

REPORT OF PIONEER TELEPHONE COMPANY UNDER THE
WASHINGTON UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES PROGRAM
IN COMPLIANCE WITH WAC 480-123-130

July 1, 2024

Docket No. UT-230622

File electronically

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

	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2024
Residential	379	353
Business	119	108

Broadband Connections Served

	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2024
Residential	386	405
Business	56	52

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

The funds received by Pioneer Telephone Company (“Company”) from the universal communications services program for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 represent monies that the Company formerly received through the Washington Exchange Carrier Association (WECA) pooling process and the reduction of support under the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC’s) Connect America Fund InterCarrier Compensation Fund (CAF ICC) program. As such, the funds from the universal communications services program contributed to defrayal of the ongoing operation and maintenance expenses of the Company. The funds from the universal communication services program are contributing to the Company's ongoing provision of high-quality basic telecommunications service to customers residing in the area the Company serves.

In December 2023, the Company received \$149,271 from the universal communications services program for the fiscal period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

During the program year 2023-2024, the Company continues installing fiber hookups to customer homes at a cost of approximately \$123,800, upgrading central office batteries

for Endicott remote for approximately \$16,400 and construction of fiber placed to reach the last remaining unserved locations in the study area for approximately \$619,600. This occurred throughout the Company's serving area in conjunction with Alternative Connect America Model (ACAM) support to provide customers with higher quality broadband services. Also, the Company has plant under construction for approximately \$50,000 related to fiber hookup installations that remained open at fiscal yearend. The funds received from the universal communications services program can be viewed as contributing to the Company's ability to perform these projects.

3) WAC 480-123-130(1)(c) – Broadband Buildout Deployment

The Company moves away from criterion three to criterion four during the program year 2023-2024 of WAC 480-123-110 and as a result has constructed broadband infrastructure throughout all its service territory. This means that the Company is using program support to allow it to continue to provide a high level of telecommunications services and broadband services, with enhancements becoming available where appropriate.

Exhibit A attached contains 85 broadband locations that were reported by March 1, 2024, to Universal Service Administrative Company for 2023 deployment.

4) 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.

5) WAC 480-123-130(1)(g) - FCC Broadband Data Collection

The Company previously filed its Broadband Data Collection polygons or lists on or about March 1, 2024, under Docket UT-240058.

6) 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.

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

This form was previously filed on or about March 1, 2024, under Docket UT-240062. The 477 Subscription Data at census tract level on a Washington state basis has been moved and renamed to the Broadband Data Collection report.

8) WAC 480-123-130(1)(j) - Other efforts

In several areas, the Company has constructed fiber-to-the-home. This will allow the Company to offer speeds substantially in excess of the 25/3, the current FCC broadband speed standard. During this fiscal year, the Company continues cutting over the newly constructed fiber to locations throughout its serving area prior to offering higher speed tiers to all its customers.

9) WAC 480-123-130(1)(k) – Other information

Not applicable.

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

I, Steve Schmick, am an officer of Pioneer Telephone Company, and, in that capacity, hereby certify that Pioneer Telephone Company (i) materially complied with Commission rules under 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) has met its broadband deployment obligation established 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 at LaCrosse, Washington this 26th day of June, 2024.



President