

Annual Reporting for High-Cost Recipients
47 C.F.R. §54.313(a)(2) through (a)(6) and (h)



4001 Rodney Parham Drive • Little Rock, Arkansas 72212
(501) 748-7000

June 11, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected

JUN 30 2014

FCC Mail Room

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

RE: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90: Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, WC Docket No. 11-42

Pursuant to Section 54.313 and 54.422 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules enclosed is the 2014 annual report and certifications for Windstream Study Area Code 361414 located in Minnesota. A copy of this report is also being filed with the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC), relevant state public service commissions, and tribal governments.

This filing contains no CONFIDENTIAL information.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via email at jeff.l.heacox@windstream.com or by phone at 501-748-5390.

Sincerely,

Jeff Heacox
Staff Manager Compliance Reporting

Enclosures

Cc: Applicable State Public Utilities Commissions, State Public Service Commissions, and Tribal Governments

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <010> Study Area Code | 361414 | |
| <015> Study Area Name | Windstream Communications, Inc. | |
| <020> Program Year | 2015 | Received & Inspected |
| <030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data | Jeff Heacox | |
| <035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030> | 5017485390 ext. | JUN 30 2014 |
| <039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030> | jeff.l.heacox@windstream.com | FCC Mail Room |

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 54,313 Completion Required | 54,422 Completion Required |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|

(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 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <300> Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) | 0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <310> Detail on Attempts (voice) | [Redacted Box] (attach descriptive document) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband) | 0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <330> Detail on Attempts (broadband) | [Redacted Box] (attach descriptive document) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice) | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <410> Fixed | 1.25 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <420> Mobile | 0.0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <430> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband) | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <440> Fixed | 2.28 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <450> Mobile | 0.0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance | (check to indicate certification) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <510> [Redacted Box] | (attached 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> [Redacted Box] | (attached descriptive document) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <700> Company Price Offerings (voice) | (complete attached worksheet) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <710> Company Price Offerings (broadband) | (complete attached worksheet) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <800> Operating Companies and Affiliates | (complete attached worksheet) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <900> Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)? | (if yes, complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability | (check to indicate certification) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1010> [Redacted Box] | (attach descriptive document) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1100> Terrestrial Backhaul (Y/N)? | (if not, check to indicate certification) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1110> | (complete attached worksheet) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers | (complete attached worksheet) | <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> | (check to indicate certification) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <2005> | (complete attached worksheet) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

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

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <010> Study Area Code | 361414 |
| <015> Study Area Name | Windstream Communications, Inc. |
| <020> Program Year | 2015 |
| <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | Jeff Beacox |
| <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 5017485390 ext. |
| <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | jeff.l.beacox@windstream.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

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

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <115> How (USF) was used to improve service quality | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <116> How (USF) was used to improve service coverage | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <117> How (USF) was used to improve service capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting Data Collection Form FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0813
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 361414
 <015> Study Area Name Windstream Communications, Inc.
 <020> Program Year 2015
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Jeff Heacox
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 5017485390 ext.
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> jeff.l.heacox@windstream.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) |
|----------------------------|
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**(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 | 361414 |
| <015> Study Area Name | Windstream Communications, Inc. |
| <020> Program Year | 2015 |
| <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | Jeff Heacox |
| <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 5017485390 ext. |
| <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | jeff.l.heacox@windstream.com |

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

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

| | |
|--|--|
| (1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers Lifeline Data Collection Form | FCC Form 431 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013 |
|--|--|

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|
| <010> | Study Area Code | 361414 |
| <015> | Study Area Name | Windstream Communications, Inc. |
| <020> | Program Year | 2015 |
| <030> | Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | Jeff Heacock |
| <035> | Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 5017485390 ext. |
| <039> | Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | jeff.l.heacock@windstream.com |

361414MNI210.doc

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP <http://www.windstream.com/About-Us/Lifeline-Applications/>

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

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

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form
Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

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

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|
| <010> | Study Area Code | 161414 |
| <015> | Study Area Name | Windstream Communications, Inc. |
| <020> | Program Year | 2015 |
| <030> | Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | Jeff Heacock |
| <035> | Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 5017485390 ext. |
| <039> | Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | jeff.l.heacock@windstream.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 483 OMB Control No. 3060-0086/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013 |
|--|--|

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <010> Study Area Code | 351414 |
| <015> Study Area Name | Windstream Communications, Inc. |
| <020> Program Year | 2015 |
| <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | Jeff Heacox |
| <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 5017485390 ext. |
| <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | jeff.j.heacox@windstream.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)(iii))

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

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

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

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

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

(3021) Management letter 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 3025 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

| | |
|---|--|
| Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form | FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0811 July 2013 |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <010> Study Area Code | 361414 |
| <015> Study Area Name | Windstream Communications, Inc. |
| <020> Program Year | 2015 |
| <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | Jeff Heacox |
| <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 5017485390 ext. |
| <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | jeff.l.heacox@windstream.com |

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: | Windstream Communications, Inc. |
| Signature of Authorized Officer: | CERTIFIED ONLINE Date 06/19/2014 |
| Printed name of Authorized Officer: | Tim Loken |
| Title or position of Authorized Officer: | Director regulatory Reporting |
| Telephone number of Authorized Officer: | 5017487442 ext. |
| Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: | 361414 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. | |

Certification - Agent / Carrier
Data Collection Form

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

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <010> Study Area Code | 361414 |
| <015> Study Area Name | Windstream Communications, Inc. |
| <020> Program Year | 2015 |
| <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | Jeff Heacox |
| <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> | 5017485390 ext. |
| <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> | jeff.l.heacox@windstream.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) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate. | |
| Name of Authorized Agent: _____ | |
| Name of Reporting Carrier: _____ | |
| Signature of Authorized Officer: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Printed name of Authorized Officer: _____ | |
| Title or position of Authorized Officer: _____ | |
| Telephone number of Authorized Officer: _____ | |
| Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____ | Filing Due Date for this form: _____ |
| Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001. | |

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

| Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate. | |
| Name of Reporting Carrier: _____ | |
| Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____ | |
| Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____ | Date: _____ |
| Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____ | |
| Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____ | |
| Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____ | |
| Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____ | Filing Due Date for this form: _____ |
| Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001. | |

Attachments

