

ETC ANNUAL REPORTS PER WAC 480-123-070 AND WAC 480-123-080

July 1, 2023  
Pioneer Telephone Company

Pioneer Telephone Company (the "Company") hereby submits the following reports in accordance with WAC 480-123-070 and WAC 480-123-080.

1. Report 1: Report on use of funds: WAC 480-123-070(1)(a):

The Company used support from the federal high-cost fund in 2022 as follows: To support investments made by the Company in telecommunications plant used to provide voice services, broadband services and other telecommunications services, and to defray operating expenses incurred by the Company in its provision of those services.

In the calendar year 2022, the Company's gross capital expenditures and expenses paid, in whole or in part, with support from the federal high-cost fund were \$137,433 and \$1,901,167, respectively. The major project is the fiber-to-home construction, electronics, and installation in the amount of \$137,433.

A copy of the Company's most recent NECA -1 report<sup>1</sup> for the calendar years 2021 and 2022 are included in this filing.

2. Report 2: WAC 480-123-070(1)(b): The Company reports that the investments and expenses report under Report 1, above, benefited consumers as follows:

Consumers served by the Company, as well as those consumers of other telecommunications service providers who may have communicated with the Company's customers utilizing telecommunications services provided by the Company, benefited from the use of high-cost fund support by continuing to receive high quality telecommunications services.

Through the expenditure of the federal high-cost support funds, the Company was able to continue to provide services at a level that the Company believes meets the intent set forth in 47 U.S.C § 254 of providing quality telecommunications services to customers in the service area for which the Company is designated as an ETC.<sup>2</sup> The Company has made substantial investments over the past several years which allow it to provide quality telecommunications services to its customers in its designated ETC service area. Those expenditures and investments, including those reflected in Report 1 above generally benefit all customers receiving the federal high-cost fund supported services from the Company within its designated ETC service area. The Company has expanded its network over the past several years so that it is capable of providing access to broadband services throughout most of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Company understands the reference to the "NECA-1 report" to refer to the values reported by the Company in response to the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. Universal Service Data Collection Form or its on-line equivalent pertaining to the subject year.

<sup>2</sup> The term "ETC" is used in the same sense as the term is used in Chapter 480-123 WAC.

Company's designated ETC service area. The Company offers services that are comparable to services offered in urban areas at rates that are comparable to rates for such services in urban areas.

3. Report 3: Local Services Outage Report: WAC 480-123-070(2):

None

4. Report 4: Report on Failure to Provide Service: WAC 480-123-070(3):

None

5. Report 5: Report on Complaints per 1000 Connections: WAC 480-123-070(4):

None

6. Report 6: Annual Plan: WAC 480-123-080(1):

As they are known to the Company at the date of this Report, the Company's planned gross capital expenditures and operating expenses related to Washington State to be made during the calendar year 2024 are projected to be \$270,000 and \$1,869,000, respectively. The major projects consist of additions for fiber hookups and central office equipment upgrades of approximately \$160,000, computer upgrades of approximately \$20,000, office support equipment of approximately \$10,000, other work equipment of approximately \$20,000, and motor vehicles of approximately \$60,000.

7. Report 7: Plan of Investments and Expenditures: WAC 480-123-080(2):

As they are known to the Company at the date of this Report, apart from major projects, the planned investment and expenditures to be made with federal high-cost support related to Washington State for the calendar year 2024 are planned to remain relatively the same as those the Company experienced in calendar year 2022, subject to the effects of inflation, other commonly experienced changes in cost of labor and materials, and increased depreciation on new investment placed in service. The Company does not anticipate major adjustments in staffing levels for the relevant period. Planned major projects are as described or referenced in Report 6 above. The Company has not completed its budgeting process for calendar year 2024, so the investment and expense figures presented in Report 6 above for 2024 are not yet final. The Company expects that the continued receipt of federal high-cost support will allow the Company to continue to provide the supported services at rates that are comparable to the rates for such services in urban areas. All customers in the Company's designated ETC service area will benefit from the expected level of support by continuing to have available to them services that are comparable to the telecommunications services offered in urban areas at rates that are comparable to the rates for such services in urban areas.