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June 30, 2015

Mr. Steven V. King **Executive Director and Secretary** Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE:

Request for Certification Pursuant to WAC 480-123-60 and

47 C.F.R. §54.314

Dear Mr. King:

Pursuant to WAC 480-123-060, Westgate Communications, LLC dba WeavTel ("Company") hereby requests that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission certify that the Company has met the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314 for eligibility for continued 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 are enclosed.

For the Commission's information, in addition to the Lifeline advertisement covered in the enclosed certification, Westgate Communications, LLC, dba WeavTel posts the Lifeline/WTAP information in the business office, and provides the Lifeline/WTAP information to all new customers at the time the customer subscribes for telephone service.

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General Manage

Enclosures

## AFFIDAVIT CONTAINING CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO WAC 480-123-060 AND WAC 480-123-070

- I, Richard J. Weaver, being of lawful age, state that I am General Manager of Westgate Communication, LLC, dba WeavTel ("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 all federal high-cost support provided to the Company within the State of Washington has been used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.
- (2) That during the 2014 calendar year, the Company met substantially the applicable service quality standard found in WAC 480-123-030(1)(h).
- (3) That during the 2014 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 2014 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 with the Company's designated service area.

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

Dates this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2015, at Chelan, Washington

Company: Westgate Communications LLC, dba WeavTel

Richard J. Weav

Its: General Manager

## REPORTS AS REFERENCED IN WAC 480-123-070 AND WAC 480-123-080

Westgate Communication, LLC, dba WeavTel (the "Company") hereby submits the following reports in accordance with WAC 480-123-070 and WAC 480-123-080.

Report 1: WAC 480-123-070(1)(a):

The funds received by WeavTel in 2014 from the federal high-cost program contributed to the ongoing operation and maintenance expenses of WeavTel, and provisioning of high-quality basic telecommunications service to customers residing in the area that WeavTel serves.

WeavTel undertook several construction and maintenance projects in 2014. WeavTel expanded its last mile network by installing new fixed wireless links, providing access to more customers in previously unserved areas.

The funds received from the federal high-cost program can be viewed as contributing to the Company's ability to perform this project, including, without limitation, the repayment of loan funds.

Per the direction of Commission Staff, the NECA -1 report will be provided as soon as it is available and no later than August 1, 2015.

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

Through the expenditure of these 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 high quality telecommunications services to customers in the service area for which the Company is designated as an ETC.<sup>2</sup>

WeavTel increased its backhaul satellite transport network bandwidth by 45% at a cost of approximately \$26,000 per year. The backhaul transport network provides connectivity from the Stehekin Exchange back to the PSTN and PIPN at the Wenatchee Access Tandem. This increase allows more concurrent telephone calls and internet bandwidth for customers.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> It is the Company's understanding that it is not required to submit the reports described in WAC 480-123-070(2) and (3).

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

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

None

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

None

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

None

Report 6: WAC 480-123-080(1)(b): The Company reports as follows:

As they are known to the Company at the date of this Report, the planned investment and expenses related to Washington state for the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016 that the Company expects to use as a basis to request federal high-cost support are expected to be relatively similar to those investments and expenses the Company has set forth in its information filed under calendar year 2014 Report 1, above, taking into account normal fluctuations in investment and expense levels. The Company expects that levels of expenses will remain relatively the same as those it experienced in calendar year 2014, subject to the effects of inflation and other commonly experienced changes in cost of labor and materials. The Company does not anticipate major adjustments in staffing levels for the relevant period. The Company expects that it will have a similar level of investment related to maintenance, replacement and minor upgrades of equipment and plant as occurred in calendar year 2014.

Report 7: WAC 480-123-080(2): The Company reports as follows:

As they are known to the Company at the date of this Report, the planned investment and expenses related to Washington state for the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016 that the Company expects to use as a basis to request federal high-cost support are expected to be relatively similar to those investments and expenses the Company has set forth in its information filed under calendar year 2014 Report 1, above, taking into account normal fluctuations in investments and expense levels. The Company expects that levels of expenses will remain relatively the same as those experienced in calendar year 2014, subject to the effects of inflation and other commonly experienced changes in cost of labor and materials. The Company does not anticipate major adjustments in staffing levels for the relevant period. The Company's investment plans directly affecting federal high-cost supported services offered by it in its designated ETC service area do not include a major construction project at the present time. The Company expects that it will have a similar level of investment related to maintenance, replacement and minor upgrades of equipment and plant as occurred in calendar year 2014. The Company has not completed its budgeting process and does not have final numbers prepared for investment and expense levels for 2016 The Company expects that the continued receipt of federal high-cost support will aide the Company's efforts to continue to provide the supported service at rates that are comparable to the rates for such services in urban areas. However, the Company projects that with the reductions in intercarrier compensation and associated federal support, those efforts will need to be supplemented by support from the state universal fund for the Company to be able to continue to maintain reasonably comparable rates. All customers in the Company's designated ETC service area will benefit from the expected level of support and other factors, such as support from the state fund, continuing to aide efforts to have available to the customer 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.