

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Filing Type and Contact Info

Filing Type

This information has been preselected based on High Cost and Lifeline program support paid out in the previous calendar year. If you think the filing type is incorrect, [please contact USAC](#).



High Cost (Section 54.313)



Lifeline (Section 54.422)

Contact Information

Include contact information for the person best able to answer questions about this form.

Contact Name (030)

Susan Case

Phone # (035)

(208)366-2614

(xxx) xxx-xxxx

Ext. (optional)

Contact Email Address (039)

susan.case@ruraltel.org

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Service Outage Reporting (Voice) (200)

Reportable Outages

For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages? (210)

Yes

No

Upload Service Outage Data (220)

[Service Outage Data Template](#) 

CSV only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Number of Complaints per 1,000 Customers (400)

Report Voice Complaints

How you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. (400)

Enter complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice (410)

Enter complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice (420)

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules (500)

Certify

Compliance with Minimum Service Standards (515)

Does the carrier comply with applicable minimum service standards?

Yes

No

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Functionality in Emergency Situations (600)

Certify

Functionality in Emergency Situations Certification (600)

Is the carrier able to function in emergency situations?



Yes



No

Descriptive Document for Functionality in Emergency Situations (610)



522418wa610.pdf (63 KB)



PDF only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Operating Companies (800)

Carrier Names

Reporting Carrier (810)

Pend Oreille Telephone Company

Holding Company (811)



Martell Enterprises, Inc.

Validate the information listed above (811) by selecting one of the following:

- Holding Company/Affiliate name listed above is correct. (811A)
- Holding Company/Affiliate name listed above is NOT correct. (811B)

The correct Holding Company/Affiliate name is (811C):

- This study area does not have a Holding Company/Affiliate name. (811D)

Operating Company

Operating Company (812)

Pend Oreille Telephone Company

Upload Operating Company Data (813A, 813B, 813C) (Optional)

[Operating Company Data Template](#)

522418wa813.csv (200 BYTES)

CSV only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Tribal Lands Reporting (900)

Tribal Land Services

Does the filing entity offer Tribal land services? (900)



Yes



No

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

Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

(920)



522418wa920.pdf (1 MB)

PDF only

Confirm Statuses

Select Yes, No, or NA for each of the below to confirm the status described on the attached PDF (920)

demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(5) includes:

Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions (921)



Yes



No



NA

Feasibility and sustainability planning (922)



Yes



No



NA

Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner (923)



Yes



No



NA

Compliance with Rights of way processes (924)



Yes



No



NA

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements (925)

Yes No NA

Compliance with Facilities Siting rules (926)

Yes No NA

Compliance with Environmental Review processes (927)

Yes No NA

Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes (928)

Yes No NA

Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements (929)

Yes No NA

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability (1000)

Certify Voice

Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification (1000)

Is the carrier's pricing of fixed voice services no more than two standard deviations above the applicable national average urban rate for voice service? If you answer No to line 1000, please provide an explanation for non-compliance.



Yes



No



Not Applicable

Attach Detailed Description for Voice Services Rate Comparability Compliance (1010)



522418wa1010.pdf (131 KB)

PDF, XLS, XLSX only

Certify Broadband

Broadband Comparability Certification (1020)

Does the carrier's broadband services pricing meet one of the following criteria? If you answer No to line 1020, please provide an explanation for non-compliance.



Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau.



Yes - Pricing is no more than the non-promotional price charged for a comparable fixed wireline service in urban areas in the states or U.S. Territories where the eligible telecommunications carrier receives support.



No - Unable to certify broadband rate comparability



Not Applicable.



Yes - CETC Alaska Plan participant certifies that one plan it offers is substantially similar to a service plan offered by at least one mobile wireless service provider in the cellular market area of Anchorage, Alaska and offered for the same or a lower rate than the matching plan in the cellular market area.

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Attach Detailed Description for Broadband Rate Comparability Compliance (1030)

 522418wa1030.pdf (119 KB) 

PDF, XLS, XLSX only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting (1100)

Certify

Terrestrial Backhaul Certification (1100)

Do terrestrial backhaul options exist?

Yes

No

Select the appropriate response to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to Section 54.313(g) (1130)

Yes

No

Not Applicable

Alaska Plan Satellite Backhaul Certification (1140)

Is the carrier providing service consistent with its approved performance plan in the portion(s) of its study area that relies exclusively on satellite backhaul?

Yes

No

Not Applicable

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Lifeline Terms and Conditions (1200)

Upload Document or Link Website

Upload a descriptive document(s) AND/OR reference a specific link to your company's website.

Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans (1210)

 522418wa1210.pdf (87 KB) 

PDF only

AND/OR

Link to Public Website(1220)

Confirm Information

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 Section 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers (1221)

Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan (1222)

Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan (1223)

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Price Cap Data (2005)

Certify

Select the appropriate responses below to note compliance as a recipient of 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(c), (d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (2015)

Does the carrier certify compliance with the requirements in 47 CFR Section 54.312(a)?

Yes

No

NA

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (2016)

Does the carrier certify compliance with the requirements in 47 CFR Section 54.313(d)?

Yes

No

NA

Enter total amount of Phase II support, if any, that the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2022. (2017C)

\$x.xx

\$x.xx

Price Cap Community Anchor Institutions (2018A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

Yes - Attach New Community Anchors

No - No New Community Anchors

Not Applicable - No Attachment Required

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Please Provide Attachment (2018B)

Attach a document to this line to provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

[Community Anchor Template](#) 

XLSM only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Rate of Return Data (3005)

Certify

Select from the drop down menus or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure 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.

Does this filing retain a Cost Consultant and/or Firm, or other Third Party to prepare financial and operations data disclosures submitted to the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), USAC, or the Administrator? (3007)

Yes

No

Name of Consultant (3007A)

Name of Consultant Firm/Third Party (3007B)

[+Another Consultant](#)

Certification of Public Interest Obligations (3010A)

Does the carrier certify compliance with the requirements in 47 CFR Sections 54.313(f)(1)(i)?

Yes - Attach Explanation

No - Attach Explanation

Not Applicable - No Attachment Required

Please Provide Attachment (3010B)



522418wa3010.pdf (58 KB)



PDF, XLS, XLSX, DOC, DOCX only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Rate-of-Return Community Anchor Institutions (3012A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

- Yes - Attach New Community Anchors
- No - No New Community Anchors
- Not Applicable - No Attachment Required

Please Provide Attachment (3012B)

Using link, download template and list the number, name and address for each community anchor institution. As required by 47 CFR Section 54.313(f)(1)(ii), attach the document which contains the community anchor institution details.

[Community Anchor Template](#) 

 522418wa3012.xlsm (56 KB) 

XLSM only

As defined in 47 CFR Section 54.313(f)(2), is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier? (3013)

- Yes
- No

Does your company file the RUS annual report? (3014)

- Yes
- No

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

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

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

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Annual Report (3017)
 522418wa3017.pdf (3 MB) 

PDF, XLS, XLSX, DOC, DOCX only

Is your company audited? (3018)

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:

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

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

Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit (3021)

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 (3022)

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

Underlying information subjected to an officer certification (3024)

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

Worksheet Listing (3026)

PDF, XLS, XLSX, DOC, DOCX only

Financial Data Summary

Enter the specified financial data below which is located on your RUS Report (attached on Line 3017) or your reviewed/audited financial statements (attached on Line 3026).

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

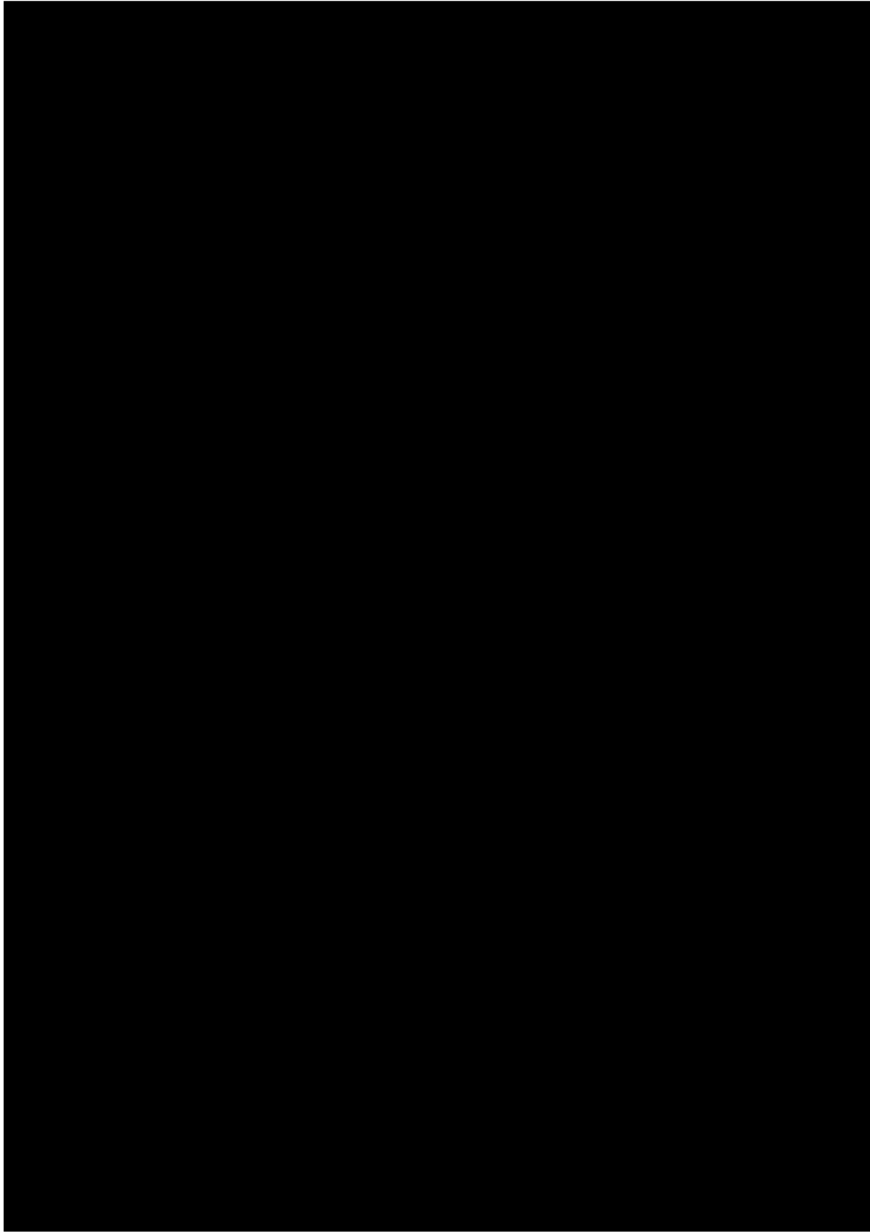
OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025



PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Rural Broadband Experiment Data (4005)

Certify

Public Interest Obligations (4001)

Per FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29 and 78), recipient certifies that it is offering broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas.

Yes

No

RBE Community Anchor Institutions (4003A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

Yes - Attach New Community Anchors

No - No New Community Anchors

Please Provide Attachment (4003B)

Using link, download template and list the number, name and address for each community anchor institution. As required by FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79), attach the document which contains the community anchor institution details.

[Community Anchor Template](#) 

XLSM only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Alaska Plan Participants (5005)

Certify Terrestrial Backhaul

Newly Available Terrestrial or other Satellite Backhaul (RoR Carriers) (5011)

Indicate whether any terrestrial backhaul or other satellite backhaul became commercially available in the previous calendar year in areas previously served exclusively by performance-limiting satellite backhaul.

Yes No

Newly Available Terrestrial or other Satellite Backhaul (CETC Carriers) (5012)

If the filing carrier identified in its approved performance plans that it relies exclusively on satellite backhaul for a certain portion of the population in its service area, indicate whether any terrestrial backhaul or other satellite backhaul became commercially available in the previous calendar year in areas that were previously served exclusively by satellite backhaul.

Yes No

Upload Backhaul Technology Data (5013A - 5013C)

[Backhaul Data Template](#) 

CSV only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Phase II Auction Reporting (6005)

Certify

Enter the total amount of Phase II Auction Support, if any, the carrier used for capital expenditures. (6010)

\$x.xx

New York Funds Certification (6011)

Certify regarding whether the recipient has available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for the next calendar year. This certification must be provided starting the first July 1 after receiving support until the recipient's penultimate year of support.

Yes No

Community Anchor Institutions (6012a)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

Yes - Attach New Community Anchor No - No New Community Anchor

Using the template, upload a document with a number, name and address for each community anchor institution. (6012b)

[Community Anchor Template](#) 

XLSM only

FCC Form 470 Postings (6013)

For the filing due July 1 following full implementation of this requirement answer this certification request.

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Yes No Not Applicable

Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification (6014)

Starting the first July 1 after meeting the final service milestone, certify that the Phase II-funded network that the Phase II auction recipient operated in the prior year meets the relevant performance requirements in Section 54.309.

Yes No Not Applicable

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Phase-Down Support Reporting (7005)

Certify

Price Cap Carrier and Fixed Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Transitional Support Requirement Certification. (7010)

This certification request applies to any price cap carrier or fixed competitive eligible telecommunications carrier that elects to continue receiving support pursuant to Section 54.312(d) or Section 54.307(e)(2)(iii) starting July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter on July 1 for each subsequent year they receive such support. These carriers must use this support throughout specific high-cost and extremely high-cost census blocks where they continue to have the federal high-cost ETC obligation to provide voice service pursuant to Section 54.201(d) at rates that are reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas. Per Section 54.313(m), does the carrier certify that they used all such support received in the previous year to provide voice service in compliance with the above obligation?

Yes

No

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Puerto Rico Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification (8005)

Certify Fixed

Capital Expenditures (8010)

Enter the total amount of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2 fixed support, if any, the carrier used for capital expenditures.

\$x.xx

Available Funds Certification (8011)

Certify (either yes or no) regarding whether the recipient has available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for the next calendar year. This certification must be provided starting the first July 1 after receiving support until the recipient's penultimate year of support.

Yes No

Community Anchor Institutions (8012A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

Yes - Attach New Community Anchors No - No New Community Anchors

Please Provide Attachment (8012B)

Using link, download template and list the number, name and address for each community anchor institution. As required by 47 CFR Section 54.313(e)(2)(i)(A), attach the document which contains the community anchor institution details.

[Community Anchor Template](#) 

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) & 3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

ALBION CITY

FCC Form 470 Postings (8013)

For the filing due July 1 following full implementation of this requirement answer yes, no, or not applicable to this certification request.

Yes No Not Applicable

Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification (8014)

Starting the first July 1 after meeting the final service milestone, certify (yes or no) that the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Stage 2-funded network that the Stage 2 recipient operated in the prior year meets the relevant performance requirements in Section 54.309.

Yes No Not Applicable

Support Reimbursement Certification (8020)

54.313(n): Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support, including of federal or local government aid or insurance reimbursements; and that support was not used for other purposes, such as the retirement of company debt unrelated to eligible expenditures, or other expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund.

Yes No

Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation (8030)

54.313(n): Recipients of fixed support from Stage 2 of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund shall certify that they have conducted an annual review of the documentation required by section 54.1515(a)-(c) to determine the need for and to implement changes or revisions to disaster preparation and recovery documentation.

Yes No

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Certify Mobile

Support Reimbursement (8040)

54.313(n): Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 mobile support shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support, including of federal or local government aid or insurance reimbursements; and that support was not used for other purposes, such as the retirement of company debt unrelated to eligible expenditures, or other expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund.

Yes No

Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation (8050)

54.313(n): Recipients of mobile support from Stage 2 of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund shall certify that they have conducted an annual review of the documentation required by section 54.1515(a)-(c) to determine the need for and to implement changes or revisions to disaster preparation and recovery documentation.

Yes No

Mobile Disbursements Certification (8060)

54.313(o): Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 mobile support shall certify that they are in compliance with all requirements for receipt of such support to continue receiving Stage 2 mobile disbursements.

Yes No

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Transitional Support (8070)

Recipients of transitional support under Section 54.1516 shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are or will be reimbursed by other sources of support, or expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund. Transitional support recipients shall certify that they have conducted an annual review to determine that their disaster preparation and recovery documentation is up to date, as required by Section 54.1515(a) through (c) or Section 54.1524. Answer yes or no if carrier is compliant with 54.313(q).

Yes No

Spending Plans for Recipients of Legacy Frozen Phase-Down Support (8080)

For annual reports due in 2024, 2025, and 2026, recipients of frozen high-cost support under Section 54.1504(b) shall certify that such support received after June 1, 2023 was used for resiliency and redundancy measures and to maintain their voice and broadband network footprint.

Yes No

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Connect USVI Fixed and Mobile Funds Certification (9005)

Certify Fixed

Capital Expenditures (9010)

Enter the total amount of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support, if any, the carrier used for capital expenditures.

\$x.xx

Available Funds Certification (9011)

Certify (either yes or no) regarding whether the recipient has available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for the next calendar year. This certification must be provided starting the first July 1 after receiving support until the recipient's penultimate year of support.

Yes No

Community Anchor Institutions (9012A)

Indicate if the carrier newly deployed broadband service to community anchor institution(s) in the previous calendar year.

Yes - Attach New Community Anchors No - No New Community Anchors

Please Provide Attachment (9012B)

Using link, download template and list the number, name and address for each community anchor institution. As required by 47 CFR Section 54.313(e)(2)(i)(A), attach the document which contains the community anchor institution details.

[Community Anchor Template](#) 

XLSM only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) & 3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

FCC Form 470 Postings (9013)

For the filing due July 1 following full implementation of this requirement answer yes, no, or not applicable to this certification request.

Yes No Not Applicable

Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification (9014)

Starting the first July 1 after meeting the final service milestone, certify (yes or no) that the Connect USVI Fund Stage 2-funded network that the Stage 2 recipient operated in the prior year meets the relevant performance requirements in Section 54.309.

Yes No Not Applicable

Support Reimbursement Certification (9020)

54.313(n): Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support, including of federal or local government aid or insurance reimbursements; and that support was not used for other purposes, such as the retirement of company debt unrelated to eligible expenditures, or other expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Connect USVI Fund.

Yes No

Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation (9030)

54.313(n): Recipients of fixed support from Stage 2 of the Connect USVI Fund shall certify that they have conducted an annual review of the documentation required by section 54.1515(a)-(c) to determine the need for and to implement changes or revisions to disaster preparation and recovery documentation.

Yes No

Certify Mobile

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Support Reimbursement (9040)

54.313(n): Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 mobile support shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support, including of federal or local government aid or insurance reimbursements; and that support was not used for other purposes, such as the retirement of company debt unrelated to eligible expenditures, or other expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Connect USVI Fund.

Yes No

Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation (9050)

54.313(n): Recipients of mobile support from Stage 2 of the Connect USVI Fund shall certify that they have conducted an annual review of the documentation required by Section 54.1515(a)-(c) to determine the need for and to implement changes or revisions to disaster preparation and recovery documentation.

Yes No

Mobile Disbursements Certification (9060)

54.313(o): Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 mobile support shall certify that they are in compliance with all requirements for receipt of such support to continue receiving Stage 2 mobile disbursements.

Yes No

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Transitional Support (9070)

Recipients of transitional support under Section 54.1516 shall certify that such support was not used for costs that are or will be reimbursed by other sources of support, or expenses not directly related to network restoration, hardening, and expansion consistent with the framework of the Connect USVI Fund. Transitional support recipients shall certify that they have conducted an annual review to determine that their disaster preparation and recovery documentation is up to date, as required by Section 54.1515(a) through (c) or Section 54.1524. Answer yes or no if carrier is compliant with 54.313(q).

Yes No

Spending Plans for Recipients of Legacy Frozen Phase-Down Support (9080)

For annual reports due in 2024, 2025, and 2026, recipients of frozen high-cost support under Section 54.1504(b) shall certify that such support received after June 1, 2023 was used for resiliency and redundancy measures and to maintain their voice and broadband network footprint.

Yes No

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Reporting (10005)

Certify RDOF

Capital Expenditures (10010)

Starting the first July 1 after receiving support until the July 1 after the recipient's support term has ended, recipients of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support must submit the total amount of support, if any, the recipient used for capital expenditures in the previous calendar year. This is required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(i)(B).

\$x.xx

Available Funds Certification (10011)

Please provide a response (either yes or no) to this certification request for any recipient of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support that the recipient has available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for the next calendar year. This certification must be provided starting the first July 1 after receiving support until the recipient's penultimate year of support, as required by required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(ii).

Yes No

Community Anchor Institutions (10012A)

Recipients of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support must attach a list containing the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the eligible telecommunications carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. This filing is required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(i)(A).

Yes - Attach New Community Anchors No - No New Community Anchors

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) & 3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Please Provide Attachment (10012B)

Using link, download template and list the number, name and address for each community anchor institution. As required by 47 CFR Section 54.313(e)(2)(i)(A), attach the document which contains the community anchor institution details.

[Community Anchor Template](#) 

XLSM only

FCC Form 470 Postings (10013)

For the filing due July 1st following full implementation of this requirement, please provide a response (either yes, no, or not applicable) to this certification request. Recipients of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund must respond affirmatively that they bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries (as described in Section 54.501) located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and that such bids were at rates reasonable comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for Instructions for Completing FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986 (High-Cost) OMB Control No. 3060-0819 (Low-Income) November 2020 Page 44 comparable offerings. This filing is required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(i)(C). This certification will not be required until the July 1st following the E-Rate program year that this obligation has been fully implemented. Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries et al., WC Docket. Nos. 13-184, 10-90, 29 FCC Rcd 15538, 15566-67, para. 72 (2014).

Yes No Not Applicable

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &
3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification (10014)

Starting the first July 1st after a Rural Digital Opportunity Fund recipient meets its final service milestone until the July 1st after the support recipient's support term has ended, please provide a response (either yes, no, or not applicable) that the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund-funded network that the support recipient operated in the prior year meets the relevant performance requirements in 47 C.F.R. Section 54.309. This filing is required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(e)(2)(iii).

Yes No Not Applicable

PEND OREILLE TEL.

FCC Form 481

State: WA

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) &

Sac: 522418

3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

498 ID: 143002595

Program Year: 2025

Certifications

Supply Chain Certifications

Section 54.9: Prohibition on the Use of Funds

I certify under penalty of perjury that no universal service support has been or will be used to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by any company designated by the Federal Communications Commission as posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain since the effective date of the designations.

If **No** is selected, a waiver is required for each SAC which is not certified.

Yes No

Upload Waiver Document

PDF only

Section 54.10: Prohibition on the Use of Certain Federal Subsidies

I certify that no federal subsidy made available through a program administered by the Commission that provides funds to be used for the capital expenditures necessary for the provision of advanced communications services has been or will be used to purchase, rent, lease, or otherwise obtain, any covered communications equipment or service, or maintain any covered communications equipment or service previously purchased, rented, leased, otherwise obtained, as required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.10.

If **No** is selected, a waiver is required for each SAC which is not certified.

Yes No

Upload Waiver Document

PDF only

PEND OREILLE TEL.

State: WA

Sac: 522418

498 ID: 143002595

OMB Control #: 3060-0986 (High Cost) & 3060-0819 (Low Income), December 2020

Program Year: 2025

Section 54.11: Requirements to Remove and Replace

Prior to answering, review section 54.11 of the Commission’s rules (47 CFR Section 54.11). Answer Yes if either (1) you comply with section 54.11(a), meaning you do not use covered communications equipment or services, or (2) section 54.11(d) applies to you, meaning you are not yet subject to section 54.11(a) because you are a Reimbursement Program recipient with an unexpired removal, replacement, and disposal term per section 1.50004(h) of the Commission’s rules (47 CFR Section 1.50004(h)). Answer No if you do not comply with section 54.11(a), meaning you do use covered communications equipment or services.

Yes No

Accuracy Certifications

Certify

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.

I understand that making willful false statements in any part of this report and/or in these certifications is punishable by fine or imprisonment pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Sections 416(c), 503(b)(1)(B), and 18 U.S.C. Section 1001.

Signature

Officer Name

Mark Martell

Title

Admin. Manager

I understand this is a digital signature, and is the same as if I signed my name with a pen.

LINE 610 - ABILITY TO FUNCTION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Pend Oreille Telephone Company (“the Company”) is able to function in emergency situations for both voice and broadband service. The Company has a reasonable amount of backup power to ensure functionality without an external power source. Backup power is provided to the Company’s central offices through a generator and batteries that provide eight hours of emergency power. In addition, the Company’s field electronics have eight to 12 hours of backup power via generators and batteries.

The Company is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. It has synchronous optical network (“SONET”) technology deployed in its core fiber optic network that is self-healing and will automatically reroute traffic should a fiber cut occur. The Company has proper staff in place to repair any fiber cuts in a timely manner. The Company also has sufficient spare cards for its fiber optic network to provide almost instantaneous replacement should there ever be a card failure in the core network. In addition, the Company has connectivity with neighboring telephone exchanges as well as the LATA tandem to provide diverse options to reroute traffic should an emergency arise.

The Company is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations and has sufficient switching capabilities to handle such situations. In addition, it has developed and trained its staff on network preparedness plans in case of emergency situations.

LINE 920 – TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT OBLIGATION

Pend Oreille Telephone Company (“the Company”) provides service on the Tribal lands of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. In 2023, the Company sent two letters to the Chairman of the Kalispel Tribe’s Business Council, the first on May 11, 2023, and the second on August 31, 2023. The letters expressed interest in scheduling a meeting to discuss the issues set forth in Sec. 54.313(a)(5) of the FCC’s rules. Both letters are attached.

By the end of 2023, the Company had not received a response from the Kalispel Tribal government. The Company will continue its outreach to the Kalispel Tribe and is prepared to discuss with them the issues delineated in Sec. 54.313(a)(5) of the FCC’s rules or any other concerns the Tribe may have regarding the Company’s services.



PEND OREILLE TELECOM

892 W. Madison Ave., Glenns Ferry, ID 83623

mailed
May 11, 2023
w/ FCC ATTACH 2017

208.366.2840 (P)

208.366.2615 (F)

May 11, 2023

www.potc.net

Kalispel Tribal Headquarters
Business Council
Glen Nenema, Chairman
P.O. Box 39
Usk, WA 99180

RE: Annual Tribal Government Engagement

Dear Chairman Nenema:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Public Notice on July 19, 2012 by the Office of Native Affairs and Policy; which provides guidance on Tribal obligation. The FCC adopted a Tribal government engagement requirement for all eligible telecommunications carriers that are currently serving or are seeking to serve tribal lands. The Tribal government engagement requirement is intended to benefit Tribal government leaders, communication service providers and consumers living on Tribal lands, ultimately providing greater connectivity, economic opportunities, education, health care and public safety.

Enclosed for your convenience, reference and review is a copy of the Public Notice released July 19, 2012, by the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy, which provides further guidance on the Tribal government engagement obligations.

At your earliest convenience, I would sincerely appreciate hearing from you so we may coordinate and schedule a meeting to discuss: Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions; Feasibility and sustainability planning; how best we may implement Marketing services to the Kalispel Tribe; Rights of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review processes; and Compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements. We realize these are important issues and vital to the successful deployment and provision of communication services on Tribal lands.

Sincerely,

Susan Case
HR Manager

Enclosure

mailed 8-31-2023 ✓
w/ attachment



PEND OREILLE TELECOM

892 W. Madison Ave., Glenns Ferry, ID 83623

208.366.2840 (P)

208.366.2615 (F)

August 31, 2023

www.potc.net

Kalispel Tribal Headquarters
Business Council
Glen Nenema, Chairman
P.O. Box 39
Usk, WA 99180

RE: Annual Tribal Government Engagement

Dear Chairman Nenema:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Public Notice on July 19, 2012 by the Office of Native Affairs and Policy; which provides guidance on Tribal obligation. The FCC adopted a Tribal government engagement requirement for all eligible telecommunications carriers that are currently serving or are seeking to serve tribal lands. The Tribal government engagement requirement is intended to benefit Tribal government leaders, communication service providers and consumers living on Tribal lands, ultimately providing greater connectivity, economic opportunities, education, health care and public safety.

Enclosed for your convenience, reference and review is a copy of the Public Notice released July 19, 2012, by the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy, which provides further guidance on the Tribal government engagement obligations.

At your earliest convenience, I would sincerely appreciate hearing from you so we may coordinate and schedule a meeting to discuss: Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions; Feasibility and sustainability planning; how best we may implement Marketing services to the Kalispel Tribe; Rights of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review processes; and Compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements. We realize these are important issues and vital to the successful deployment and provision of communication services on Tribal lands.

Sincerely,

Susan Case
HR Manager

Enclosure



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 12-1165

Released: July 19, 2012

**OFFICE OF NATIVE AFFAIRS AND POLICY,
WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU, AND
WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ISSUE FURTHER GUIDANCE ON
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT OBLIGATION PROVISIONS OF THE
CONNECT AMERICA FUND**

WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109
CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45
WT Docket No. 10-208
GN Docket No. 09-51

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1. By this Public Notice, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP), in coordination with the Wireless Telecommunications and Wireline Competition Bureaus (the Bureaus), provides further guidance on the Tribal engagement obligation adopted in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*.¹ This document is intended to facilitate the required discussions between Tribal government officials and communications providers either currently providing or seeking to provide service on Tribal lands with the use of Universal Service Fund (USF) support.²

2. The broad goal of the guidance provided today, and future efforts to establish best practices, is to ensure the effective exchange of information that will lead to a common understanding between Tribal governments and communications providers receiving USF support, on the deployment and improvement of communications services on Tribal lands. The Tribal engagement obligation is intended to benefit Tribal government leaders, service providers, and consumers living on Tribal lands, ultimately providing greater connectivity to 21st century economic opportunities, education, health care, and public safety. This obligation is related to the very essence of universal service – facilitating and supporting connectivity to and from the most remote areas of our nation inures to the benefit of all. Requiring Tribal engagement is intended to begin and, in some cases, to strengthen, the dialogue between communications providers and Tribal governments. We anticipate that genuine dialogue and common understandings will ultimately lead to improvement of communications services on Tribal lands.

¹ See *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC 17663 at 17868-69, para. 637 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order*); *pets. for review pending sub nom. In re: FCC 11-161*, No. 11-9900 (10th Cir. filed Dec. 18, 2011).

² See *id.* In the context of the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, "Tribal lands" is defined as "any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlements [sic] Act (85 Stat. 688), and Indian Allotments, see 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(e), as well as Hawaiian Home Lands—areas held in trust for native Hawaiians by the state of Hawaii, pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, Act July 9, 1921, 42 Stat. 108, *et seq.*, as amended." *Id.* at para. 125, n.197.

3. Good guidance, by definition, must include assistance on how to undertake an endeavor with an aim towards success. Any attempt at actual and meaningful dialogue must be predicated on the genuineness of the intent on both sides. This engagement cannot be viewed as simply another “check the box” requirement by either party. In many places, we expect that there are good and productive relationships between communications providers and Tribal Nations. To the extent that there might be existing differences, however, the parties should put aside those differences for the purposes of this engagement. This engagement process should not be approached as an adversarial undertaking. Instead, Tribal governments and carriers should take advantage of the engagement to improve communications and foster a greater common understanding of the factors necessary to deploy and sustain services on Tribal lands, as well as an honest dialogue to learn from one another what factors would lead to success in those endeavors. In all cases, a high degree of receptivity and responsiveness is necessary to achieve meaningful dialogue, as well as confidence in the reliability of information exchanged. Candid and sincere dialogue on both sides will minimize the possibility that unreasonable expectations by either party will derail common understandings and genuine solutions.

4. Creating a substantive, meaningful dialogue is an iterative process, one which, in certain regions, is at its earliest stages of development. In a similar sense, the further guidance contained in this Public Notice represents the first step in the Commission’s implementation of the Tribal engagement obligation. We recognize that priorities and plans of individual Tribal governments and individual service providers can vary greatly, as do the existing relationships between Tribal governments and carriers currently serving Tribal lands. Therefore, there is no one size fits all guidance that can be provided that will be universally applicable. As a result, the guidance provided herein is somewhat general in nature at this stage, but we anticipate that our guidance, as well as the development of best practices, will evolve over time based on initial implementation experiences and the feedback of both Tribal governments and communications providers.

5. ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, will track and monitor this feedback and will develop further guidance in the form of best practices based on actual experiences.³ In an effort to further facilitate engagement efforts at this initial stage, ONAP will employ training and industry meeting opportunities, as well as its coordination events with Tribal Nations. These efforts will include, for example, working with national and regional communications industry associations and national and regional inter-Tribal government associations and organizations.⁴ ONAP will focus particular efforts -- for example, by identifying commonalities, increasing efficiencies, building upon current working relationships, and engaging all regional stakeholders, as appropriate -- to foster engagement in states and regions in which Tribes and providers are particularly remote and in which Tribes are particularly numerous.⁵ ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, will continue to serve as a resource for Tribal governments and communications providers and is always available for individually tailored assistance.

³ See *id.* at para. 637, n.1054 (directing ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, to develop best practices).

⁴ See Letter from the Hon. Mark Begich, United States Senator, State of Alaska; the Hon. Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator, State of Alaska; and the Hon. Don Young, United States Congressman, State of Alaska, to the Hon. Julius Genachowski, Chairman, FCC, dated Feb. 22, 2012 (“[W]e request that you work with the tribal groups, carriers and the State of Alaska to clarify the tribal consultation requirements included in the reform order”). See also Letter of Becky Hultberg, Commissioner, Department of Administration, State of Alaska, to the Hon. Julius Genachowski, Chairman, FCC, dated February 17, 2012.

⁵ For example, there are 229 federally recognized Tribes in Alaska, 108 in California, 38 in Oklahoma, 23 in New Mexico, and 21 in Arizona. See Federal Register Notice – Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, 75 Fed. Reg. 60,810 (Oct. 1, 2010). See also Supplemental Federal Register Notice – Indian Entities 1 Page Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United State Bureau of Indian Affairs, 75 Fed. Reg. 66,124 (Oct. 27, 2010).

II. BACKGROUND

6. In the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, the Commission adopted a Tribal engagement requirement for all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) either currently serving or seeking to serve Tribal lands.⁶ The Commission agreed with commenters that engagement between Tribal governments and communications providers is vitally important to the successful deployment of and provision of service on Tribal lands.⁷

7. The Commission therefore required, at a minimum, that ETCs demonstrate on an annual basis that they have meaningfully engaged with Tribal governments in their universal service supported areas.⁸ At a minimum, the *USF/ICC Order* stated that such discussions must include: (1) a needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions; (2) feasibility and sustainability planning; (3) marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner; (4) rights of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review processes; and (5) compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements.⁹ Failure to satisfy the Tribal engagement obligation will subject ETCs to financial consequences, including potential reduction in universal service support should they fail to fulfill their engagement obligations.¹⁰

8. In requiring Tribal engagement, the Commission did not intend to supplant its own ongoing obligation to consult with Tribes on a government-to-government basis, but instead recognized the important role that all parties play in expediting communications service to Tribal lands throughout the nation, including in Alaska and Hawaii.¹¹ ETCs will be required to submit to the Commission and appropriate Tribal government officials an annual certification and summary of their compliance with the Tribal government engagement obligation as part of the new Connect America Fund reporting requirements.¹² The Commission defined appropriate Tribal government officials as elected or duly authorized government officials of federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.¹³ For Hawaiian Home Lands, this engagement must occur with the State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.¹⁴ The Commission delegated to ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, the authority to develop specific procedures regarding the Tribal

⁶ See *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17868-69, para. 637.

⁷ *Id.* Mobility Fund and Tribal Mobility Fund Phase I winning bidders will be required to comply with this Tribal engagement obligation at the long-form application stage, in annual reports, and prior to any disbursement of support. *Id.* at para. 489. We note, however, that any such engagement must be done consistent with our auction rules prohibiting certain communications during the competitive bidding process. *Id.* at para. 810. In the *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, the Commission proposed to apply the same Tribal engagement obligation to Phase II of the general and Tribal Mobility Funds and sought comment on that proposal. *Id.* at para. 1166.

⁸ *Id.* at para. 637. See also 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(9), 54.1004(d), 54.1009.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ See *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17868-69, para. 637.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* See also *id.* at para. 575 (“Under this uniform framework, ETCs will provide annual reports and certifications regarding specific aspects of their compliance with public interest obligations to the Commission, USAC [the Universal Service Administrative Company], and the relevant state commission, relevant authority in a U.S. Territory, or Tribal government, as appropriate by April 1 of each year.”) See generally *id.* at paras. 576-606 (articulating specific reporting requirements). See also *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 2142 at 2144-47, paras. 4-14 (2012) (*USF/ICC Clarification Order*) (revising and clarifying certain reporting obligations for recipients of Connect America Fund support).

¹³ *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17869, para. 637, n.1053.

¹⁴ *Id.*

engagement process, as necessary.¹⁵ The Commission also directed ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, to develop best practices regarding the Tribal engagement process to help facilitate these discussions.¹⁶

III. FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT OBLIGATION

A. Overview/General Guidance

9. As stated above, the purpose of this guidance is to ensure the effective exchange of information between Tribal governments and communications providers concerning the deployment and improvement of communications services on Tribal lands throughout the nation, including in Alaska and Hawaii. This exchange of information should foster new opportunities for genuine dialogue that could achieve an alignment of interests and goals. Between certain carriers and Tribal governments, this will be an opportunity for introduction and dialogue in the first instance. In other parts of the country, this will be an opportunity for a new depth of dialogue and more meaningful interaction. An important goal of this guidance is the achievement of a level of engagement between principals on both sides that represents collaborative discussions and actual live conversation.¹⁷ We encourage stakeholders to go beyond merely perfunctory exchanges of basic documents, simplistic sales or marketing presentations, or one-dimensional lists of demands.

10. It is imperative that this dialogue be undertaken at a level within communications providers and Tribal governments that is commensurate with this important engagement requirement. The discourse should be between decision-makers on both sides. While it may be necessary to include administrative staff on both sides to administer and maintain the continuity of relations, this engagement cannot be merely between sales and marketing individuals on one side and administrative staff or advisors on the other. The perspectives on needs, expectations, priorities, and abilities that would formulate meaningful exchange often can come only from those with the requisite authority to make decisions.

11. On the Tribal government side, there are certain actions that should be taken to best prepare for this valuable engagement. It is important for Tribal leaders to recognize and act upon this opportunity to become organized, maintain continuity, and provide for certainty in conveying their communications needs and priorities. The Commission has long recognized the right of sovereign Tribal governments “to set their own communications priorities and goals for the welfare of their membership.”¹⁸ This is a critical time for Tribal Nations to update and make comprehensive their communications priorities and goals. Tribal governments should consider all community needs that would be supported by communications services. These might include, but are not limited to, anchor institutions, economic development, education, healthcare, and public safety. Each Tribal Nation has unique elements to its communications needs and priorities, but effectively articulating those needs is a critical first step in addressing them.

12. As Tribal government administrations change and develop, this is an important opportunity to demonstrate, both to communications providers and to the Commission, their continuity in communications priorities and goals. Certain Tribal governments have created their own governmental

¹⁵ *Id.* Although our focus here is on providing guidance, the Commission thus will consider the need for further guidance, or to clarify the existing rules regarding Tribal engagement or pursue new rules with specific procedures, if warranted in the future based on actual experiences and outcomes resulting from this guidance.

¹⁶ *Id.* at n.1054.

¹⁷ For example, engagement may occur when necessary by phone or video conference where extreme weather conditions and/or extreme remoteness are present.

¹⁸ Statement of Policy on Establishing a Government-to-Government Relationship with Indian Tribes, 16 FCC Rcd 4078, 4080-81 (2000) (*Tribal Policy Statement*).

offices and commissions to interact with the FCC and communications providers. Others have designated key members of their Tribal Councils to lead their communications prerogatives for their governments, in effect creating communications committees on their Councils. Other Tribes have yet to organize their governmental or administrative systems with respect to communications services. This engagement obligation necessitates a level of organization within the Tribal government that can convey both a high degree of certainty in the communications priorities of the Tribal Nation and maintain the continuity of those priorities to the greatest extent possible in a governmental environment that, by definition, changes over time. Updating Tribal communications priorities and goals, and ensuring the establishment of effective organizational structures concerning communications issues, are important first steps. However, ETCs must begin the Tribal engagement process this year to be able to report on meaningful engagement by July 1, 2013.¹⁹ Therefore, Tribal governments may need to take interim measures in the short term as they consider establishing new or modified communications goals and priorities.

13. Tribal Nations also should immediately begin preparations to receive, record, and process this engagement dialogue and any related correspondence. Specific efforts should be made to chronicle details of engagement dialogue sessions. Recordkeeping should be established for documentation of the initial contact, any follow-up communications, and the resulting annual certification documentation. Records should include, for example, a summary of all verbal interactions as well as copies of all electronic and hard copy communications.²⁰

14. Similarly, communications providers should take immediate steps to prepare for and initiate engagement with the Tribal governments whose lands they serve. Certifications articulating the steps taken to comply with the annual Tribal engagement obligation in 2012 are due on July 1, 2013 and each year thereafter.²¹ That is, the Tribal engagement obligation must be fulfilled by the end of each calendar year. Communications providers should, for example, take immediate steps to establish a lead and/or a team within their companies and to identify the appropriate Tribal government leaders with whom they will initiate the engagement process. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)²² maintains a routinely updated and comprehensive directory of American Indian Tribal and Alaska Native Village government leaders, addresses, and telephone numbers. The NCAI Tribal directory can be sorted by geographical area and can be found at <http://www.ncai.org/tribal-directory>.²³ Where needed, ONAP also will serve as a resource for communications providers and Tribal governments.

15. In addition, communications providers should retain copies of all communications with Tribal leaders they would need in order to demonstrate compliance with their annual certification requirement. In the event that a Tribal government does not respond to repeated efforts to engage, the provider should document all attempts at engagement and certify to that effect. As with the entire engagement process, reasonableness should prevail. As a general matter, we expect that a provider would not be penalized for a failure to respond on the part of a Tribal Nation, if the provider can demonstrate repeated good faith efforts to meaningfully engage with the Tribal government.

¹⁹ See *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Third Order on Reconsideration, FCC 12-52 at para. 10 (rel. May 14, 2012) (*Third Reconsideration Order*) (changing the filing deadline from April 1 to July 1).

²⁰ For example, all ETCs receiving high-cost are now subject to a 10-year document retention requirement. See *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17864, para. 620. See also *Third Reconsideration Order*, FCC 12-52 at para. 14.

²¹ See *Third Reconsideration Order*, FCC 12-52 at para. 10. See also 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.1009..

²² NCAI is the nation's oldest, largest, and most representative inter-Tribal government and communities organization, representing American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

²³ For a listing of all federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, see www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xofa/documents/document/idc012038.pdf. ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, will endeavor to provide additional resources to Tribal governments and carriers to help facilitate this engagement, including the possibility of using the Commission's website as a repository of information.

B. Needs Assessment and Deployment Planning

16. Tribal governments play a vital role in identifying and serving the needs and interests of their local communities, often in remote, insular, cyclically impoverished communities with a historic lack of critical infrastructure. Tribal government leaders are intimately acquainted with their members' needs and have valuable insight into how to meet them. "Tribal-centric" business models – those that actively engage the Tribe, its core community institutions, and members in deployment and adoption planning – have a greater chance of establishing sustainable services on Tribal lands.²⁴ Communications providers also have experience and a valuable perspective on the challenges, economics, and other realities of providing service to remote, low-income, and underserved regions of the country, including certain Tribal lands.

17. The Tribal engagement obligation provides Tribal governments and communications providers alike with a new opportunity – the opportunity to have a genuine conversation about communications needs and deployment planning on Tribal lands. When telephone service was originally deployed, there was no such obligation and, as a result, in many instances, Tribal needs and carrier deployment efforts were not aligned. The Tribal engagement obligation affords both Tribal governments and communications providers the opportunity to move forward with a shared vision. This will only occur, however, if Tribal governments and communications providers alike take advantage of this historic opportunity to improve the communications landscape on Tribal lands.

18. To that end, Tribal governments should come to the table with a serious, well-thought out assessment of the Tribes' communications needs. Issues that Tribal governments should consider include, for example, the Tribe's communications goals, needs, and priorities, as well as what the Tribe intends to do with communications services (e.g., provide connectivity to those living on Tribal lands, encourage economic opportunity). Tribal governments should also assess what core community or anchor institutions are central to deployment, and what in the nature and operations of these institutions is relevant to the need for communications services. In addition, Tribal governments should consider whether there are economic factors and possibly Tribally-driven opportunities that will assist in making the business case for deployment on Tribal lands, as well as opportunities where Tribal governments and communications providers can partner. In analyzing and discussing communications goals, needs, and priorities, Tribal governments should note that recipients of Connect America Fund (CAF) support, including the Mobility Fund, are subject to public interest obligations, as established in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*.²⁵

19. Similarly, communications providers should come to the table ready to articulate their deployment priorities, the process by which they arrived at these priorities, and their initial plans for deployment on Tribal lands. Issues that communications providers should be prepared to discuss include, for example, the services they currently deploy, and what services they intend to deploy, on Tribal lands. Providers should also be prepared to discuss their timelines for the provision of services not currently available on Tribal lands, as well as their priorities in terms of service and the factors that led them to prioritize deployment to particular areas. Communications providers should also identify any opportunities they envision to partner with Tribal governments.

C. Feasibility and Sustainability Planning

20. Feasibility and sustainability planning for communications services on Tribal lands presents issues of concern for both Tribal governments and communications providers. Tribal governments generally want services rapidly deployed for their members to support the economic, educational, public safety, and health care opportunities that communications services afford. Communications providers

²⁴ See *Improving Communications Services for Native Nations*, CG Docket No. 11-41, Notice of Inquiry, 26 FCC Rcd 2672, 2679-80, para. 12 (2011) (*Native Nations NOI*).

²⁵ See *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17691-17709, paras. 74-114.

generally want business models that will be practical in terms of build out, and viable in terms of revenue flow and quality of service. While some commonalities likely exist, we believe there are many differences from one provider to another and from one Tribal government to another. The Tribal engagement obligation affords both parties the opportunity to share specific perspectives and information and to begin charting a path forward to address feasibility and sustainability in coordination with one another.

21. Tribal lands nationwide face some of the greatest challenges to the feasibility and sustainability of a 21st century communications infrastructure, including rugged and remote terrain and often endemic levels of poverty. Therefore, communications build out plans based purely on population density or proximity to other robust networks can face major cost benefit analysis challenges. Tribal government leaders, who are largely responsible for managing a wide array of government services and economic opportunities for their communities, are uniquely situated to advise communications providers of the specific challenges associated with deploying and sustaining a communications network on their lands. The Tribal engagement obligation will facilitate discussion between Tribal government leaders and communications providers, affording providers an important opportunity to draw upon the knowledge gained to inform and coordinate their feasibility and sustainability planning.

22. Tribal Nations should be prepared to discuss any additional resources they may bring to bear in feasibility and sustainability planning for communications services, because many federal grant or loan programs provide direct access to, or particular standing for, Tribal Nations and their entities. That is, there are federal government programs that support infrastructure deployment and support the economic, health, safety, and welfare missions in Native communities—the very same priorities for the deployment of robust communications networks on Tribal lands. For example, Tribes may be considering business ventures that would benefit from coordination on communications planning at the outset. Together, providers and Tribal Nations have the opportunity to discuss how to coordinate in planning, providing, and meeting the expenses for communications services on Tribal lands.

23. When addressing the issues of sustainability on Tribal lands, one must also calibrate expectations and develop an awareness of the unique nature of Tribal communities. Issues such as cyclical poverty, remoteness, and deployment priorities all inform the potential sustainability and ultimate profitability of a particular communications model on Tribal lands. That is, it can take a longer period of time to develop a sustainable enterprise on many Tribal lands. Increased coordination between Tribal governments and communications providers on specific elements of feasibility will heighten the chances of ultimate sustainability for communications business models on Tribal lands.

D. Marketing Services in a Culturally Sensitive Manner

24. As noted above, for the purposes of the USF/ICC proceeding and, therefore, the Tribal engagement obligation, Tribal lands are comprised of the lands of the approximately 566 federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, as well as Hawaiian Home Lands.²⁶ Tribal lands represent a rich and diverse array of cultural heritage, history, practices, and pride. Outside the context of Tribally owned and operated providers, however, seldom have these cultural factors been fully considered in the marketing and deployment of communications services on Tribal lands. The Tribal engagement obligation provides Tribal governments and communications providers with the opportunity to discuss and explore ways in which they can coordinate or partner to ensure that services are marketed in a manner that will relate directly to the community, resonate with consumers, and stimulate increased adoption of services on Tribal lands.

25. Issues that Tribal governments and communications providers may wish to discuss include the tailoring of service offerings to the community through, for example, the feasibility of a local presence in the community. For example, locating a retail presence within a Tribal community and employing

²⁶ See *supra* n.2.

members of that community may increase awareness of and sensitivity to local cultural and communications needs. Providers and Tribal governments also may wish to discuss whether developing materials, separately or jointly, specific to the Tribal community would be beneficial to either the provider or consumers on Tribal lands. In addition, providers and Tribal governments also may wish to discuss what other elements of their respective organizations may need to be engaged. For Tribal governments, this may mean administrative planning, community service, and other governmental offices. For providers, this may mean customer service, technical assistance, and commercial business divisions. Through a heightened mutual understanding of one another's needs, we anticipate that Tribal governments and communications providers may discover opportunities for working together that will yield benefits to all. Studies indicate that these efforts present genuine opportunities for success, because where Native Nations and their community members have access to broadband, their rates of Internet use are on par with, if not higher than, national averages.²⁷

E. Rights of Way and Other Permitting and Review Processes

26. There are numerous regulatory processes with which service providers must comply in order to provide communications services on Tribal lands, including rights of way, land use permitting, facilities siting, and environmental and cultural review processes.²⁸ Certain of these processes involve other federal agencies, such as the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and failure to comply with these processes may result in a finding of trespass. Given the widely varying circumstances on different Tribal lands, a one size fits all approach is not appropriate here. Instead, in the context of the Tribal engagement obligation, the common goal for Tribal governments and communications providers should be one of greater mutual understanding about the relevant rights of way and other permitting and review processes on Tribal lands and a plan for informing communications providers of procedures in a helpful and instructive manner, designed to bring companies into compliance, where applicable.

27. To that end, Tribal governments and communications providers should come to the table prepared to discuss the relevant rights of way and other permitting and review processes, as well as the challenges associated with these processes. For example, with respect to the BIA's appraisal process for rights of way, dialogue that prioritizes early notification might expedite Tribal governments' consultations with BIA and consent.²⁹ Tribal governments should have a comprehensive list of all processes with which communications providers serving their Tribal lands are required to comply, such as rights of way, land use permitting, facilities siting, and environmental and cultural review processes. Communications providers should have documentation of any and all processes with which they currently comply. All of this information will provide the foundation for a substantive discussion of all requirements and steps for moving forward together.

F. Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing Requirements

28. As sovereign institutions, Tribal governments have the authority to impose Tribal business and licensing requirements on all entities doing business on their lands. While the type and form of requirements may vary greatly from one Tribal land to another, Tribal business and licensing requirements include business practice licenses that Tribal and non-Tribal business entities, whether located on or off Tribal lands, must obtain upon application to the relevant Tribal government office or division to conduct any business or trade, or deliver any goods or services, to the Tribe, Tribal members, or Tribal lands. The form of these licenses vary greatly, including certificates of public convenience and necessity, Tribal business licenses, master licenses, and other related forms of Tribal government

²⁷ See Traci L. Morris Ph.D., Native Public Media and Sascha D. Meinrath, New America Foundation, *NEW MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY AND INDIAN USE IN INDIAN COUNTRY: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSES* (Nov. 19, 2009) (*NPM/NAF New Media Study*).

²⁸ See *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17868-69, para. 637.

²⁹ See generally 25 C.F.R. Part 169 – Rights-of-Way Over Indian Lands.

licensure.³⁰

29. As part of the Tribal engagement obligation, Tribal governments and communications providers should come to the table prepared to discuss in detail the relevant Tribal business and licensing requirements. Tribal governments should have a comprehensive list of any such requirements applicable to the provision of communications services. They should be prepared to provide an explanation of precisely what all such requirements entail, including specific application procedures and timeframes, as well as the governmental offices involved in the licensing process. Communications providers should be prepared to provide evidence of compliance with any Tribal business practice licenses with which they currently comply for that Tribe. Consistent with the discussion above regarding rights of way and other permitting and review processes, the common goal here should be one of greater mutual understanding about the relevant Tribal business licensing requirements and a plan for bringing companies into compliance, where applicable.

IV. CONCLUSION

30. In conclusion, the Tribal engagement obligation represents an opportunity for Tribal governments and communications providers to coordinate on many issues critical to the deployment and adoption of communications technologies on Tribal lands. As discussed in the introduction, this guidance represents the first step in an iterative process. That is, this guidance will evolve over time based on initial experiences and feedback from Tribal governments and communications providers. In an effort to identify commonalities, increase efficiencies, and build upon current working relationships, ONAP will engage all regional stakeholders, as appropriate, and will respond to needs articulated by communications providers and Tribal governments.

V. CONTACTS

31. For further information concerning this guidance, contact the offices listed below:

Office of Native Affairs and Policy

Geoffrey Blackwell at (202) 418-3629

Irene Flannery at (202) 418-1307

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Sue McNeil at (202) 418-7619

Wireline Competition Bureau

Joseph Cavender at (202) 418-1548

- FCC -

³⁰ See *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17868-69, para. 637, n.1052.

LINE 1010 – VOICE SERVICES RATE COMPARABILITY

The Wireline Competition Bureau’s 2023 reasonable comparability benchmark for fixed residential local voice services was \$59.62.¹

As of January 1, 2023, the highest rate charged by Pend Oreille Telephone Company (“the Company”) for fixed residential local voice service was \$15.75. When state regulated fees (\$2.25) and the federal subscriber line charge (\$6.50) are included, the total rate was \$24.50. Therefore, the Company’s pricing of fixed residential local voice services was less than the reasonable comparability benchmark of \$59.62.

¹ *Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics Announce Results of 2023 Urban Rate Survey for Fixed Voice and Broadband Services, Posting of Survey Data and Explanatory Notes, and Required Minimum Usage Allowance for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice, DA 22-1338 (rel. Dec. 16, 2022).

LINE 1030 – BROADBAND SERVICES RATE COMPARABILITY

As of January 1, 2023, Pend Oreille Telephone Company was charging a rate of \$89.95 for fixed residential broadband service providing 100 Mbps download, 20 Mbps upload, and an unlimited usage allowance. This rate is lower than \$105.03, which was the 2023 reasonable comparability benchmark for the same offering established by the Wireline Competition Bureau.¹

¹ See, FCC Office of Economics and Analytics, Urban Rate Survey Data & Resources, Calculating the 2023 Broadband Reasonable Comparability Benchmark, United States 2023 Broadband Benchmark Calculator, <https://www.fcc.gov/economics-analytics/industry-analysis-division/urban-rate-survey-data-resources>.

LINE 1210 – TERMS & CONDITIONS OF VOICE TELEPHONY LIFELINE PLANS

Residential customers of Pend Oreille Telephone Company (“the Company”) residing on non-Tribal lands who qualify for the Lifeline program receive a discount of \$6.50 on local voice telephony service. Residential customers of the Company residing on Tribal lands who qualify for the Lifeline program receive a discount of \$24.50 on local voice telephony service (\$5.25 federal discount + additional \$19.25 federal Tribal discount).

In all of the Company’s exchanges, the Lifeline single-line residential rate for non-Tribal customers, including a mandatory extended area service (“EAS”) charge and the federal subscriber line charge (“SLC”), is \$18. This is the \$24.50 standard rate minus the \$6.50 federal SLC (*which is not fully covered by the \$5.25 federal Lifeline discount for voice-only service*).

The Lifeline single-line residential rate for customers residing on Tribal lands, including a mandatory EAS charge and the federal SLC, is \$0 (\$24.50 standard rate - \$24.50 discount).

All single-line residential customers, including Lifeline customers, have an unlimited number of minutes for calls made within their local calling area.

Toll charges for calls outside of the local calling area are determined by the long distance carrier of the customer’s choosing. Lifeline customers may elect to subscribe to toll blocking at no charge.

Lifeline program reductions do not apply to additional services such as custom calling features. Lifeline customers may subscribe to these services, where available, at the same rates offered to other customers.

Lifeline customers may also purchase any generally available bundled service offering that includes local voice telephony service.

LINE 3010 – CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST OBLIGATIONS

Pend Oreille Telephone Company (“the Company”) is a rate-of-return ETC that receives Connect America Fund Alternative Connect America Cost Model (CAF-ACAM) support. The Company hereby certifies that it is meeting the relevant reasonable request standard for this support.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Line 3017 – RUS Annual Report