

HAT ISLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY

MARION F. HENNY
PRESIDENT

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July 1, 2017

BY ELECTRONIC FILING VIA WUTC WEB PORTAL

Mr. Steven King, Acting Executive Director & Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P. O. Box 47250
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive, SW
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Mr. King:

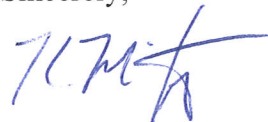
Re: 2017 ETC Certification –
Request for Certification Pursuant to
WAC 480-123-060 and 47 C.F.R. § 54.314
Annual Reports and Certification on High Cost Fund Pursuant to
WAC 480-123-060, -070 and -080

Pursuant to WAC 480-123-060, Hat Island Telephone Company (“Company”) hereby requests that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“Commission”) certify to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company that the Company has met the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314 for eligibility for receipt of federal high-cost funds.

The certifications and reports that are specified in WAC 480-123-060, WAC 480-123-070 and WAC 480-123-080 accompany this letter of transmittal.¹

If the Commission has any questions regarding the enclosed materials, please do not hesitate to call me at 360/321-0088.

Sincerely,



Frank McIntyre
Secretary/Treasurer

¹ Item (1) of the enclosed certifications also includes an additional certification that corresponds to a certification required of the Commission by 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a).

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

July 1, 2017
 Hat Island Telephone Company

Hat Island 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 the calendar year 2016 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.

For the calendar year 2015, the Company did not have any capital expenditures and operating expenses paid, in whole or in part, with support from the federal high-cost fund were \$60,699. Major projects undertaken or completed in the calendar year 2016 include the following as filed with FCC Form 481 filed with the Commission on August 1, 2014 in Docket No. UT-143042:

Network Improvements/Upgrades – Voice Services – For Calendar Year 2016				
Project Description (Specific proposed improvements and/or upgrades)	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Service Area Name	Estimated Population
Maintain/retire/replace existing end-of-life infrastructure hardware and software	01/01/2014	12/31/2015	Hat Island	41

Network Improvements/Upgrades – Broadband Services – For Calendar Year 2016				
Project Description (Specific proposed improvements and/or upgrades)	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Service Area Name	Estimated Population
Maintain/retire/replace existing end-of-life infrastructure hardware and software	01/01/2014	12/31/2015	Hat Island	41

Although the Company did not complete a project whose single value was sufficient to garner classification as a capital expenditure, the \$60K in operating expenses included replacement of hardware in the service area BLC, replacement of underground plant where required, customer requested drop and installation work, as well as upgrading software required to maintain the company's core network. These operating expenses are necessary to maintain the quality and reliability of the telecommunications services

provided. The attention given to them is in no small part a key contributor to the lack of service outages and customer complaints.

Per the direction of the Commission Staff, the NECA-1 report will be provided as soon as it is available and no later than August 1, 2017.

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

Consumers served by the Company benefited from the use of high-cost fund support by continuing to receive high quality telecommunications services. These expenditures are critical to maintain and increase the quality, coverage and capacity of voice services within the Company service area. These expenditures include material and labor expenses, and can be for a variety of purposes including, but not limited to, equipment repair and maintenance; service order fulfillment; customer service requests; capital expenditures; equipment replacement and projects not otherwise capitalized; company equipment monitoring; equipment/service testing; technical support both at premise and remotely; and service calls.

Through the expenditure of 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.¹ 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 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.

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

None

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

None

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

¹ The term "ETC" is used herein with the same meaning as the term is used in Chapter 480-123 WAC.

None

5. Report 5: 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, in whole or in part, with federal high-cost support to be received by the Company, during the calendar year 2018 are projected to be \$0 and \$60,000, respectively.

Major projects planned to be undertaken or completed in the calendar year 2018 are include the following that were filed on FCC Form 481 filed with the Commission on August 1, 2014 in Docket No. UT-143042:

Network Improvements/Upgrades – Voice Services – For Calendar Year 2018				
Project Description (Specific proposed improvements and/or upgrades)	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Service Area Name	Estimated Population
Maintain/retire/replace existing end-of-life infrastructure hardware and software	01/01/2016	12/31/2017	Hat Island	41

Network Improvements/Upgrades – Broadband Services – For Calendar Year 2018				
Project Description (Specific proposed improvements and/or upgrades)	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Service Area Name	Estimated Population
Maintain/retire/replace existing end-of-life infrastructure hardware and software	01/01/2016	12/31/2017	Hat Island	41

6. Report 6: 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 expenses to be made with federal high-cost support related to Washington state for the calendar year 2018 are planned to remain relatively the same as those it experienced in calendar year 2016, 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 for the calendar years 2018 are described in Report 5, above, and disclosed on FCC Form 481 as referenced in Report 5, above. The Company has not completed its budgeting process for 2018, so the investment and expense figures presented in Report 6, above, for the calendar year 2018 are not yet final. 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.

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.

**AFFIDAVIT CONTAINING CERTIFICATIONS
PURSUANT TO WAC 480-123-060 AND WAC 480-123-070**

**July 1, 2017
Hat Island Telephone Company**

I, Frank McIntyre, being of lawful age, state that I am Secretary/Treasurer of Hat Island Telephone Company ("Company"), that I am authorized to execute this Affidavit on behalf of the Company, and that the facts set forth in this Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. On this basis, I hereby certify to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission ("Commission") for use by the Commission in providing the certification to the Federal Communications Commission and Universal Service Administrative Company required by 47 C.F.R. §54.314, as follows:

(1) That the Company in 2016 used and in the coming calendar year will use federal high-cost universal service fund support provided to the Company in the State of Washington only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended;

(2) That during the 2016 calendar year, the Company met substantially the applicable service quality standard and consumer protection rules found in WAC 480-123-030(1)(h);

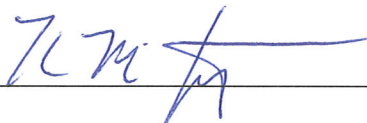
(3) That during the 2016 calendar year, the Company maintained the ability to function in emergency situations under the standard found in WAC 480-123-030(1)(g), as such standard relates to functionality of wireline carriers in emergency situations; and

(4) That during the 2016 calendar year, the Company publicized the availability of its applicable telephone assistance programs in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for service and in a manner which, in the Company's judgment, included advertisements likely to reach those who are not current customers of the Company within the Company's designated service area.

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

Dated this 1st day of July, 2017, at Langley, Washington

Company: Hat Island Telephone Company

By:  _____

Type Name: Frank McIntyre

Its: Secretary/Treasurer