

June 26, 2014

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT-  
TRADE SECRET DATA  
HAS BEEN EXCISED**

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

Mr. Burl Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

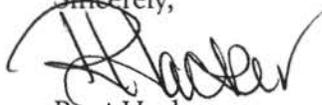
Received & Inspected  
JUN 27 2014  
FCC Mail Room

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90, 11-42 and 14-58: Form 481 - Annual Reporting Requirements for High-Cost and Low Income Recipients  
MN PUC Docket No. 1408

Pursuant to Section 54.313 and 54.422 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules, enclosed is a redacted version of Form 481 Annual Reporting Requirements and Certifications for Western Telephone Company, Study Area Code 361502. Western Telephone Company is a state-designated ETC, and as such, is submitting to the Commission information from FCC Form 481. A confidential "Trade Secret" filing of this information was also made under Docket 10-90, 11-42 and 14-58.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at [roxih@interstatetelcom.com](mailto:roxih@interstatetelcom.com) or by phone at 320/848-6641.

Sincerely,



Roxi Hacker  
Regulatory Consultant

Enclosures:

Cc: Curt Kawlewski

No. of Copies rec'd 091  
List ABCDE

<b>&lt;010&gt; Study Area Code</b>	361502
<b>&lt;015&gt; Study Area Name</b>	WESTERN TEL CO
<b>&lt;020&gt; Program Year</b>	2015
<b>&lt;030&gt; Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data</b>	Roxi Hacker
<b>&lt;035&gt; Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</b>	3208486641 ext.
<b>&lt;039&gt; Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</b>	roxih@interstatetelcom.com

**Received & Inspected**  
**JUN 27 2014**

**FCC Mail Room**

<b>ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS</b>	<b>54.313 Completion Required</b>	<b>54.422 Completion Required</b>
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			(check box when complete)	
<b>&lt;100&gt;</b>	Service Quality Improvement Reporting <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;200&gt;</b>	Outage Reporting (voice) <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;210&gt;</b>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;300&gt;</b>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;310&gt;</b>	Detail on Attempts (voice) <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(attach descriptive document)</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;320&gt;</b>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband) <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;330&gt;</b>	Detail on Attempts (broadband) <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(attach descriptive document)</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;400&gt;</b>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)			
<b>&lt;410&gt;</b>	Fixed <input type="text" value="0.0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;420&gt;</b>	Mobile <input type="text" value="0.0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;430&gt;</b>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)			
<b>&lt;440&gt;</b>	Fixed <input type="text" value="0.0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;450&gt;</b>	Mobile <input type="text" value="0.0"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;500&gt;</b>	Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(check to indicate certification)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;510&gt;</b>	<input type="text" value="361502MN510Western.pdf"/> <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(attach descriptive document)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;600&gt;</b>	Functionality in Emergency Situations <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(check to indicate certification)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;610&gt;</b>	<input type="text" value="361502MNG10Western.pdf"/> <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(attach descriptive document)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;700&gt;</b>	Company Price Offerings (voice) <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;710&gt;</b>	Company Price Offerings (broadband) <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;800&gt;</b>	Operating Companies and Affiliates <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;900&gt;</b>	Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)? <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(if yes, complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1000&gt;</b>	Voice Services Rate Comparability <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(check to indicate certification)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1010&gt;</b>	<input type="text" value="361502MN1010Western.pdf"/> <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(attach descriptive document)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1100&gt;</b>	Terrestrial Backhaul (Y/N)? <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(if not, check to indicate certification)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1110&gt;</b>	<span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1200&gt;</b>	Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<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*

<b>&lt;2000&gt;</b>	<span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(check to indicate certification)</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;2005&gt;</b>	<span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet</b>				
<b>&lt;3000&gt;</b>	<span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(check to indicate certification)</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;3005&gt;</b>	<span style="float: right; font-size: small;">(complete attached worksheet)</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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	361502
<015> Study Area Name	WESTERN TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2015
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.com

<110> Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC? (yes / no)

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)

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.

361502MN110Western.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached documents(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to § 54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How (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

<010> Study Area Code 361502  
 <015> Study Area Name WESTERN TEL CO  
 <020> Program Year 2015  
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Roxi Hacker  
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 3208486641 ext.  
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> roxih@interstatetel.com

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

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) Includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select (Yes, 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	361502
<015> Study Area Name	WESTERN TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2015
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.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	361502
<015> Study Area Name	WESTERN TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2015
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.com

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

361502MN1210Western.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,
- <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,
- <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.

<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	361502
<015>	Study Area Name	WESTERN TBL CO
<020>	Program Year	2015
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.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.**

**Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting**

- <2010>      2nd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1))
- <2011>      3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(2))

**Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))**

- <2012>      2013 Frozen Support Certification
- <2013>      2014 Frozen Support Certification
- <2014>      2015 Frozen Support Certification
- <2015>      2016 and future Frozen Support Certification

**Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))**

- <2016>      Certification Support Used to Build Broadband

**Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))**

- <2017>      3rd year Broadband Service Certification
- <2018>      5th year Broadband Service Certification
- <2019>      Interim Progress Certification
- <2020>      Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

- <2021>      Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

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

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

<010> Study Area Code	361502
<015> Study Area Name	WESTERN TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2015
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.com

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3010) Progress Report on 5 Year Plan  
Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i))

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3011) Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

(3012) Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii))

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3013) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)) (Yes/No)  Yes  No

(3014) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report (Yes/No)  Yes  No

Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:

(3015) Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)

(3016) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3017) If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3018) If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited? (Yes/No)  Yes  No

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3019) Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications

(3020) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3021) Management letter issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.

If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3022) Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers,

(3023) Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant

(3024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.

(3025) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3026) Attach the worksheet listing required information

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<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	361502
<015>	Study Area Name	WESTERN TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2015
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetelcom.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 LJ 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:	
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	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	361502
<015> Study Area Name	WESTERN TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2015
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Roxi Hacker
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	3208486641 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	roxih@interstatetel.com

**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>ITCI</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:	ITCI
Name of Reporting Carrier:	WESTERN TEL CO
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/19/2014
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Bill Otis
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Chief Executive Officer
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	5073544111 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	361502 Filing Due Date for this form: 06/30/2014
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:	WESTERN TEL CO
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Roxi Hacker
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/19/2014
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Roxi Hacker
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Regulatory Consultant
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	3208486641 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	361502 Filing Due Date for this form: 06/30/2014
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

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

REDACTED:

Western Telephone Company

Five Year Quality of Service Plan

2015-2019

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

SAC: 361502  
State: Minnesota  
Western Telephone Company  
Form 481 Line No.: 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

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As required by Minnesota Administrative Rule "7812.0700 Minnesota General Service Quality Requirements, Subpart 1" the local services provided by the Western Telephone Company are provided under internal company operating procedures and publically available tariffs which are in compliance with applicable Minnesota Public Utility Commission orders and rules including:

7810.0100 DEFINITIONS.  
7810.0200 SCOPE.  
7810.0300 STATUTORY AUTHORITY.

**RECORDS AND REPORTS**

7810.0400 RETENTION OF RECORDS.  
7810.0500 DATA TO BE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION.  
7810.0600 REPORT TO COMMISSION ON SERVICE DISRUPTION.  
7810.0900 LOCATION OF RECORDS.

**CUSTOMER RELATIONS**

7810.1000 INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMER AND PUBLIC.  
7810.1100 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.  
7810.1200 RECORD OF COMPLAINT.

**CUSTOMER BILLING; DEPOSIT AND GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS**

7810.1400 CUSTOMER BILLING.  
7810.1500 DEPOSIT AND GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS.  
7810.1600 DEPOSIT.  
7810.1700 GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT.

**DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE; SERVICE DELAY**

7810.1800 PERMISSIBLE SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS WITH NOTICE.  
7810.1900 PERMISSIBLE SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS WITHOUT SERVICE.  
7810.2000 NONPERMISSIBLE REASONS TO DISCONNECT SERVICE.  
7810.2100 MANNER OF DISCONNECTION.  
7810.2200 RECONNECTION OF SERVICE.  
7810.2300 NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.  
7810.2400 BILL DISPUTES.  
7810.2500 ESCROW PAYMENTS.  
7810.2600 WAIVING RIGHT TO DISCONNECT; EMERGENCY STATUS.  
7810.2800 DELAY IN INITIAL SERVICE OR UPGRADE.

**DIRECTORIES**

7810.2900 CONTENT OF DIRECTORIES.  
7810.3000 MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.  
7810.3100 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

SAC: 361502

State: Minnesota

Western Telephone Company

Form 481 Line No.: 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

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**ENGINEERING**

7810.3200 CONSTRUCTION OF TELEPHONE PLANT.

7810.3300 MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.

7810.3900 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

**INSPECTIONS, TESTS, SERVICE REQUIRMENTS**

7810.4100 ACCESS TO TEST FACILITIES.

7810.4300 ACCURANCE REQUIREMENTS.

7810.4900 ADEQUACY OF SERVICE.

7810.5000 UTILITY OBLIGATIONS.

7810.5100 TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

7810.5200 ANSWERING TIME.

7810.5300 DIAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.

7810.5400 INTEROFFICE TRUNKS.

7810.5500 TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

7810.5800 INTERRUPTIONS OF SERVICE.

7810.5900 CUTOMER TROUBLE REPORTS.

7810.6000 PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

7810.6100 SAFETY PROGRAM.

SAC: 361502  
State: Minnesota  
Western Telephone Company  
Form 481 Line No.: 610 Description of Functionality in Emergency Situations

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Western Telephone Company pursuant to Minnesota Administrative Rule "7810.3900 Emergency Operations" has:

- Established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from failures of lighting or power service, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness of operators or from fire, storm, or acts of God including provisions for emergency power that meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:
  - A minimum of four hours of battery service in each central office.
  - A permanently installed power unit in exchanges exceeding 5,000 lines.
  - Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and which can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.
- Has informed employees as to the procedures to be followed, including reasonable rerouting of traffic around damaged facilities and the deployment of emergency power in the event of emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telecommunications service.







#### **LINE 1010 – VOICE SERVICES RATE COMPARABILITY**

The Wireline Competition Bureau's most recent reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services is \$46.96, which includes the federal subscriber line charge ("SLC").

In all of the exchanges served by the Western Telephone Company, the single-line residential local rate, including any mandatory extended area service charge, is \$14.00. When the federal SLC (\$6.50) and other state fees are included, the rate becomes \$ 21.37. Therefore, the Company's pricing of fixed voice services is less than the reasonable comparability benchmark of \$46.96.

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- Western Telephone Company offers Lifeline Service Credit according to basic service requirements listed in **Minnesota Administrative Rule "7812.06000 – Basic Service Requirements."**

**Subpart 1. Required services.** A local service provider (LSP) shall provide, as part of its local service offering, the following to all customers within its service area:

- A. Single party voice-grade service and touch-tone capability;
  - B. 911 or enhanced 911 access;
  - C. 1 + intraLATA and interLATA presubscription and code-specific equal access to interexchange carriers subscribing to its switched access service;
  - D. Access to directory assistance, directory listings, and operator services;
  - E. Toll and information service-blocking capability without recurring monthly charges as provided in the commission's ORDER REGARDING LOCAL DISCONNECTION AND TOLL BLOCKING CHARGES, Docket No. P-999/CI-96-38 (June 4, 1996), and its ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSIONS AND CLARIFYING ONE PORTION OF PREVIOUS ORDER, Docket No. P-999/CI-96-38 (September 16, 1996), which are incorporated by reference, are not subject to frequent change, and are available through the statewide interlibrary loan system;
  - F. One white pages directory per year for each local calling area, which may include more than one local calling area, except where an offer is made and explicitly refused by the customer;
  - G. A white pages and directory assistance listing, or, upon customer request, a private listing that allows the customer to have an unlisted or unpublished telephone number;
  - H. Call-tracing capability according to chapter 7813;
  - I. Blocking capability according to the commission's ORDER ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF CUSTOMER LOCAL AREA SIGNALING SERVICES, Docket No. P-999/CI-92-992 (June 17, 1993) and its ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION, Docket No. P-999/CI-92-992 (December 3, 1993), which are incorporated by reference, are not subject to frequent change, and are available through the statewide interlibrary loan system; and
  - J. Telecommunications relay service capability or access necessary to comply with state and federal regulations.
- Western Telephone Company Lifeline service offerings are listed in their Local Service Tariff Section 5, Pages 40-42 (attached) pursuant to **Minnesota Rule 7812.0600 Subpart 2:**

**Subpart 2. Separate flat rate service offering.** At a minimum, each LSP shall offer the services identified in subpart 1 as a separate tariff or price list offering on a flat rate basis. An LSP may also offer basic local service on a measured rate basis or in combination with other services. An LSP may impose separate charges for the services set forth in subpart 1 only to the extent permitted by applicable laws, rules, and commission orders.

- The Local Service Tariff is on file with the Minnesota Public Utility Commission.
- All Lifeline subscribers must meet the terms and conditions of Federal Lifeline Eligibility Rules.

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Western Telephone Company does adhere to all Federal Lifeline eligibility rules and regulations as well as Minnesota Administrative Rule "7817.0400 - Eligibility for Telephone Assistance Credits" which states:

**Minnesota Administrative Rule 237 Chapter 7817.0400**

**Subpart 1. Information provided.** Each local service provider shall annually mail a notice of the availability of the telephone assistance plan to each residential subscriber in a regular billing. If a subscriber has chosen to receive the regular billing other than through U.S. mail, the local service provider shall send the notice in a regular billing using the delivery method chosen by the subscriber for delivery of the regular billing. The notice must state the following: YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE IN PAYING YOUR TELEPHONE BILL IF YOU RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM CERTAIN LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OR MEET CERTAIN INCOME LIMITS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT

(local service provider). On request, the local service provider shall mail to a person an application form developed by the commission and the Department of Commerce, and a brochure that describes the telephone assistance plan's eligibility requirements and application process.

**Subpart 2. Application process.** On completing and signing the application certifying under penalty of perjury that the information provided by the applicant is true and that the statutory criteria for eligibility are satisfied, the applicant must return it to the local service provider for enrollment in the telephone assistance plan. An application may be made by the subscriber, the subscriber's spouse, or a person authorized by the subscriber to act on the subscriber's behalf.

**Subpart 4. Eligibility criteria.** To be eligible for a telephone assistance credit the applicant must:

- A. be a subscriber who resides in Minnesota or has moved to Minnesota and intends to remain; and
- B. be eligible for the federal Lifeline telephone service discount.

**Subpart 7. Applicant and recipient responsibilities.** Each applicant and each recipient shall provide current information to the local service provider about permanent changes that affect the applicant's or recipient's eligibility.

**Subpart 8. Local service provider responsibilities.**

- A. A local service provider shall begin providing telephone assistance credits to an applicant in the earliest possible billing cycle but not later than the second billing cycle following submission of a completed application demonstrating eligibility. If certified, the local service provider shall notify the applicant by, for example, placing telephone assistance credits on the bill.
- B. If an applicant is denied eligibility, the local service provider shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, of the right to appeal, and of the right to reapply.