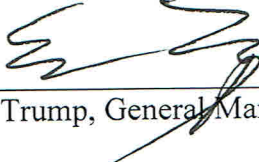


**EXHIBIT 9**

**CONTINUED OPERATIONS CERTIFICATE**

I, Eric Trump, an officer of St. John Telephone, Inc. (the "Company"), 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 throughout its service territory in Washington for which the Company is seeking and receives Program support during the entirety of 2017.

Dated at St. John, Washington this 27th day of July, 2016.

  
Eric Trump, General Manager