

REPORT OF WESTERN WAHKIAKUM COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY UNDER THE
 WASHINGTON UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES PROGRAM
 IN COMPLIANCE WITH WAC 480-123-130
 (as in effect on December 31, 2023)

July 1, 2024

Docket No. UT-230607

File electronically

1. WAC 480-123-130(1)(a) - Access Lines Served [NECA 1.3 working loops]

	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2023
Residential	<u>654</u>	<u>621</u>
Business	<u>167</u>	<u>109</u>
TOTAL	<u>821</u>	<u>730</u>

BROADBAND

W/Phone	<u>632</u>	<u>623</u>
CBOL	<u>278</u>	<u>331</u>
TOTAL	<u>910</u>	<u>954</u>

2. WAC 480-123-130(1)(b) - Use of Support

The funds received by Western Wahkiakum County Telephone Company (the “Company”) from the universal communications services program (the “Program”) in calendar year 2023 contributed to investment by the Company in telecommunications and broadband facilities and defrayal of the ongoing operation and maintenance expenses of the Company. The funds from the Program are contributing to the Company's ongoing provision of high-quality basic telecommunications and broadband service to customers residing in the area the Company serves.

In December 2023, the Company received \$220,890.00 from the Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

The Company's activities during the second six months of 2023 included the following:

1. Construction of fiber optic facilities in the Grays River and Naselle Exchanges, testing of those facilities, installation of central office equipment (optical network terminals (ONTs)) and cutover of service to fiber optic facilities. The total cost of these activities, including both material and labor was approximately \$141,259.66.
2. Purchase and deployment of Calix essential support and Operations Cloud monitoring software for Calix electronic equipment (routing and transmission equipment, optical network terminals (ONT's) and equipment housings) to improve/maintain quality and reliability of the Company's network. This support serves both the Grays River and Naselle Exchanges and provides benefits to an estimated population in the Company's service area of 2,393. The cost of this support was \$30,799.50.
3. Purchase and deployment of Fujitsu essential support for Fujitsu electronic equipment to improve/maintain quality and reliability of the Company's network. This support will serve both the Grays River and Naselle Exchanges and provide benefits to an estimated population in the Company's service area of 2,393. Payment to Fujitsu for this support was \$17,540.10.
4. Purchase of software and consulting services from Calix to comply with FCC Broadband Testing requirements. The total cost of these items was \$17,511.90.
5. Repayment of principal, and payment of interest, with respect to RUS loans for construction of fiber to the home and related network and switching improvements. The RUS financing to which these payments pertain supports service to both the Grays River and Naselle Exchanges and provides benefits to an estimated population in the Company's service area of 2,393 by facilitating the investment in such construction and switching improvements. The total of these payments during this period was \$135,536.90.

The Company's activities during the first six months of 2024 have included the following:

1. Construction of fiber optic facilities in the Grays River and Naselle Exchanges, testing of those facilities, installation of central office equipment (optical network terminals (ONTs)) and cutover of service to fiber optic facilities. The total cost (fiber, ONT, installation, *etc.*) for these is estimated to be approximately \$6,427.43.
2. Purchase and deployment of Calix Essential Support and Operations Cloud monitoring software for Calix electronic equipment (optical network terminals (ONT's)) to improve/maintain quality and reliability of the Company's network. This support serves both the Grays River and Naselle Exchanges and provides

benefits to an estimated population in the Company's service area of 2,393. The cost of this support was \$21,173.53.

3. Purchase and deployment of Ribbon/Genband essential support for C-15 central office soft switch and APMAX equipment to improve/maintain quality and reliability of the Company's network. This support serves both the Grays River and Naselle Exchanges and provides benefits to an estimated population in the Company's service area of 2,393. The cost of this support was \$27,409.06.
4. Replacement of standby batteries at the Central Office to comply with requirements to maintain service during emergencies and loss of commercial power. This generator serves the Grays River central office, enhancing reliability of the Company's network. The cost of repairs and maintenance was a total of \$36,814.79.
5. Repayment of principal, and payment of interest, with respect to Rural Utilities Service ("RUS") loans for construction of fiber-to-the-home and related network and switching improvements. The RUS financing to which these payments pertain supports service to both the Grays River and the Naselle Exchanges and provides benefits to an estimated population in the Company's service area of 2,393 by facilitating the investment in such construction and switching improvements. Payment to RUS made in this time period totals \$126,485.42.

The funds received from the universal communications services program can be viewed as contributing to the Company's ability to perform those activities including, without limitation and to the extent applicable, the repayment of loan funds.

6. WAC 480-123-130 (1)(c) - Broadband Buildout Obligations

The Company falls into criterion four of WAC 480-123-110(1)(h) and, accordingly, has constructed broadband infrastructure throughout its service territory. This means that the Company is using universal communications services program ("Program") support to allow it to continue to provide telecommunications services and broadband services at the levels that it was providing at the time that it submitted its petition for support from the Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, with enhancements thereto where and when appropriate.

7. WAC 480-123-130(1)(d) - Unfilled Consumer Requests for New Basic Telecommunications Service*

None

* Service requests that are ongoing but still within normal processing times are not counted as unfulfilled.

8. WAC 480-123-130(1)(g) - Broadband availability

The Company has constructed fiber optic broadband infrastructure throughout its service territory. This allows the Company¹ to offer broadband speeds substantially in excess of 150 Mbps/150 Mbps, which exceeds the current FCC broadband speed standard.

Western Wahkiakum filed its Digital Opportunity Data Collection (or BDC) polygons/lists on March 17, 2024, and will file no later than September 15, 2024, in Docket UT-230020.

9. WAC 480-123-130(1)(h) - Report on Operational Efficiencies/Business Plan Modifications

The Company continually reviews its operations to determine if efficiencies can be achieved. The Company already has a plan in place to concentrate on improving broadband service while continuing to provide high-quality basic telecommunications service to the customers that are located within the area that the Company serves. The funds received from the universal communications services program can be viewed as assisting in the Company's efforts to obtain operational efficiencies.

10. WAC 480-123-130(1)(i) - FCC Form 477

Western Wahkiakum will file the FCC Form 477 voice and broadband subscribership information on or about February 27, 2024, under Docket UT-240062.

11. WAC 480-123-130(1)(j) and (k) - Other information

The Company has constructed fiber optic broadband infrastructure throughout its service territory. This allows the Company¹ to offer broadband speeds substantially in excess of 150 Mbps/150 Mbps and the current FCC broadband speed standard.

The Company provides access to free community WI-FI service through several local community organizations. The Company also participates in all FCC subsidy programs for telephone and broadband services.

¹ The broadband service to which this item refers may be provided to consumers by the Company and/or by a Company affiliate.

Certified Statement as required by WAC 480-123-130(1)(e) and (f):

I, Kenneth E. Johnson, am an officer of Western Wahkiakum County Telephone Company, and, in that capacity, hereby certify that during the preceding year Western Wahkiakum County Telephone Company (i) materially complied with all Commission rules in Chapter 480-120 WAC that are applicable to the Company and its provision of service within the area for which the Company received universal communications services program support and (ii) met the requirements of WAC 480-123-120(5) for broadband availability as required by the Commission.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on the _____ day of _____, at _____, Washington.

Kenneth E. Johnson
Chief Executive Officer