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October 15, 2013

*Via USPS Express Mail*

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90; **2013 FCC Form 481**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In compliance with the Commission's rules at 47 CFR §§ 54.313(h)(2)(i) and 54.422(c), Bascom Mutual Telephone Company ("Bascom Mutual") herewith submits a copy of its 2013 Form 481.

Bascom Mutual requests that the financial results required in the section entitled "Rate of Return Carrier Additional Information"<sup>1</sup> be accorded confidential treatment. Attached please find a statement of the reasons for withholding the redacted materials from public inspection pursuant to 47 CFR § 0.459.

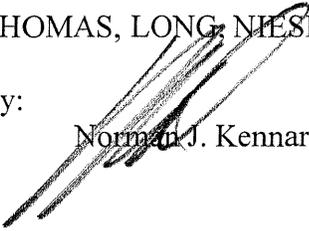
Bascom Mutual has e-filed, through ECFS, the redacted version and sent via USPS Express Mail the confidential version (original and one copy) of its 2013 FCC Form 481.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

THOMAS, LONG, NIESEN & KENNARD

By:

  
Norman J. Kennard

NJK:tlt

<sup>1</sup> The financial reports section of FCC Form 481 is identified at the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") website as "Section 3005" in the downloadable version and as "Section 3000" in the online filing version at the same USAC website. <http://www.usac.org/hc/tools/forms.aspx>. The same identical financial information is required in both. The request for confidentiality applies regardless of whether the form submitted employs the 3005 or 3000 designation.

**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY REQUEST AND  
JUSTIFICATION OF BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY**

Bascom Mutual Telephone Company (“Bascom Mutual” or “Company”) is a small, privately held rural local exchange company based in Ohio. Bascom Mutual requests confidential treatment of certain information being provided to the Commission in its 2013 FCC Form 481, because the information is competitively sensitive and its disclosure would have negative competitive consequences upon Bascom Mutual were it made publicly available. Such information would not ordinarily be made available to the public and should be afforded confidential treatment under 47 CFR § 0.459.

Specifically, Bascom Mutual requests that the documentation required in the section entitled “Rate of Return Carrier Additional Information,”<sup>1</sup> which consists of the Company’s financial reports, income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement, be accorded confidential treatment (“Confidential Information”).

**Degree to Which the Information in Question is Commercial or Financial, or Contains a Trade Secret or is Privileged**

The Confidential Information is financial information, specifically the Company’s income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement. Financial Information is clearly deserving of confidential treatment.

The Confidential Information is also a trade secret under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). While there is no clear federal definition, the *Uniform Trade Secrets Act* defines trade secret as information that derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to or readily ascertainable through appropriate means by other persons who might obtain economic value from its disclosure or use and is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy. <http://www.uniformlaws.org/Default.aspx>. The information for which confidential treatment is sought meets that definition.

**Degree to Which the Information Concerns a Service that is Subject to Competition**

Ohio has successfully opened its telecommunications markets to full competition. The services offered by the Company, including voice and broadband services, are subject to vigorous competition from complete local exchange carriers, cable operators, wireless carriers

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<sup>1</sup> The financial reports section of FCC Form 481 is identified at the Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) website as “Section 3005” in the downloadable version and as “Section 3000” in the online filing version at the same USAC website. <http://www.usac.org/hc/tools/forms.aspx>. The same identical financial information is required in both. The request for confidentiality applies regardless of whether the form submitted employs the 3005 or 3000 designation.

and VoIP providers. Many of the Company's competitors are large, well-financed and national, even international, in scope.

**Manner in Which Disclosure of the Information Could Result in Substantial Competitive Harm**

The Confidential Information could be employed by both existing and potential competitors in a variety of ways, including: to determine the size of the market; the profitability of the market; and the financial resources of the Company. Clearly, were the Confidential Information made public, competitors could and would use this information to their competitive advantage. Moreover, disclosure would adversely affect Bascom Mutual's ability to conduct business with other carriers.

**Measures Taken to Prevent Unauthorized Disclosure**

The Company has taken precautions to guard the secrecy of its financial results, including the Confidential Information, by limiting its dissemination. The Confidential Information is not known outside of Bascom Mutual and is known within the Company only to senior managers and a limited number of employees with a particular need to know. Bascom Mutual has expended a significant amount of time and money in developing the Confidential Information. The Confidential Information cannot be replicated by any other means.

**Availability of the Information to the Public and Extent of Any Previous Disclosure of the Information to Third Parties**

The Confidential Information is not available to the general public and has never been disclosed to any outside third parties, except as may be associated with financing, in which case confidentiality is required.

**Justification of the Period During Which the Material Should Not be Available for Public Disclosure**

Bascom Mutual requests that the Confidential Information be maintained on a confidential basis indefinitely. Disclosure of the information at any time would be harmful.

**Any Other Information That the Party Seeking Confidential Treatment Believes May Be Useful In Assessing Whether Its Request For Confidentiality Should Be Granted.**

Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). The exemption affords protection to those submitters who are required to furnish

commercial or financial information to the government by safeguarding them from the competitive disadvantages that could result from disclosure. If the financial information relates to business or trade, courts have considered it “commercial or financial.” *See, e.g., Dow Jones Co. v. FERC*, 219 F.R.D. 167, 176 (C.D. Cal. 2002) (information relating “to business decisions and practices regarding the sale of power, and the operation and maintenance” of generators (quoting agency declaration)); *Merit Energy Co. v. United States Dep’t of the Interior*, 180 F. Supp. 2d 1184, 1188 (D. Colo. 2001) (“information regarding oil and gas leases, prices, quantities and reserves”), *appeal dismissed*, No. 01-1347 (10th Cir. Sept. 4, 2001). The Confidential Information satisfies this test as well.

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

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

<010> Study Area Code	300589
<015> Study Area Name	BASCOM MUTUAL TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2014
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	KATHY REINHART
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	419-937-2222
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	krein@bascomtelephone.com

<b>ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS</b>	<b>54.313 Completion Required</b>	<b>54.422 Completion Required</b>
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			<i>(check box when complete)</i>	
<100> Service Quality Improvement Reporting	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<200> Outage Reporting (voice)	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="text" value="0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<310> Detail on Attempts (voice)	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<330> Detail on Attempts (broadband)	<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<410> Fixed	<input type="text" value="0.0"/>			
<420> Mobile	<input type="text" value=""/>			
<430> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<440> Fixed	<input type="text" value=""/>			
<450> Mobile	<input type="text" value=""/>			
<500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<510> 30058908510	<i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<600> Functionality in Emergency Situations	<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<610> 30058908610	<i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<700> Company Price Offerings (voice)	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<710> Company Price Offerings (broadband)	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<800> Operating Companies and Affiliates	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<900> Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)? <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>	<i>(if yes, complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability	<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1010>	<i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1100> Terrestrial Backhaul (Y/N)? <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<i>(if no, check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1110>	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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>	<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<2005>	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet**

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

<b>(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	388589
<015>	Study Area Name	SABCOM NUTURAL TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	KATHY BRINHAFF
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	418-937-2222
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kbrin@comcasttelephone.com
<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<111>	If your answer to line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

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.










<b>(900) Tribal Lands Reporting Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	300589
<015>	Study Area Name	BASCOM HUTTON TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	KATHY REINHART
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	419-337-2222
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kathy@bascomtelephone.com

<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 FDF, 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)

<b>(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	30699
<015>	Study Area Name	BASCUM NUTRIAL TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	KATHY PEINHART
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	419-937-2222
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kath@acntelcophone.com

<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)

<b>(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers</b> <b>Lifeline</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	160589
<015>	Study Area Name	BAGGON MUTUAL TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PATRY BRIMMART
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	419-937-2223
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	baggonmut@telephone.com

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans access@state  
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,

<b>(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b> <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	300599
<015>	Study Area Name	BACOM MURKIN TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2014
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	KATHY PRINMET
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	419-937-2222
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kpr@bacomtelephone.com

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.

<b>Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting</b>		
<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"/>
<b>Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))</b>		
<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"/>
<b>Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))</b>		
<2016>	Certification Support Used to Build Broadband	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))</b>		
<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 _____

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0086/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

**(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation**  
Data Collection Form

305889  
STUDY AREA CODE  
BASKIN HILLTOP, TEL. CO  
2013  
STUDY AREA NAME  
PROGRAM YEAR  
CONTACT NAME - PERSON BEAC should contact regarding this data  
CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER - Number of person identified in data line 3010  
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS - Email Address of person identified in data line 3010

305889  
STUDY AREA CODE  
BASKIN HILLTOP, TEL. CO  
2013  
STUDY AREA NAME  
PROGRAM YEAR  
CONTACT NAME - PERSON BEAC should contact regarding this data  
CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER - Number of person identified in data line 3010  
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS - Email Address of person identified in data line 3010

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on the five year recode quality plan pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.204(a) and for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(a)(2). Further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Code	Description	Name of Attached Document Being Required Information
(3010)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Please check the box to confirm that the attached PDF on line 3012 contains the annual administrative information to § 54.313(a)(2) as a result of CAT Files. If support is provided for the attached names, and address of company, further information to which is provided, providing access to financial and other data for the preceding calendar year.	[REDACTED]
(3012)	Community Anchor institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(a)(4)) If you company is a publicly held RIR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(a)(2)) If you have your company on the RIR annual report Do attached files have to confirm that the attached PDF on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(a)(2) requirements: Electronic copy of their annual RIR report (including report for telecommunications providers)	[REDACTED]
(3016)	PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	[REDACTED]
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RIR annual report and all required supporting data	[REDACTED]
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company, submit: If the response is yes on line 3015, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(a)(2): Submit a copy of their audited financial statements or (1) a financial report in a format comparable to plus Operating Report for Telecommunications PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	[REDACTED]
(3019)	Management letter issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit	[REDACTED]
(3021)	If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(a)(2): Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant or (1) a financial report in a format comparable to plus Operating Report for Telecommunications Business	[REDACTED]
(3022)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant	[REDACTED]
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to an effort certification	[REDACTED]
(3024)	PDF of Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	[REDACTED]
(3025)	Attachment and/or other being required information	[REDACTED]
(3026)	Attachment and/or other being required information	[REDACTED]

<b>Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	300589
<015> Study Area Name	BASCOM MUTUAL TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2014
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	KATHY REINHART
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	419-917-2222
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	krre@bascomtelephone.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
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:	BASCOM MUTUAL TEL CO
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date 10/16/2013
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	KATHY REINHART
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	ASSISTANT TREASURER
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	419-917-2222
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	300589 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.	

<b>Certification - Agent / Carrier</b>	FCC Form 481
<b>Data Collection Form</b>	OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	300589
<015> Study Area Name	BASCOM MUTUAL TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2014
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	KATHY REINHART
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	419-927-2222
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	kmr@bascomtelephones.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

<b>Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier</b>	
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: BASCOM MUTUAL TEL CO	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date:
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 300589	Filing Due Date for this form: 10/15/2013
<small>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.</small>	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

<b>Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier</b>	
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: BASCOM MUTUAL TEL CO	
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: CERTIFIED ONLINE	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:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 300589	Filing Due Date for this form: 10/15/2013
<small>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.</small>	

## Attachments

(800) Operating Companies  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	306589		
<015> Study Area Name	BAROON MUTUAL TEL CO		
<020> Program Year	2014		
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PATRY BEHRER		
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	818 937-2222		
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	pbehrer@baroon.com		
<810> Reporting Carrier	BAROON MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO		
<811> Holding Company	BAROON MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO		
<812> Operating Company	BAROON MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO		
<813>	<a1>	<a2>	<a3>
	Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
	BTC Multimedia, LLC		

## BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

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

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#### Service Quality Standards

Bascom Mutual Telephone 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.

## BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

### Functionality in Emergency Situations

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Bascom Mutual Telephone Company has an employee call-out procedure in place to mobilize its entire workforce in the event of an emergency situation. The notification process utilizes landline, cellular and Internet technologies. In the event of total failure of all communications technologies, company practices include having employees report to the central office to obtain further instructions.

The central office and core network functionality is supported by 8 hours of battery reserve and a 60 kw natural gas generator set capable of running indefinitely for unlimited hours. Customer NID's containing active electronic equipment are supported by 8 hours of continuous talk time battery reserve. The company also maintains a number of portable generator sets that can be deployed in the event they are needed.

The facility network is designed as a diverse-routed fiber optic ring, capable of instantaneously switching traffic around damaged facilities. Employees are trained in fiber optic splicing and the necessary equipment is maintained on-site for rapid deployment and restoration. Separate facilities support the PSTN and broadband network connections to other carriers. In the event that all PSTN facilities are damaged, the switch is capable of both TDM and IP formats, providing the ability to reroute PSTN traffic via dedicated IP facilities to other carriers.

The network is capable of managing traffic spikes caused by emergency situations. This is accomplished by maintaining properly sized trunk groups to the PSTN and by providing substantial broadband backbone bandwidth capable of carrying overflow voice traffic in addition to data traffic.

## BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

### Lifeline Terms and Conditions

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Bascom Mutual Telephone Company 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:

- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps)
- Ohio Works First/Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- SSI – Blind and Disabled (SSDI)
- General/Disability Assistance

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 or federal program; notice letter of participation in a qualifying state or federal program; program participation documents; or another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state or federal program.

#### Income Based Eligibility

In addition, consumers are eligible for Lifeline if their household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes: prior year's state or federal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; social security statement of benefits; Veterans Administration statement of benefits; retirement/pension statement of benefits; unemployment/workmen's compensation statement of benefits; federal notice of letter participating in General Assistance; or a divorce decree or child support award or other official document containing income information.

#### Tribal Eligibility

Bascom Mutual Telephone Company does not have any Tribal lands within its study area boundaries.

**Numbers of Minutes-of-Use Provided as Part of Lifeline Program Service**

Bascom Mutual Telephone Company's Voice Lifeline service includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Bascom Mutual Telephone Company's Voice Lifeline Plan does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll. Toll is billed at the standard toll rate depending on which interexchange carrier the consumer subscribes to for toll service. As part of the Lifeline service, Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

**Rates**

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

**Recertification of Lifeline Eligibility**

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

**Additional Lifeline Program Information**

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.