operating Taxes (17+18+19)			
21. Net Operating Income or Margins (15+16-20)			
22. Interest on Funded Debt			
23. Interest Expense - Capital Leases			
24. Other Interest Expense			
25. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction			
26. Total Fixed Charges (22+23+24-25)			
27. Nonoperating Net Income			
28. Extraordinary Items			
29. Jurisdictional Differences			
30. Nonregulated Net Income			
31. Total Net Income or Margins (21+27+28+29+30-26)			
32. Total Taxes Based on Income			
33. Retained Earnings or Margins Beginning-of-Year			
34. Miscellaneous Credits Year-to-Date			
35. Dividends Declared (Common)			
36. Dividends Declared (Preferred)			
37. Other Debits Year-to-Date			
38. Transfers to Patronage Capital			
39. Retained Earnings or Margins End-of-Period [(31+33+34) - (35+36+37+38)]			
40. Patronage Capital Beginning-of-Year			
41. Transfers to Patronage Capital			
42. Patronage Capital Credits Retired			
43. Patronage Capital End-of-Year (40+41-42)			
44. Annual Debt Service Payments			
45. Cash Ratio [(14+20-10-11) / 7]			
46. Operating Accrual Ratio [(14+20+26) / 7]			
47. TIER [(31+26) / 26]			
48. DSCR [(31+26+10+11) / 44]			

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<p>USDA-RUS</p> <p>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</p>	<p>BORROWER DESIGNATION TX0843</p> <p>PERIOD ENDED December, 2012</p>
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Part C. SUBSCRIBER (ACCESSLINE), ROUTE MILE, & HIGH SPEED DATA INFORMATION

EXCHANGE	1. RATES		2. SUBSCRIBERS (ACCESS LINES)			3. ROUTE MILES	
	B-1 (a)	R-1 (b)	BUSINESS (a)	RESIDENTIAL (b)	TOTAL (c)	TOTAL (including fiber) (a)	FIBER (b)
LaWard	20.40	10.95					
Lolla	20.40	9.45					
Port Allo	20.40	10.95					
Mobile/Wireless							
Route Mileage Outside Exchange Area							
Total							
No. Exchanges	3						

USDA-RUS OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	BORROWER DESIGNATION TX0643 PERIOD ENDING December, 2012
INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	

PART D. SYSTEM DATA						
1. No. Plant Employees	6	2. No. Other Employees	3	3. Square Miles Served	235	
				4. Access Lines per Square Mile	3.41	
					5. Subscribers per Round Mile	2.08

PART E. TOLL DATA	
1. Study Area ID Code(s) a. 442103 b. _____ c. _____ d. _____ e. _____ f. _____ g. _____ h. _____ i. _____ j. _____	2. Types of Toll Settlements (Check one) Interstate: <input type="checkbox"/> Average Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cost Basis Intrastate: <input type="checkbox"/> Average Schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cost Basis

PART F. FUNDS INVESTED IN PLANT DURING YEAR	
1. RUS, RTB, & FFB Loan Funds Expended	
2. Other Long-Term Loan Funds Expended	
3. Funds Expended Under RUS Interim Approval	
4. Other Short-Term Loan Funds Expended	
5. General Funds Expended (Other than Interim)	
6. Salvaged Materials	
7. Contribution in Aid to Construction	
8. Gross Additions to Telecom. Plant (1 thru 7)	

PART G. INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED COMPANIES					
INVESTMENTS	CURRENT YEAR DATA		CUMULATIVE DATA		
	Investment This Year	Income/Loss This Year	Cumulative Investment To Date	Cumulative Income/Loss To Date	Current Balance
	(a)	(c)	(b)	(e)	(d)
1. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Rural Development					
2. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Nonrural Development					

USDA-RUS OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	BORROWER DESIGNATION TX0643
	PERIOD ENDING December, 2012

PART H. CURRENT DEPRECIATION RATES

Are corporation's depreciation rates approved by the regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the provision of telephone services? (Check one) YES NO

EQUIPMENT CATEGORY	DEPRECIATION RATE
1. Land and support assets - Motor Vehicles	
2. Land and support assets - Aircraft	
3. Land and support assets - Special purpose vehicles	
4. Land and support assets - Garage and other work equipment	
5. Land and support assets - Buildings	
6. Land and support assets - Furniture and Office equipment	
7. Land and support assets - General purpose computers	
8. Central Office Switching - Digital	
9. Central Office Switching - Analog & Electro-mechanical	
10. Central Office Switching - Operator Systems	
11. Central Office Transmission - Radio Systems	
12. Central Office Transmission - Circuit equipment	
13. Information origination/termination - Station apparatus	
14. Information origination/termination - Customer premises wiring	
15. Information origination/termination - Large private branch exchanges	
16. Information origination/termination - Public telephone terminal equipment	
17. Information origination/termination - Other terminal equipment	
18. Cable and wire facilities - Poles	
19. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable - Metal	
20. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable - Fiber	
21. Cable and wire facilities - Underground cable - Metal	
22. Cable and wire facilities - Underground cable - Fiber	
23. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cable - Metal	
24. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cable - Fiber	
25. Cable and wire facilities - Conduit systems	
26. Cable and wire facilities - Other	

USDA-RUS		BORROWER DESIGNATION
OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS		TX0643
INSTRUCTIONS – See help in the online application.		PERIOD ENDED December, 2012
PART I – STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
1. Beginning Cash (Cash and Equivalents plus RUS Construction Fund)		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
2. Net Income		
<i>Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</i>		
3. Add: Depreciation		
4. Add: Amortization		
5. Other (Explain) Changed in accrued taxes payable and other		
<i>Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities</i>		
6. Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable		
7. Decrease/(Increase) in Materials and Inventory		
8. Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments and Deferred Charges		
9. Decrease/(Increase) in Other Current Assets		
10. Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable		
11. Increase/(Decrease) in Advance Billings & Payments		
12. Increase/(Decrease) in Other Current Liabilities		
13. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Operations		
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
14. Decrease/(Increase) in Notes Receivable		
15. Increase/(Decrease) in Notes Payable		
16. Increase/(Decrease) in Customer Deposits		
17. Net Increase/(Decrease) in Long Term Debt (including Current Maturities)		
18. Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities & Deferred Credits		
19. Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Stock, Paid-In Capital, Membership and Capital Certificates & Other Capital		
20. Less: Payment of Dividends		
21. Less: Patronage Capital Credits Retired		
22. Other (Explain)		
23. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities		
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
24. Net Capital Expenditures (Property, Plant & Equipment)		
25. Other Long-Term Investments		
26. Other Noncurrent Assets & Jurisdictional Differences		
27. Other (Explain) Original cost of plant retired		
28. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Investing Activities		
29. Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash		
30. Ending Cash		

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

USDA-RUS OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	BORROWER DESIGNATION TX0643
INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	PERIOD ENDED December, 2012
NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<p>USDA-RUS</p> <p>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</p>	<p>BORROWER DESIGNATION</p> <p>TX0643</p>
<p>INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</p>	<p>PERIOD ENDED</p> <p>December, 2012</p>
<p>CERTIFICATION LOAN DEFAULT NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</p>	