



WeavTel
P.O. Box 2937
Chelan, WA 98816
509-682-5556

July 1, 2019

VIA E-FILING

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

Received
Records Management
07/09/19 14:45
State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Re: 2019 ETC Certification - Request for Certification Pursuant to WAC 480-123-060 and
47C.F.R. §54.314

Dear Mr. King:

Pursuant to WAC 480-123-060, Westgate Communications LLC ("WeavTel", "Company") hereby requests that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission certify that the Company has met the requirements of 47C.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.

If there are any questions concerning the foregoing, please contact the undersigned at 509.682.5556.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Weaver
General Manager

Enclosures

ETC ANNUAL REPORT PER WAC 480-123-070 AND WAC 480-123-080
Contains Certifications Required by WAC 480-123-060 and 070
July 1, 2019

Westgate Communications LLC ("WeavTel" or 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 2018 as follows:

The funds from the universal service communication program are contributing to the Company's ongoing provision of high-quality basic telecommunications service to customers residing in the area the Company serves.

In 2018, Westgate used Federal High Cost Funds to continue to operate the company and supply services as required by Federal Regulations. Westgate increased its plant, efficiencies and subscriber line counts. Westgate added \$19,928 in capital expenditures to upgrade and install new links between remotes and new customers.

In addition, the Company started or continued with several construction projects during 2018. General support asset, circuit equipment and cable and wire facilities investments were made to increase coverage and provide enhanced connectivity for voice and broadband customers in the Stehekin and Holden Village service areas and are represented by the \$23,306 in plant under construction.

The funds received from the universal service communications program can be viewed as contributing to the Company's ability to perform these projects, including, without limitation, the repayment of loan funds.

For 2018, the Company's gross capital expenditures were \$19,928.. The Company's 2018 operating expenses were \$525,333. Recent major projects are referenced above.

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, 2019.

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

The customers served by the Company benefited from the use of high-cost fund support by continuing to receive high quality telecommunications services. The Company improved and expanded its existing customer service area by investing in its network in 2018. These investments, combined with the current construction projects will allow WeavTel to improve and expand service in its study area , including provisioning broadband service in a larger area and at high speeds.

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 quality telecommunications services to customers in the service area for which the Company is designated as an ETC.¹ The Company has continued to make 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.

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

None. Outages are listed on the report labeled (210) Reportable Voice Service Outages on FCC Form 481. WeavTel reported zero local service outages during 2018.

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

None. WeavTel had no unfulfilled service requests and no unfulfilled broadband requests as identified on lines 300 and 320 of FCC Form 481.

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

None. The Company had no voice or broadband complaints as identified on lines 410 and 440 of FCC Form 481.

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

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

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, 2020, through December 31, 2020, are projected to be \$90,000 for gross capital expenditures and \$530,000 for operating expenses. Major projects include constructing towers, adding additional subscriber transmission equipment to improve and expand voice and broadband service, buried cable installations and additional support equipment (other work equipment, general purpose computers). WeavTel is also in the process of building a new operations center and crew quarters facility in Stehekin, Washington, that will allow for the installation and maintenance of facilities by company personnel at lower costs by reducing travel time, transportation fees and lodging while working in its service territory.

The Company expects that levels of expenses will remain relatively the same as those it experienced in calendar year 2018, 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.

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, the planned investment related to Washington state for the period January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019, will be higher than the same as those it experienced in calendar year 2018, while anticipated operating expenses will be similar to those incurred during 2018, 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, with the exception of the FTTP project outlined below.

As outlined in Report 6 above, the Company intends to add \$90,000 in telecommunications plant in 2019 to expand and improve its network infrastructure for existing and anticipated new customers. These upgrades will provide customers with voice and higher speed broadband data offering in the Company's service area.

The Company does not anticipate making adjustments to existing staffing levels for the relevant period. Major projects are referenced in Report 6, above. The company has not completed its 2020 budgeting process and does not have final numbers prepared for investment and expense levels in 2020. WeavTel 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.

**AFFIDAVIT CONTAINING CERTIFICATIONS
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 Communications LLC (“WeavTel” or “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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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 2019, at 200 Palouse Street Suite 201 Office #5 Wenatchee, WA 98801.

Company: Westgate Communications LLC

By:

Richard J. Weaver



Its: General Manager