# BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

IN RE

PETITION OF PEND OREILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM DOCKET NO.

PETITION FOR SUPPORT

COMES NOW Pend Oreille Telephone Company (the "Company") and, pursuant to Chapter 480-123 of the Washington Administrative Code ("WAC"), including, but not limited to, WAC 480-123-110, hereby petitions the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (the "Commission") to receive support from the Universal Service Communications Program (the "Program") for the Program year 2022.

# I. Demonstration of Eligibility under WAC 480-123-100

1. WAC 480-123-100(1)(a): The Company is a local exchange company as defined in WAC 480-120-021 that serves fewer than forty thousand access lines within the state.

PETITION OF PEND OREILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM - 1 

- 2. WAC 480-123-100(1)(b): The Company is an incumbent local exchange carrier as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 251(h).
- 3. WAC 480-123-100(1)(c): The Company offers basic residential and business exchange telecommunications services as set forth in WAC 480-120-021 and RCW 80.36.630.
- 4. WAC 480-123-100(1)(d): The Company has established a plan, as described in WAC 480-123-110, to provide, maintain or enhance broadband service (See II.4, below).
- 5. WAC 480-123-100(1)(e): The Company has been designated by the Commission as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") for purposes of receiving federal universal services support pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Part 54 Subpart D Universal Service Support for High Cost Areas with respect to the service areas for which the Company is seeking Program support.

## II. Demonstration of Eligibility under WAC 480-123-110

- 1. WAC 480-123-110(1)(a): The name of the legal entity that provides communications services and is seeking Program support is as follows: Pend Oreille Telephone Company.
- 2. WAC 480-123-110(1)(b): A corporate organization chart showing the relationship between the Company and affiliates as defined in RCW 80.16.010 is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. <sup>1</sup> A detailed description of any transactions between the Company and the affiliates named in Exhibit 1 recorded in the Company's operating accounts is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. <sup>2</sup>
- 3. WAC 480-123-110(1)(c): A service area map for the Company can be found at Sheet No. 102 of the Company's Tariff WN U-1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pursuant to agreement with Commission Staff, Exhibit 1 is limited to those affiliates having transactions with the Company that are to be identified in Exhibit 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pursuant to agreement with the Commission Staff, Exhibit 2 is limited to transactions other than employment compensation and benefits pursuant to employ benefit plans. Exhibit 2 also includes transactions between the Company

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4. WAC 480-123-110(1)(d): The Company's broadband plan to provide, maintain, or enhance broadband services in its service area is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

- 5. WAC 480-123-110(1)(f): A sworn statement by a Company officer certifying that the Company complies with state and federal accounting, cost allocation, and cost adjustment rules pertaining to incumbent local exchange carriers is attached as Exhibit 4.
- 6. WAC 480-123-110(1)(g): The number of residential local exchange access lines served by the Company as of December 31, 2020, was 1050. The number of residential local exchange access lines served by the Company as of December 31, 2019, was 1019. The number of business local exchange access lines served by the Company as of December 31, 2020, was 277. The number of business local exchange access lines served by the Company as of December 31, 2019, was 305. The number of broadband connections served by the Company as of December 31, 2020, was 892. The number of broadband connections served by the Company as of December 31, 2019, was 782. The unbundled monthly recurring rate charged by the Company for residential local exchange access service on December 31, 2020, was \$18.00. The unbundled monthly recurring rate charged by the Company for residential local exchange access service on December 31, 2019, was \$18.00. unbundled monthly rate charged by the Company for single line business local exchange access service on December 31, 2020, was \$25.03. The unbundled monthly rate charged by the Company for single line business local exchange access service on December 31, 2019, was \$25.03. The unbundled monthly rate charged for broadband service as of December 31, 2020 and as of December 31, 2019 is set out in the attached Exhibit 5.
- 7. WAC 480-123-110(1)(h): The requested statements are attached as Exhibit 6.
- 8. WAC 480-123-110(1)(h)(i): A sworn statement by a Company officer certifying that the Company is in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's obligation for

deployment of broadband at speeds specified by the Federal Communications Commission applicable to the Company and that the Company meets one of the eligibility criteria set out in WAC 480-123-110(1)(j)(ii), (iii) or (iv) is attached at Exhibit 7.

9. All exhibits attached hereto are incorporated into this Petition as though fully set forth.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of July, 2021.

Pend Oreille Telephone Company

Ву

Michael J. Martell, Vice President

### **CERTIFICATION**

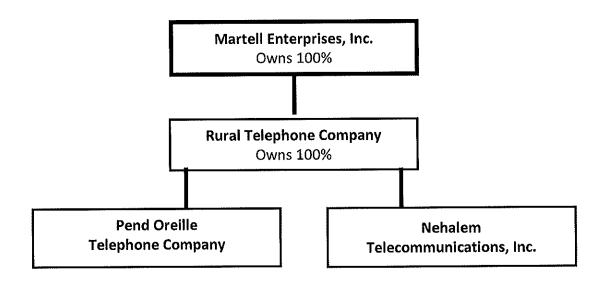
I Michael J. Martell, an officer of the Company that is responsible for the Company's business and financial operations, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the information and representations set forth in the Petition, above, are accurate and the Company has not knowingly withheld any information required to be provided to the Commission pursuant to the rules governing the Program.

Michael J. Martell, Vice President

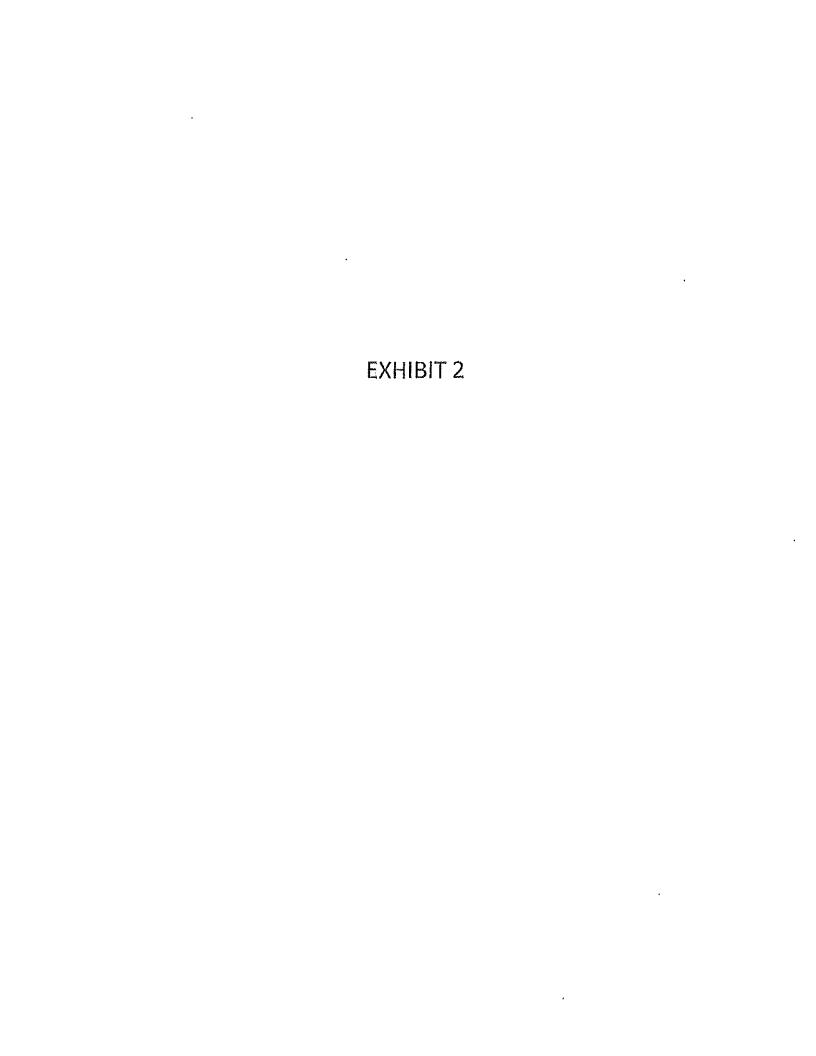
PETITION OF PEND OREILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM - 4

EXHIBIT 1

CORPORATE ORGANIZATION CHART



James R. Martell, President	892 W. Madison Avenue	Glenns Ferry, ID 83623
Carmela M. Martell, Secretary/Treasurer	892 W. Madison Avenue	Glenns Ferry, ID 83623
Michael J. Martell, Vice President	892 W. Madison Avenue	Glenns Ferry, ID 83623
Angela C. Carpenter, <b>Board Director</b>	892 W. Madison Avenue	Glenns Ferry, ID 83623
Andrea E. Roberts, Board Director	892 W. Madison Avenue	Glenns Ferry, ID 83623
Mark R. Martell, Board Director	892 W. Madison Avenue	Glenns Ferry, ID 83623
Matthew J. Martell, Board Director	892 W. Madison Avenue	Glenns Ferry, ID 83623



#### **AFFILIATED TRANSACTIONS**

Pend Oreille Telephone Company and its parent, Rural Telephone Company, have a service agreement in which Rural Telephone provides management and operational service to Pend Oreille Telephone Company. These services are direct assigned to Pend Oreille as the expenses are incurred. Rural provided \$ 126,890 and \$358,344 of such services in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Rural Telephone Company owes Pend Oreille Telephone Company at the 2020 year end \$1,128,242.

Pend Oreille leased vehicles and equipment from an affiliate, Little Valley Elk Ranch, in the amount of \$ 5,428 and 5,428 in 2020 and 2020. In addition, Little Valley Elk Ranch owes Pend Oreille \$ 183,794 for a loan made from Pend Oreille to Little Valley Elk Ranch in 2008. This amount is for principal and interest accrued since that date.

Pend Oreille Telephone owes Nehalem Telecommunications \$ 58,632 for a loan that was made in 2012.

#### **BROADBAND PLAN**

This Broadband Plan is being submitted by Pend Oreille Telephone Company in compliance with RCW 80.36.650(3)(a)(ii) and WAC 480-123-110(1)(d). Under the terms of the legislation incorporated into RCW 80.36.650(3), a recipient of support from the state Universal Service Communications Program is to submit a broadband plan showing how the provider will provide, maintain, or enhance broadband services in its service area. As set out in WAC 480- 123-110(1)(d), the broadband plan is to include specific elements, but only to the extent applicable to that particular broadband plan. The broadband plan does not have to include all elements but it can include any of the following elements: (1) a multi-year investment plan; (2) specific projects that are projected to provide or enhance broadband service at speeds required by the Commission or the Federal Communications Commission; (3) a plan for maintenance of broadband services in the provider's service area; (4) a description of how the provider will enhance broadband services in its service area; and (5) any other supporting information that the Commission may request to assist in the Commission's review and analysis of the provider's broadband plan. Where there are specific projects, the project information is to include an estimated timeline, geographic location, number of locations passed, and upload and download speeds that are projected to be produced by the project.

Pend Oreille Telephone Company is planning to engage in a broadband infrastructure construction program in 2022. Please note that it is not feasible to provide a detailed description of plans beyond 2022. However, the company is committing to meet the buildout requirements as specified by the Federal Communications Commission as applying to the company and the number of additional locations established by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for the company. If those goals are not met by the 2022 construction program, additional construction plans will be developed for subsequent years to the extent program funding is available. The specific projects planned for 2022 are attached:

The foregoing Broadband Plan was adopted by Pend Oreille Telephone on July 30, 2021.

Dated this 30th day of July 2021

Pend Oreille Telephone Company

By: Michael Martell

Title: Vice President

# Pend Oreille Telecom Construction Plan 2021 thru 2026

- 2020 FTTH Project South State Route 20: (Fiber-to-the-Home/Business) will be completed this fall South of Dury RD DLC to Alaska Lane.
- 2020 New Calix C3-48 at Elizabeth Ave: will provide VDSL2 and Bonded VDSL2 service for Residential & Business Customers.
- 2020 Upgrade DLC: Green House, Tiger, Dury, Selkirk (Town Metaline) DLC Cabinets with E7-R2 Calix equipment for deployment of FTTH/VDSL2 for Residential/Business Customers.
- 2021 Upgrade DLC: Sunset, Anderson, Larch & Tribe Cabinets with new E3/E7-2R
   Calix equipment for deployment of FTTH/VDSL2 for Residential/Business
   Customers.
- 2021 New Riverbend Loop Rd: Calix C3-48 (Harden) DLC Pole or Cabinet Mount for VDSL2/Bonded VDSL2 Service for Residential/Business Customers.
- 2021 New Lenora DR: Calix C3-48 (Harden) DLC Pole or Cabinet Mount for VDSL2/Bonded VDSL2 Service for Residential/Business Customers.
- 2021 Upgrade DLC: Sites at Usk, Penny Lane and Newsprint with new E7-2R Calix equipment for deployment of FTTH/VDSL2 for Residential/Business Customers.
- 2022 Construction (Project 1): from Tacoma Creek Rd to Blue-Slide along state route 20 with FTTH to all Residential/Business Customers. (Delayed because of Right-Of-Way permit on State HWY 20) Completion date for this Project is 2022 or 2023.
- 2022 Construction (Project 2): new aerial fiber 72 count from Ione to Metaline for FTTH to customers/business along State Route 31.
- 2023-2024 Construction (Project 3): New fiber cable 48 or 72 count from Metaline Falls to US Border along State Route 31 with FTTH to customers/businesses and provide the US Border & Customs with fiber service.

- TBA Sullivan Lake Rd North Fiber (Project 4): RTI (Pend Oreille Telecom) are
  working on planning a (24 or 48 Count) fiber optic cable from State Route 31 north of
  Metaline Falls to Sullivan Ranger Station to provide FTTH (fiber to the home) to our
  customers.
- TBA Sullivan Lake Rd South Fiber (Project 5): RTI (Pend Oreille Telecom) are
  working on planning a (24 or 48 Count) fiber optic cable from Elizabeth RD up South
  Sullivan Rd to provide FTTH (fiber to the home) to our customers.

## Project 1

**Scope of Work:** Construction from Tacoma Creek Rd to Blue-Slide along State Route 20 with FTTH (Fiber-to-the-home) to all customers/business along the route.

### **Description of the Project:**

RTI will be construction a new (72 Count) fiber optic cable along State Route 20 from Tacoma Creek Rd (Cusick Exchange) to Alaska Lane (Ione Exchange). This project will provide Fiber to the Home/Business to around 150 to 200 current customers that does not have broadband speed higher then 10mbps down & 1mbps up today. In addition, this project will provide RTI a full 10G Ring around our service area when it is completed in the fall of 2022 or early summer of 2023.

# Project 2

**Scope of Work:** Construction of a new aerial fiber optic cable (72 count) from lone C.O to Metaline DLC Cabinet along State Route 31.

# **Description of the Project:**

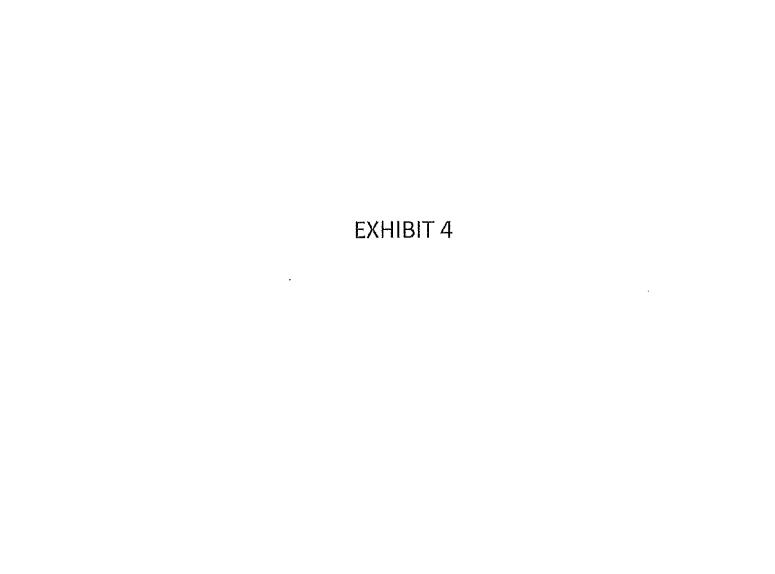
RTI will be construction a new aerial fiber cable (72 Count) from our Ione Central Office along state route 31 to our Metaline (Selkirk DLC Cabinet). This will upgrade our current (12 Count) aerial fiber optic cable which run the same route along state route31. Our new aerial fiber will provide us with FTTH (fiber to the home/business) for our customers which including the Selkirk High School & Box Canyon Dam site. In addition, the upgrade will allow RTI to provide customer/business with high broadband speed from 10mbps to 1000mbps to around 15 to 20 current customers and provide RTI additional fibers for future use. The completion of this project should be fall of 2022 or early spring of 2023.

### Maintenance 2021:

# Scope of Maintenance Work;

RTI (Pend Oreille Telecom) will be concluding upgrade of DLC site with new Calix E7-2R or Calix E3-48c harden units to expand our VDSL/FTTH to our customer base in all three of the exchanges.

The Maintenance work/upgrades will allow RTI (Pend Oreille Telecom) to expand of our broadband network to customers that are not able to get broadband speed any higher then 10/1 if any service at all.



#### **CERTIFICATION RELATED TO ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

I, Michael J. Martell, am an officer of Pend Oreille Telephone Company (the "Company" as set out in the Petition to which this is an Exhibit). Thereby, I certify that the Company complies with state and federal accounting, cost allocation, and cost adjustment rules pertaining to an incumbent local exchange carrier for the period of time that the Company will receive support under the Petition to which this is an Exhibit.

This Certification is a sworn statement made under the penalty of perjury as set forth in RCW 9A.72.085 and is made this 30th day of July, 2021.

By: Michael J. Martell Title: Vice President



# WASHINGTON DSL Application



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# WASHINGTON DSL Application

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Contact customer service at 1-888-636-2840 or local office at 509-442-0082 #6





# WASHINGTON FTTH Application

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Contact customer service at 1-888-636-2840 or local office at 509-442-0082 #6

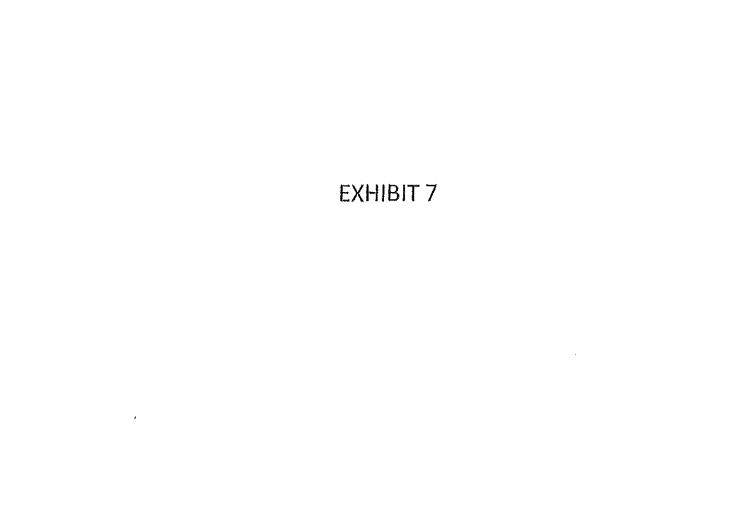
#### **CONTINUED OPERATIONS CERTIFICATE**

I, Michael J. Martell, an officer of Pend Oreille Telephone Company (the Company as set out in the Petition to which this is an Exhibit), under penalty of perjury, hereby certify that if the Company receives Program support, the Company will continue to provide communications services pursuant to its tariffs on file with the Commission and will continue to provide broadband services throughout its service territory in Washington for which the Company is seeking and receives Program support during the entirety of the year for which the Company is applying for support from the Program.

Dated this 30th day of July, 2021.

By: Michael J. Martell

Title: Vice President



#### **CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

I, Michael J. Martell, am an officer of Pend Oreille Telephone Company (the Company as set out in the Petition to which this is an Exhibit) and thereby certify that the Company is in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's obligation for deployment of broadband at speeds specified by the Federal Communications Commission that apply to the Company.

Further, I certify that the Company commits to the deployment of broadband to the number of locations the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission determined by order of criterion two and WAC 480-123-110(1)(j)(ii).

This Certification is a sworn statement made under the penalty of perjury as set forth in RCW 9A.72.085 and is made this 30th day of July, 2021.

By: Michael J. Mariell Title: Vice President