

# Pioneer Telephone Co.

Local and Long Distance Service

~~~~~ Serving LaCrosse, Endicott, Winona, Hooper, Dusty and Hay ~~~~~

Telephone 509/549-3511

P.O. Box 207

August 26, 2005

LaCrosse, Washington 99143-0207



Ms. Carole J. Washburn, Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
P. O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Re: Docket Nos. UT-053030 and WAC 380-120-399 -  
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification

RECEIVED  
RECORDS MANAGEMENT  
05 AUG 31 AM 8:11  
STATE OF WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

In accordance with the Order Requiring Filing By Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Receiving Federal High Cost Support, dated July 25, 2001, entered by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in Docket No. UT-013047 ("Certification Order") and with WAC 480-120-399(2), enclosed herewith for filing on behalf of Pioneer Telephone Company ("Company") is a Certification of Use of Federal High-Cost Universal Service Support Funds. The Company hereby respectfully requests that, based upon the enclosed certification and pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.314(a), (c) and (d), the Commission make and file, not later than October 1, 2005, with the Administrator of the Federal High-Cost Universal Service Fund and the Federal Communications Commission the certification described in 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.314(a) and (c), and that the Commission include the Company in the list of carriers to which such certification applies.

In accordance with WAC 480-120-399(2)(d), the figure set forth in item (4) of the enclosed certification is the sum of the amounts received by the Company for those Federal universal service support components commonly referred to as "high cost loop support," "long-term support," "local switching support" and "interstate common line support."<sup>1</sup> It is the Company's understanding that amounts associated with some of those components and included in that reported figure may not yet be final.

Lastly, the memorandum, dated May 13, 2005, from Bob Shirley of the Commission Staff to Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") requested that each ETC provide the Commission Staff with copies of the advertising conducted by each ETC in 2004 or 2005 to meet its obligations under Federal law with respect to the advertising of services supported by Federal High-Cost Universal Service Support Funds and the Federal Lifeline and Link-Up programs. Accordingly, enclosed with this letter are copies of the following materials:

- (a) Advertisement published in the Whitman County Gazette;
- (b) Informational brochures regarding the Washington Telephone Assistance Program which works with the Federal Lifeline and Link-Up available in several languages available in the office;

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<sup>1</sup> During calendar year 2004, the Company was not a recipient of what is commonly referred to as "interstate access support."

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- (c) Notice posted in the Company's business office(s); and
- (d) A sample advertisement posted at certain Company payphone locations.

If additional copies of either this letter or the enclosed certification are required, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

  
Dennis Mackleit  
General Manager

Enclosures

**CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL  
HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT FUNDS**

I, Dennis Mackleit, being of lawful age, hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that I am General Manager of Pioneer Telephone Company ("Company"), that I am authorized to execute this certification on behalf of the Company, and that the facts set forth in this certification are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I hereby certify to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission"), for use by the Commission in providing the Commission certification required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, as follows:

(1) that, during the calendar year 2004, the Company provided the supported services required by 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and described in the Commission Order granting the Company Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") status;

(2) that, during the 2004 calendar year, the Company advertised the availability of supported services and the charges for them as required by 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and as described in the Commission Order granting the Company ETC status;

(3) that funds received by the Company from the federal high-cost universal service support fund will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended;

(4) that the amount of federal high-cost universal service fund support received by the Company through July 31, 2005 for calendar year 2004 was \$390,720; and

(5) that the loop counts on which federal high-cost universal service support received by the Company for the calendar year 2004 was based were as follows: for the first quarter of calendar year 2004, 909 for the second

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quarter of calendar year 2004, 921 ; for the third quarter of calendar year 2004,  
921 ; and for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2004, 911 .

EXECUTED this 26th day of August, 2005, at LaCrosse, Washington.

PIONEER TELEPHONE COMPANY

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Its: General Manager

**Pioneer Telephone Company**

Local telephone services

**LIFELINE, LINK UP & WTAP**

LIFELINE rate available to qualifying

Low-income consumers

Lifeline Residential rate \$8.00 (plus any applicable taxes. You will have to pay the full monthly charge for special features.)

This rate reflects discounts made available through the Federal Lifeline Program and the Washington Telephone Assistance Program. In addition to these discounts off of the monthly recurring rate for basic service, the federal Link-Up program, together with the Washington Telephone Assistance Program, offers a limited discount off of the non-recurring installation charge for basic residential service.

To enroll in the Washington Telephone Assistance Program, contact your local Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) office to confirm your eligibility with DSHS. Your Benefits begin on the date your eligibility is verified with WTAP. The billing name (subscriber of record) must match the name of the person who qualifies the household for the program.

WTAP 1-888-700-8880(voice) [www.fcc.gov/cgb](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb)  
1-888-Tell-FCC

Appaloosa horse. The museum gift shop will be open.

have their annual fund raiser at the Perkins house Dec. 12 from 2 to 6 p.m. Come and join the magic and see the house deco-

rate a joint Christmas party at the Whelan Grange hall, north of Pullman, Friday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. Parents are asked to bring a wrapped and labeled gift for

Pioneer Telephone Company has been the local telephone company serving the Lacrosse, Endicott, Winona, Hay, Hooper, Central Ferry, Riparia and Dusty areas since approximately 1944. During the intervening years, we have worked hard to build a telephone system that would provide high quality telecommunications service to the communities we serve. We have done this, not withstanding the higher costs of service rural areas in the State of Washington and when few, if any, other telephone companies were interested in serving our communities.

We have served and intend to continue to serve both residential and business customers in our service area with high quality telecommunications services at attractive and affordable rates.

In addition to our basic telephone services, we offer throughout our service area advanced telecommunications services, including Internet access, high speed data services, special calling features and voice mail.

The basic services offered by the Pioneer Telephone Company are comprised of several components. At a minimum, these include:

| Service Offered                                                                                                                        | Monthly Charge*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                                                                                                        | Residence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Business  |
| Single party, voice grade access to the public switched network, including an unlimited amount of local usage (basic grade of service) | \$9.00**/**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | \$14.50** |
| Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent (i.e., tone dialing)                                                  | Charge*<br>No additional charge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |           |
| Access to emergency 911 services                                                                                                       | There is no additional charge by Pioneer Telephone Company to end user customers for the ability to access emergency 911 services. ****                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |
| Access to operator services                                                                                                            | There is no additional charge by Pioneer Telephone Company to end user customers for the ability to call the operator. However, the call may involve a charge depending on the service requested and the rates of the company whose operator handles the call.                                                                                    |           |
| Access to interexchange (long distance) services                                                                                       | There is no additional charge by Pioneer Telephone Company to end user customers for the ability to place and receive calls through long distance networks of interexchange carriers that offer service through out network. However, the call may involve a charge from the interexchange (long distance) carrier depending on the type of call. |           |
| Access to directory assistance                                                                                                         | There is no additional charge by Pioneer Telephone Company to end user customers for the ability to call Directory Assistance. However, the call may involve a Directory Assistance charge the amount of which depends on the area called and the rates of the company whose operator is accessed.                                                |           |
| Toll limitation service for qualifying low-income customers                                                                            | There is no additional charge by Pioneer Telephone Company to qualifying low-income consumers for toll blocking service. Qualifying low-income customers are generally those participating in the Lifeline program.                                                                                                                               |           |

\* The charges set forth are subject to change, and in some instances are subject to change without notice. Certain non-recurring charges may also apply to installation or change of service.  
 \*\* Applicable Federal, State, County and municipal taxes and surcharges, including a federally-mandated end user surcharge per line are in addition to these amounts.  
 \*\*\* Discounts off this rate of available to qualifying low-income consumers.  
 \*\*\*\* State and County taxes apply per line to fund the provisions of the capability.

These services are available to all qualifying subscribers of Pioneer Telephone Company. The charges for these services are reflected each month on our normal telephone bill, and may be accompanied by charges for other services provided by Pioneer Telephone Company. The services listed above are those that Pioneer Telephone Company offers and must advertise in order to be eligible for federal supports funds that are used to help offset the high cost of serving rural areas and bringing affordable telephone service to residents and businesses in rural areas. Other services are available by contacting Pioneer Telephone Company's business office at (509) 549-3511

Pioneer Telephone Company

## NOTICE

Pioneer Telephone Company ("Company") has filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("WUTC") certain revisions to the Company's Tariff WN U-3.

The tariff revisions modify the "Washington Telephone Assistance Program" schedule in Section IV of the Company's Tariff WN U-3. More specifically, the revisions incorporate into the tariff new enhanced support that, commencing on or about October 1, 2000, is expected to be available to certain participants in the federal Lifeline service program and new expanded benefits that, again commencing on or about October 1, 2000, is expected to be available to certain participants in the federal Link Up program. This tariff filing is being made principally in response to requirements established by the Federal Communications Commission.

The federal Lifeline program includes a retail local service offering ("Lifeline service") that is available only to qualifying low-income consumers and for which qualifying low-income consumers pay charges that have been reduced in certain respects. Under the Link Up program, qualifying low-income consumers (1) may receive a reduction in the Company's customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for qualifying connections at qualifying locations and (2) may have a deferred schedule for payment of qualifying charges assessed by the Company for commencing such service.

Included in the Lifeline program is Toll Limitation service in the form of Toll Blocking, which is available at no Company charge to subscribers who subscribe to Lifeline service provided by the Company. "Toll Blocking" is a service provided by carriers that lets a subscriber elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's telephone line.

The changes to the federal Lifeline and Link Up programs expand the classes of persons that may receive those benefits and increase the amount of reduction in the Company's charges that are available to qualifying low-income consumers in certain areas. Currently, in the State of Washington only participants in certain Department of Social and Health Services support programs may receive benefits under the federal Lifeline and Link Up programs. Commencing on or about October 1, 2000, in addition to those persons, persons participating in certain federal support programs and residing on "Tribal lands" will also be eligible for the Lifeline and Link Up programs. In addition, the Company's charges under the Lifeline and Link Up programs will be further reduced for all qualifying low-income consumers living on "Tribal lands." For these purposes, "Tribal lands" means tribal reservations and areas "near reservations" that have been designated as such by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs..

The tariff sheets that comprise the tariff filing have an issued date of August 24, 2000, and a stated effective date of September 25, 2000. However, the Company has requested that the WUTC permit the revised tariff sheets become effective as soon as possible, and in no event later than August 31, 2000, by "L.S.N. Order" on less than statutory notice.

A copy of the proposed tariff sheets and the Company's present Tariff WN U-3 are on file in this office, and the public is invited to inspect them. If you wish, a member of our staff will be pleased to assist you in securing information from both the present Tariff and the proposed tariff sheets.

PIONEER TELEPHONE COMPANY

Dated: August 24, 2000