

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Connect America Fund	)	WC Docket No. 10-90
	)	
Lifeline and Link Up Reform	)	WC Docket No. 11-42
	)	
ETC Annual Reports and Certifications	)	WC Docket No. 14-58

**REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT**

Benton Cooperative Telephone Company, SAC 361356, (“the company”) requests that the portion of its Form 481 pertaining to the 5-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan be granted confidential, non-public treatment pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, and related provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), including 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4) (“Exemption 4”). Form 481 contains information regarding the company’s Section 54.202(a) 5- Year Service Quality Improvement Plan including capital expenditures and operating expenses. Release of such information would supply a roadmap to competitors regarding confidential build out plans and study area demographics. In addition, the document contains confidential information that is not customarily disclosed to the public or made available within the telecommunications industry. Information in support of the company’s request for confidential treatment pursuant to Section 0.459(b) of the Commission’s Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b), is provided below.

**I. BENTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY’S FORM 481 SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 0.459 OF THE COMMISSION’S RULES**

The material for which the company seeks confidentiality falls squarely within the requirements of Section 0.459 of the Commission’s rules. As demonstrated below, the company has satisfied each of the elements of Section 0.459, and disclosure of this information would result in competitive harm to the company.

**(1) Identification of the specific information for which confidential treatment is sought.** The company requests confidential treatment for the portion of Form 481 required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 related to the Section 54.202(a) 5- Year Service Quality Improvement Plan. The information bears the legend “Confidential Financial Information. The specific information falls into the categories of: 1. Capital Expenditures, 2. Operating Expenses and 3. Area Demographics

**(2) Identification of the Commission proceeding in which the information was submitted or a description of the circumstances giving rise to the submission.** The information is required to be produced annually by 47 C.F.R. § 54.313. The proceedings are WC Docket No. 10-90 and WC Docket No. 11-42. The documents will also be submitted in WC Docket NO. 14-58

**(3) Explanation of the degree to which the information is commercial or financial, or contains a trade secret or is privileged.** The information for which confidentiality is requested is “financial” and commercial<sup>1</sup> in nature. The information is “confidential” in that it “would customarily not be released to the public.”<sup>2</sup> The courts have elaborated that material “is ‘confidential’ . . . if disclosure of the information is likely to have either the following effects: (1) to impair the government’s ability to obtain necessary information in the future; or (2) to cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the person from whom the information was obtained.”<sup>3</sup> Both of the considerations apply in this instance, as further explained in point (5) below.

**(4) Explanation of the degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition.** All of the services provided by the company are subject to intense existing or potential competition.

<sup>1</sup> See *Board of Trade of the City of Chicago v. Commodity Futures Trading Comm’n*, 627 F.2d 392, 403 & n.78 (D.C. Cir. 1980) (courts have given the terms “commercial” and “financial, as used in Section 552(b)(4), their ordinary meanings).

<sup>2</sup> *Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871, 873 (D.C. Cir. 1992) (citing the Senate Committee Report).

<sup>3</sup> *Nat’l Parks and Conservation Ass’n v. Morton*, 498 f.2d 764, 770 (D.C. Cir. 1974) (footnote omitted); see also *Critical Mass Energy*, 975 F.2d at 873.

**(5) Explanation of how disclosure of the information could result in substantial competitive harm.** If the information were publicly available, it would supply competitors with financial information not ordinarily available to the public. Specifically, rural telephone service has historically lent itself to “cherry picking” by competitors that choose to only serve low cost areas. Release of this specific build out and operating expense information would allow competitors to gain an unfair advantage.

**(6) Identification of any measures taken by the submitting party to prevent unauthorized disclosure.** The information for which the company seeks confidential treatment is information that the company does not customarily release to the public. The company also limits the internal circulation of this information to only those with a need to know.

Consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(a), the items for which confidentiality is requested are being submitted with, and are covered by, this request. This request for confidentiality - as well as the documents subject to this request - are being filed in hard copy and/or electronic copy.

**(7) Identification of whether the information is available to the public and the extent of any previous disclosure of the information to third parties.** The documents and information for which confidentiality is sought are not made available to the public and have not been disclosed to third parties, except to those entities identified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(i). For those disclosures, the company has requested confidential treatment by the entities for the same information.

**(8) Justification of the period during which the submitting party asserts that material should not be available for public disclosure.** Given the sensitive nature of the information for which confidentiality is requested, the prospect of serious competitive harm, the company requests that confidential treatment apply indefinitely.

## II. CONCLUSION

For these reasons, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's Rules, the company requests that the portion of Form 481 relating to the Section 54.202(a) 5 - Year Service Quality Improvement Plan be treated as confidential under the Commission's rules and precedent and withheld in their entirety from public inspection, and that any distribution of them within the Commission should be limited to a "need to know" basis. In the event that any person or entity requests access to the documents or seeks to make any or all of them part of the public record, the company requests to be notified immediately so that it can oppose such request or take other action as necessary to safeguard its interests and the interests of consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "C".

Tom Campbell

Telecommunications Consultant

[tcampbell@otcpas.com](mailto:tcampbell@otcpas.com)

651-621-8511 (v)

651-483-2467 (f)

<b>&lt;010&gt; Study Area Code</b>	361356
<b>&lt;015&gt; Study Area Name</b>	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<b>&lt;020&gt; Program Year</b>	2015
<b>&lt;030&gt; Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data</b>	Tom Campbell
<b>&lt;035&gt; Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</b>	6516218511 ext.
<b>&lt;039&gt; Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</b>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

<b>ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS</b>	<b>54.313 Completion Required</b>	<b>54.422 Completion Required</b>
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			(check box when complete)	
<b>&lt;100&gt;</b>	Service Quality Improvement Reporting	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;200&gt;</b>	Outage Reporting (voice)	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>&lt;210&gt;</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <-- check box if no outages to report		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;300&gt;</b>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) <input type="text" value="0"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;310&gt;</b>	Detail on Attempts (voice) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	<i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;320&gt;</b>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband) <input type="text" value="0"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;330&gt;</b>	Detail on Attempts (broadband) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	<i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;400&gt;</b>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)			
<b>&lt;410&gt;</b>	Fixed <input type="text" value="0.0"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>&lt;420&gt;</b>	Mobile <input type="text" value="0.0"/>			
<b>&lt;430&gt;</b>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;440&gt;</b>	Fixed <input type="text" value="0.0"/>			
<b>&lt;450&gt;</b>	Mobile <input type="text" value="0.0"/>			
<b>&lt;500&gt;</b>	Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>&lt;510&gt;</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">361356mn510.pdf</div>	<i>(attached descriptive document)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>&lt;600&gt;</b>	Functionality in Emergency Situations	<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>&lt;610&gt;</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">361356mn610.pdf</div>	<i>(attached descriptive document)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>&lt;700&gt;</b>	Company Price Offerings (voice)	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;710&gt;</b>	Company Price Offerings (broadband)	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;800&gt;</b>	Operating Companies and Affiliates	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>&lt;900&gt;</b>	Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)? <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>	<i>(if yes, complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1000&gt;</b>	Voice Services Rate Comparability	<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1010&gt;</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">361356mn1010.pdf</div>	<i>(attach descriptive document)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1100&gt;</b>	Terrestrial Backhaul (Y/N)? <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<i>(if not, check to indicate certification)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1110&gt;</b>		<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;1200&gt;</b>	Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet**

<b>&lt;2000&gt;</b>	Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers	<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;2005&gt;</b>		<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet**

<b>&lt;3000&gt;</b>		<i>(check to indicate certification)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>&lt;3005&gt;</b>		<i>(complete attached worksheet)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

<b>(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	361356
<015> Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2015
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tom Campbell
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218511 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

<110> Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC? If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<111> year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.



Name of Attached Document

Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached documents(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to § 54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How (USF) was used to improve service quality
- <116> How (USF) was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How (USF) was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

✓
✓
✓
✓

(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	361356
<015>	Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2015
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tom Campbell
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218511 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

<220>	<a>	<b1>	<b2>	<b3>	<b4>	<c1>	<c2>	<d>	<e>	<f>	<g>	<h>
	NORS Reference Number	Outage Start Date	Outage Start Time	Outage End Date	Outage End Time	Number of Customers Affected	Total Number of Customers	911 Facilities Affected (Yes / No)	Service Outage Description (Check all that apply)	Did This Outage Affect Multiple Study Areas (Yes / No)	Service Outage Resolution	Preventative Procedures





REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	361356
<015>	Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2015
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tom Campbell
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218511 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

<711>

<a1>	<a2>	<b1>	<b2>	<c>	<d1>	<d2>	<d3>	<d4>
State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rate and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached <i>{select }</i>

-- See attached worksheet --



**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	361356
<015> Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2015
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tom Campbell
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218511 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select (Yes,No, NA)

<b>(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481
	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	361356
<015>	Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2015
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tom Campbell
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218511 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

<1120> Please check this box to confirm no terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(G)

<1130> Please check this box to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(G)

<b>(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers</b> <b>Lifeline</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	361356
<015>	Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2015
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tom Campbell
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218511 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; min-height: 80px;">                     361356mn1210.pdf                 </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">Name of Attached Document</p>
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<1220> Link to Public Website	HTTP
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“Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,
- <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,
- <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.

<b>(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b> <i>Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers</i>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<b>&lt;010&gt;</b>	Study Area Code	361356
<b>&lt;015&gt;</b>	Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<b>&lt;020&gt;</b>	Program Year	2015
<b>&lt;030&gt;</b>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tom Campbell
<b>&lt;035&gt;</b>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218511 ext.
<b>&lt;039&gt;</b>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

**CHECK the boxes below to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e) the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.**

- Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting**
- <2010> 2nd Year Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)}
  - <2011> 3rd Year Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(b)(2)}

- Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification {47 CFR § 54.312(a)}**
- <2012> 2013 Frozen Support Certification
  - <2013> 2014 Frozen Support Certification
  - <2014> 2015 Frozen Support Certification
  - <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification

- Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}**
- <2016> Certification Support Used to Build Broadband

- Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}**
- <2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification
  - <2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification
  - <2019> Interim Progress Certification
  - <2020> Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

<2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

# REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<b>(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation</b>	FCC Form 481
<b>Data Collection Form</b>	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<b>&lt;010&gt; Study Area Code</b>	361356
<b>&lt;015&gt; Study Area Name</b>	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<b>&lt;020&gt; Program Year</b>	2015
<b>&lt;030&gt; Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data</b>	Tom Campbell
<b>&lt;035&gt; Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</b>	6516218511 ext.
<b>&lt;039&gt; Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</b>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

**CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.**

(3010) **Progress Report on 5 Year Plan**  
Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i))

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3011) Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

(3012) Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii))

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3013) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)) (Yes/No)  Yes  No

(3014) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report (Yes/No)  Yes  No

Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:

(3015) Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)

(3016) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3017) If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation

361356mn3017.pdf

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3018) If the response is no on line 3014, Is your company audited? (Yes/No)  Yes  No

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains

(3019) Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications

(3020) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3021) Management letter issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.

If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3022) Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers,

(3023) Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant

(3024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.

(3025) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

(3026) Attach the worksheet listing required information

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

<b>Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<b>&lt;010&gt;</b>	Study Area Code	361356
<b>&lt;015&gt;</b>	Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<b>&lt;020&gt;</b>	Program Year	2015
<b>&lt;030&gt;</b>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Tom Campbell
<b>&lt;035&gt;</b>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218511 ext.
<b>&lt;039&gt;</b>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:**

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



<b>Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<b>&lt;010&gt;</b>	Study Area Code	361356
<b>&lt;015&gt;</b>	Study Area Name	BENTON COOP TEL CO
<b>&lt;020&gt;</b>	Program Year	2015
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<b>&lt;039&gt;</b>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	tcampbell@otcpas.com

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:**

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>Tom Campbell</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	Tom Campbell
Name of Reporting Carrier:	BENTON COOP TEL CO
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE <span style="float: right;">Date: 06/25/2014</span>
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Cheryl Scapanski
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	General Manager
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	3203932115 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	361356 <span style="float: right;">Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2014</span>
<small>Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.</small>	

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:**

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	BENTON COOP TEL CO
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Tom Campbell
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE <span style="float: right;">Date: 06/25/2014</span>
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Tom Campbell
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Consultant
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	6516218511 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	361356 <span style="float: right;">Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2014</span>
<small>Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.</small>	

Attachments







**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

SAC: 361356

State: MN

Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 112 Five Year Service Quality Improvement Plan

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**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**

SAC: 361356

State: MN

Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

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As required by MN. Rule “7812.0700 Minnesota General Service Quality Requirements. Subpart 1” the local services provided by Benton Coop Tel Co are provided under internal company operating procedures and publically available tariffs which are in compliance with applicable Minnesota Public Utility Commission orders and rules including:

7810.0100 DEFINITIONS.

7810.0200 SCOPE.

7810.0300 STATUTORY AUTHORITY.

**RECORDS AND REPORTS**

7810.0400 RETENTION OF RECORDS.

7810.0500 DATA TO BE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION.

7810.0600 REPORT TO COMMISSION ON SERVICE DISRUPTION.

7810.0900 LOCATION OF RECORDS.

**CUSTOMER RELATIONS**

7810.1000 INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMER AND PUBLIC.

7810.1100 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.

7810.1200 RECORD OF COMPLAINT.

**CUSTOMER BILLING; DEPOSIT AND GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS**

7810.1400 CUSTOMER BILLING.

7810.1500 DEPOSIT AND GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS.

7810.1600 DEPOSIT.

7810.1700 GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT.

**DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE; SERVICE DELAY**

7810.1800 PERMISSIBLE SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS WITH NOTICE.

7810.1900 PERMISSIBLE SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

7810.2000 NONPERMISSIBLE REASONS TO DISCONNECT SERVICE.

7810.2100 MANNER OF DISCONNECTION.

7810.2200 RECONNECTION OF SERVICE.

7810.2300 NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.

7810.2400 BILL DISPUTES.

7810.2500 ESCROW PAYMENTS.

7810.2600 WAIVING RIGHT TO DISCONNECT; EMERGENCY STATUS.

7810.2800 DELAY IN INITIAL SERVICE OR UPGRADE.

**DIRECTORIES**

7810.2900 CONTENT OF DIRECTORIES.

7810.3000 DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE.

7810.3100 CHANGES OR ERROR OF LISTED NUMBER.

**ENGINEERING**

7810.3200 CONSTRUCTION OF TELEPHONE PLANT.

7810.3300 MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.

7810.3900 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

SAC: 361356

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Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

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**INSPECTIONS, TESTS, SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

7810.4100 ACCESS TO TEST FACILITIES.

7810.4300 ACCURACY REQUIREMENTS.

7810.4900 ADEQUACY OF SERVICE.

7810.5000 UTILITY OBLIGATIONS.

7810.5100 TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

7810.5200 ANSWERING TIME.

7810.5300 DIAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.

7810.5400 INTEROFFICE TRUNKS.

7810.5500 TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

7810.5800 INTERRUPTIONS OF SERVICE.

7810.5900 CUSTOMER TROUBLE REPORTS.

7810.6000 PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

7810.6100 SAFETY PROGRAM.

Benton Coop Tel Co is in compliance with Federal CPNI rules, Red Flag Rules and other Federal and State requirements governing the protection of Customer's privacy.



SAC: 361356

State: MN

Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 610 Description of Functionality in Emergency Situations

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Benton Coop Tel Co pursuant to MN Rule “7810.390 Emergency Operations” has:

- Established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from failures of lighting or power service, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness of operators or from fire, storm, or acts of God including provisions for emergency power that meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:
  - A minimum of four hours of battery service in each central office.
  - A permanently installed power unit in exchanges exceeding 5000 lines.
  - Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and which can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.
  
- Has informed employees as to the procedures to be followed, including reasonable rerouting of traffic around damaged facilities and the deployment of emergency power, in the event of emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telecommunications service.

**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

SAC: 361356

State: MN

Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 1010 Descriptive document for Voice Services Rate Comparability

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Line 1010 – Description of Voice Services Rate Comparability: Provide a detailed description of how your pricing of fixed voice services is no more than two standard deviations above the applicable national average urban rate for voice service, as published annually by the Wireline Competition Bureau, as required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10).

On March 20, 2014 the Wireline Competition Bureau announced results of the Urban Rate Survey for Voice Services; as part the FCC Public Notice DA 14-384. Referenced in this public notice are the results required to meet the rate comparability as noted:

“Based on the survey responses, the Bureau also calculated the reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services to be \$46.96. 9

9. Id. at 17694, para. 84.”

As required Benton Coop Tel Co hereby certifies that its current fixed voice services for residential subscribers as defined in the USF/ICC Transformation Order is below \$46.96.

SAC: 361356  
 State: MN  
 Benton Coop Tel Co  
 Form 481 Line No. 1210 Lifeline Plans Terms and Conditions

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Benton Coop Tel Co does adhere to all Federal Lifeline eligibility rules and regulations as well as Minnesota Administrative Rule “7817.0400 - Eligibility for Telephone Assistance Credits” which states:

**Minnesota Administrative Rule 237 Chapter 7817.0400**

**Subpart 1. Information provided.** Each local service provider shall annually mail a notice of the availability of the telephone assistance plan to each residential subscriber in a regular billing. If a subscriber has chosen to receive the regular billing other than through U.S. mail, the local service provider shall send the notice in a regular billing using the delivery method chosen by the subscriber for delivery of the regular billing. The notice must state the following: YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE IN PAYING YOUR TELEPHONE BILL IF YOU RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM CERTAIN LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OR MEET CERTAIN INCOME LIMITS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT

                    (local service provider)                    . On request, the local service provider shall mail to a person an application form developed by the commission and the Department of Commerce, and a brochure that describes the telephone assistance plan’s eligibility requirements and application process.

**Subpart 2. Application process.** On completing and signing the application certifying under penalty of perjury that the information provided by the applicant is true and that the statutory criteria for eligibility are satisfied, the applicant must return it to the local service provider for enrollment in the telephone assistance plan. An application may be made by the subscriber, the subscriber’s spouse, or a person authorized by the subscriber to act on the subscriber’s behalf.

**Subpart 4. Eligibility criteria.** To be eligible for a telephone assistance credit the applicant must:

- A. be a subscriber who resides in Minnesota or has moved to Minnesota and intends to remain; and
- B. be eligible for the federal Lifeline telephone service discount.

**Subpart 7. Applicant and recipient responsibilities.** Each applicant and each recipient shall provide current information to the local service provider about permanent changes that affect the applicant’s or recipient’s eligibility.

**Subpart 8. Local service provider responsibilities.**

- A. A local service provider shall begin providing telephone assistance credits to an applicant in the earliest possible billing cycle but not later than the second billing cycle following submission of a completed application demonstrating eligibility. If certified, the local service provider shall notify the applicant by, for example, placing telephone assistance credits on the bill.
- B. If an applicant is denied eligibility, the local service provider shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, of the right to appeal, and of the right to reapply.

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 State: MN  
 Benton Coop Tel Co  
 Form 481 Line No. 1210 Lifeline Plans Terms and Conditions

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Rates

Benton Coop Tel Co’s Local service rates that serve as its Lifeline Plans are filed in Compliance with the regulatory requirements of Minn. Rules Ch. 7810 and Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600 as follows:

A. The tariffs or price lists of local exchange carriers must offer the following services to all customers pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600 (basic service requirements):

- single party voice-grade service and touch-tone capability;
- 911 or enhanced 911 access;
- 1 + intraLATA and interLATA presubscription and code-specific equal access to interexchange carriers subscribing to its switched access service;
- access to directory assistance, directory listings, and operator services;
- toll and information service-blocking capability without recurring monthly charges
- one white pages directory per year for each local calling area, which may include more than one local calling area, except where an offer is made and explicitly refused by the customer;
  
- a white pages and directory assistance listing, or, upon customer request, a private listing that allows the customer to have an unlisted or unpublished telephone number;
  
- call-tracing capability according to chapter 7813;
  - (i) call Trace provisions in tariff mirror Commission’s tariff templates.
- blocking capability according to the Commission's ORDER ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF CUSTOMER LOCAL AREA SIGNALING SERVICES, Docket No. P999/CI-92-992 (June 17, 1993) and its ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION, Docket No. P999/CI-92-992 (December 3, 1993).
- telecommunications relay service capability or access necessary to comply with state and federal regulations.

B. A Separate flat rate service offering is required pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 2. At a minimum, each local service provider (LSP) shall offer the services identified in Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 1 as a separate tariff or price list offering on a flat rate basis. An LSP may also offer basic local service on a measured rate basis or in combination with other services. An LSP may impose separate charges for the services set forth in subpart 1 only to the extent permitted by applicable laws, rules, and commission orders.

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State: MN  
Benton Coop Tel Co  
Form 481 Line No. 1210 Lifeline Plans Terms and Conditions

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C. Service area obligations under Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 3: An LSP shall provide its local services on a nondiscriminatory basis, consistent with its certificate under part 7812.0300 or 7812.0350, to all customers who request service and whose premises fall within the carrier's service area boundaries or, for an interim period, to all requesting customers whose premises fall within the operational areas of the local service provider's service area under part 7812.0300, subpart 4, or 7812.0350, subpart 4. The obligation to provide resale services does not extend beyond the service capability of the underlying carrier whose service is being resold. The obligation to provide facilities-based services does not require an LSP that is not an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to build out its facilities to customers not abutting its facilities or to serve a customer if the local service provider cannot reasonably obtain access to the point of demarcation on the customer's premises.

The flat rate services, offered pursuant to Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600, subpt. 2., include unlimited local service minutes of use. The local services offerings do not include any toll minutes of use. The rates for any toll usage are determined by the rate plans of the Toll Provider(s) that end users are selected by lifeline by end users.

The specific Company terms and conditions for the Companies Lifeline Plans are set forth in the tariff pages included in Exhibit 1, attached.

SAC: 361356  
State: MN  
Benton Coop Tel Co  
Form 481 Line No. 1210 Lifeline Plans Terms and Conditions

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

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The rates for Local Exchange Service are subject to the conditions set forth herein and the General Regulations governing provision of service. The General Regulations are set forth in Section 2 of this tariff book.

Local Exchange Service

- A. The Local Exchange Service Rates in this section are for service only and do not include any terminal equipment beyond the point of demarcation.
- B. The rates applicable to Local Exchange Service are composed of a Line Access Rate component plus (where applicable) an Extended Area Service component.
- C. Service Upgrades
  - 1) At the option of the Company, services will be upgraded to business individual line and residence individual line or two party services as facilities for the provision of such services permit.
  - 2) Upgrading of business and residence services may be accomplished on a line by line basis at the option of the Company.
  - 3) As an exchange is upgraded, as set forth in 1) above, the rates shown on the appropriate rate schedule will be applied.
- D. Extended Area Service
  - 1) Establishment and discontinuance of EAS will be contingent upon Commission authorization.
  - 2) Extended Area Service rate component.
    - a) EAS is a premium-type service offering made by the Company to certain exchanges, under specific conditions.
    - b) The Extended Area Service rate component, where applicable, is included in the Local Exchange Service Rate.
- E. Taxes
  - 1) Applicable taxes levied by state, county and local taxing authorities are in addition to the rates set forth in this tariff. (See also General Regulations, Section 2).

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

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RATES

Exchange - Bock

<u>Class of Service</u>	<u>Monthly Rates</u>
BUSINESS:	
One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75
RESIDENCE:	
One Party	\$12.60 (I)

All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

(D)

(D)



BENTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY  
RICE, MINNESOTA

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Revision 5

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

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RATES

Exchange - Foreston

<u>Class of Service</u>	<u>Monthly Rates</u>
BUSINESS:	
One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75
 RESIDENCE:	
One Party	\$11.50 (I)

All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

(D)

(D)

BENTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY  
RICE, MINNESOTA

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Page 2b  
Revision 5

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

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RATES

Exchange - Gilman

<u>Class of Service</u>	<u>Monthly Rates</u>
BUSINESS:	
One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75
RESIDENCE:	
One Party	\$ 9.70 (I)

All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

(D)

(D)

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

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RATES

Exchange – Ramey

Class of Service

Monthly Rates

BUSINESS:

One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75

RESIDENCE:

One Party	\$ 9.70 (I)
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All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

(D)

(D)

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

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RATES

Exchange – Rice

Class of Service

Monthly Rates

BUSINESS:

One Party	\$ 8.75
PBX Trunk	11.00
Key System Line	11.00
Basic Coin Telephone Service	8.75

RESIDENCE:

One Party	\$ 9.70 (I)
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All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

(D)

(D)

BENTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY  
 RICE, MINNESOTA

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

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Extended Area Service (EAS)

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>EAS To Exchanges</u>	<u>Rate</u>	
		<u>Residence</u>	<u>Business</u>
Bock	Milaca Pease	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.80
Foreston	Foley Gilman Milaca Pease	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.10
Gilman	Foley Foreston Ramey Rice St. Cloud	\$ 4.30	\$ 5.30
Ramey	Foley Gilman Rice Royalton St. Cloud	\$ 4.30	\$ 5.30
Rice	Foley Gilman Ramey Royalton St. Cloud	\$ 4.30	\$ 5.30

\*\* 12-18-92

The Benton Telephone Board voted to give their subscribers one month extended area service (EAS) credit, as the charges are above, for the month of December 1992, this credit will show on the subscribers January 1993 bill.

**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

SAC: 361356

State: MN

Benton Coop Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 3017 RUS Annual Report

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**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**