## **DOCKET NO. UM 1726**

# Cover Sheet for Submission of 2015 Annual ETC Certification Reports

Name of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier: Ploneer Telephone Cooperative
Filing date: June 22, 2015
ls this: Original submission?X OR Revised submission?
Person to contact for questions:
Name: Michael Whalen
Phone number: 541-929-8256
E-mail address: mikewhalen@pioneer.net
Documents included in this filing (please check applicable items):  CAF/ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.304)  Rate Floor Data (47 CFR § 54.313(h))  Form 481 (High-cost per 47 CFR § 54.313, Low-income per 54.422)¹  Form 690 (Mobility Fund per 47 CFR § 54.1009)  Affidavit for High-Cost Support

Filing deadlines: The deadlines for filing items required by 47 CFR § 54 are the same as the deadlines for filing with the FCC. The notarized affidavit for high-cost support must be filed no later than the due date for the FCC Form 481. Based on current information, it appears that all items other than CAF/ICC support data are due by July 1, 2015. The CAF/ICC support data are due the same day as the ETC's interstate access tariff filing.

If revisions to an original submission are filed with the FCC or USAC, a copy of the revisions must be filed with the Oregon Commission no later than five business days following submission to the FCC or USAC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lifeline-only ETCs must provide all information specified in 47 CFR § 54.422(b) even if the ETC does not submit this information to the FCC.

### RATE FLOOR DATA COLLECTION - OMB Control Number 3060-0986

### Block 1 - Contact Information

ROW#	DATA ELEMENT	FORMAT OF REQUESTED DATA	RESPONSE				
1	Carrier Study Area Code	6 numeric digits	532393				
2	Carrier Study Area Name	alpha characters	PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE				
3	Service Provider Identification Number	9 numeric digits	143002634				
4	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	mm/dd/yy	07/01/15				
5	Contact Name	alpha characters	WHALEN, MICHAEL				
6	Contact Telephone Number (include area code)	9 numenc digits	541-929-8256				
7	Sheet Number	numeric digit(s)					
8	Total Number of Sheets	numeric digit(s)					

## Block 2- Residential Local Service Rates, Fees, and Line Counts

	Column 1 Residential Local Service Charge	Column 2 State Subscriber Line Charge	Column 3 State Universal Service Fee	Column 4 Manditory Extended Area Service Charge	Column 5 Loops	Column 6 Exchange Name/ Zone Name	Column 7 Class Of Service
9	15.00		1.53	2.95	392	ALSEA	RESIDENTIAL
10	15.00		1.53	2.95	18	ALSEA	LIFELINE
11	7.50		0.64		3	ALSEA	VACATION
12	15.00		1.53	2.95	156	BLODGETT	RESIDENTIAL
13	15.00		1.53	2.95	9	BLODGETT	LIFELINE
14	15.00		1.61	3.95	227	CHITWOOD	RESIDENTIAL
15	15.00		1.61	3.95	11	CHITWOOD	LIFELINE
16	15.00		1.53	2.95	65	HARLAN	RESIDENTIAL
17	15.00		1.53	2.95	2	HARLAN	LIFELINE
18	15.00		1.53	2.95	57	LOBSTER VALLEY	RESIDENTIAL
19	15.00		1.53	2.95	4	LOBSTER VALLEY	LIFELINE
20	15.00		1.61	3.95	1,937	PHILOMATH	RESIDENTIAL
21	15.00		1.61	3.95	48	PHILOMATH	LIFELINE
22	7.50		0.64		2	PHILOMATH	VACATION
23	7.50		0.64		4	SOUTH BEACH	VACATION
24	15.00		1.53	2.95	150	SUMMIT	RESIDENTIAL
25	15.00		1.53	2.95	8	SUMMIT	LIFELINE

R <b>OW</b> #	DATA ELEMENT	FORMAT OF REQUESTED DATA	RESPONSE			
1	Carrier Study Area Code	6 numeric digits	532393			
2	Carrier Study Area Name	alpha characters	PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE			
3	Service Provider Identification Number	9 numeric digits	143002634			
4	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	mm/dd/yy	07/01/15			
5	Contact Name	alpha characters	WHALEN, MICHAEL			
6	Contact Telephone Number (include area code)	9 numeric digits	541-929-8256			
7	Sheet Number	numeric digit(s)				
8	Total Number of Sheets	numeric digit(s)				

# Block 2- Residential Local Service Rates, Fees, and Line Counts

26	15.00	1.53	2.95	388	TIDEWATER	RESIDENTIAL
27	15.00	1.53	2.95	25	TIDEWATER	LIFELINE
28	7.50	0.64		5	TIDEWATER	VACATION
29	7.50	0.64		3	TRIANGLE LAKE	VACATION
30	15.00	1.53	2.95	2,398	WALDPORT	RESIDENTIAL
31	15.00	1.53	2.95	152	WALDPORT	LIFELINE
32	7.50	0.64		12	WALDPORT	VACATION
33	15.00	1.53	2.95	941	YACHATS	RESIDENTIAL
34	15.00	1.53	2.95	53	YACHATS	LIFELINE
35	7.50	0.64		5	YACHATS	VACATION

FCC For	m 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting			FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0	0986/OMB Control N	ia. 3060-0819
<u></u>	Data Collection Form	<u></u>		july 2013		
<010>	Study Area Code	532393				
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP				
<020>	Program Year	2016				
<030>	-	MICHAEL WHALEN				
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.				
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen#pioneer.	net			
ANNUA	AL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS				54.313 Completion Required (theck box who	54.422 Completion Required
<100>	Service Quality Improvement Reporting		(complete attached work	ksheet)	· /	
	Outage Reporting (voice)		(complete attached work	ksheet)		
<210>		outages to report		ſ	7 6	
<300>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) 0			٠ '	<u>.                                    </u>	
<310>	Detail on Attempts (voice)					TITTE .
				(attach descriptive do	cument)	
<320>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)					TITTE
<330>	Detail on Attempts (broadband)					mm
				(attach descriptive de	ocument)	
<400>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)			_		
<410>	Fixed 0.0				1	
<420>	Mobile 0.0	hand)				
<430> <440>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broad)  Fixed  0.0	vanoj				
<450>	Mobile 0.0					
<500>	Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection R 5323930R510.pdf	uies Compliance	(check to indicate cert)	(ication)		
<510>			(attached descriptive	document)	<b>-</b>	
<600>	Functionality in Emergency Situations		☐ (check to Indicate certi)	lication)	<b>4</b>	
	5323930R610.pdf					
			(attached descriptive do	cument)	<b>_</b> ✓	
<610>			-			
<700>	Company Price OfferIngs (voice)		(complete attached wor	rksheetj		THIN
	Company Price Offerings (broadband)		(complete attached wo	•		VIIIII
	Operating Companies and Affiliates		(complete attached wo			min
	Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)?  Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification	_	yes, complete attached wo	rksheet)		Timi
-2000	The second comparison of the second	<u></u>	es			
<1010>			(attach descriptive doc	ument)	i	
<1100>	• Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist ()	Yes or No) ( )	   (if not, check to indica	te certification)		
<1110>		9 0	(complete attached wo	rksheeti		VIIIII
	Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers		(complete attached wo		THE STATE OF THE S	
	Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional					
<2000>	Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Pr	ice Cap Local Exchange	Carriers (check to indicate certifi	icetion!		
<2005>			(complete attached wor			11111
	Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional	Documentation Work				
<3000> <3005>			(check to indicate certific			HHH
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(100) Se	ervice Quality Improvement Reporting		FCC Form 481
Data Co	ollection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	532393	
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COO	DOP
<020>	Program Year	2016	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN	N .
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.	t.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pior	oneer.net
<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / r	(no) O •
<111>	If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / r	(no) O O
<112>	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.  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 of CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.	İ	532393OR100.pdf
	Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confit that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five service quality improvement plan pursuant to \$54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.	e-year	Name of Attached Document
<113>	Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets		Yes
<114>	Report how much universal service (USF) support was received		Yes
<115>	How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to impro	ve service quality	Yes
<116>	How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to imp	rove service coverag	age Yes
<117>	How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to impr	ove service capacity	
<118>	Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.	. •	Not Applicable
	<del>- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·</del>	<u>-</u>	<del> </del>

(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	532393
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER THL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	KICHAEL WHALEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified In data line <030>	5419298256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pioneer.net

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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)	Old This Outage Affect Multiple Study Areas (Yes / No)	Service Outage Resolution	Preventativ Procedure
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(700) Pri	ce Offerings including Voice Rate Data			FCC Form 481
Data Cos	lection Form			OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code		532393	
<015>	Study Area Name		PIONEER TEL COOP	
<020>	Program Year		2016	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this	data	MICHAEL WHALEN	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified	In data line <030>	5419298256 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified	in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pioneer.net	
<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2015		
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge		<b>—</b> 1	

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					Residential Local			Mandatory Extended Area	
_	State	Exchange (ILEC)	SAC (CETC)	Rate Type	Service Rate	State Subscriber Line Charge	State Universal Service Fee	Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fe
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(710) Broadband Price Offerings	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	532393
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person Identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pioneer.net

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	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 (selec
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	erating Companies lection Form				FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code		532393		
<015>	Study Area Name	4	PIONEER TEL C	100P	
<020>	Program Year		2016		
<030>	Contact Name - Person I	USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALE	gri	•
<035>		ber - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ex		
<039>		Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen#p	ioneer.net	
· <810>	Reporting Carrier	PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	_		
<811>	Holding Company	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative (OR)			
<812>	Operating Company	PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE			
<813>		<a1></a1>		<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>
		Affiliates		SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
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(900) Trib	pal Lands Reporting	FCC Form 481	
	ection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Co	ontrol No. 3060-0819
		July 2013	
<010>	Study Area Code	532393	
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP	<del></del>
<020> <030>	Program Year	2016	
<035>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data  Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <03	MICHAEL WHALEN  0> 5419298256 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <0.	<u> </u>	
(0337	Contact Cinan Address - Email Address of person identified in data fine Co	0> mrve=mrenshroneer.mec	
<910>	Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves .		
<920>	Tribal Government Engagement Obligation	Name of Attached Document	
If your c	ompany serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes		
	m the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920,		
	trates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to	Select	
	(a)(9) includes:	Yes or No or Not Applicable	
<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.		
~JLJ/	compliance with thesi beamess and decroning requirements.		

	o Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting lection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code Study Area Name	532393 PIONEER TEL COOP	
<020>	Program Year	2016	•
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pioneer.net	
	Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).		<u>.</u>
<1130>	Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).	kbps	

<del></del>	·	
	erms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	FCC Form 481
Lifeline		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
Data Coll	ection Form	July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	532393
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030	> 5419298256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030	> mikewhalen@pioncer.net
<1210>	Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans	
		Name of Attached Document
		Name of Attached Document
<1220>	Link to Public Website HTTP	pioneer.net
	- ·····	Production of the state of the
		•
"Please ci	neck these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210,	
or the we	bsite 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		
•		
<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,	
	position on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,	
	_	
<1223>	Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.	
	<u>—</u>	

(2000) Pi	ice Cap Carrier Additional Documentation		FCC Form 481
Data Coll	ection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
Including	Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers		July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code		
<015>	Study Area Name	532393	
<020>	Program Year	PIONEER TEL COOP	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	2016	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	MICHAEL WHALES	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	3419298236 txt.	
		mikewhalenwploneer.het	
			hase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, ar
Connect	America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The inform	nation reported on this form and in the docu	ments attached below is accurate.
	Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting		
<2010>	2nd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)i)	<u></u>	
<2011a	> 3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)	<u></u>	
<2011b	Attachment (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)		
		į	
		Name of Attache	d Document(s) Listing Required information
	Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))		,
<2012	2013 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1))		
<2013:	2014 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2))		
<2014	2015 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3))		
<2015:	2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4))		
	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:	Sta year broadband Service Certification		
<2018	Stri feer processing service certification		
<2019	Interim Progress Certification		
<2020	<ul> <li>Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on lir pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support s addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing preceding calendar year.</li> </ul>	hall provide the number, names, and	
	k 6		
<2021	Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions	1	
		1	
		1	
			of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

(3000) =	ate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation		ECC Form 481
1			FCC Form 481 OM8 Control No. 3060-0986/OM8 Control No. 3060-0819
usta coi	lection Form		Puly 2013
			rest ward
<010>	Study Area Code	\$32393	
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP	
<020>	Program Year	2016	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN	<u> </u>
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.	<del></del>
.0337	Contract Email Address - Citali Address of person identified in data line 30305	mikewhalen@pioneer.net	
CHECK	the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursual CFR § \$4.313(f)(2). I further certify that th	nt to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring core te information reported on this form and in the documents attached	
		\$323930R3010.pdf	
	A		
(3010)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan  Milestone Cartification (47 CER 6 54 212(6)/1)(1)		
	Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i))		
		Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	n.
(3011)	Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line \$ 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addressed access to breadband service in the preceding calendar year.	IO12 contains the required information pursuant to esses of community anchor institutions to which began	<b>7</b>
		5323930R3012.docx	
	•		
(3012)	Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § \$4.313(f)(1)(ii))		
		Name of Attached Document Usting Required Information	$\wedge$
	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2))	(Yes/No)	<b>\</b>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No) [O	lacktriangle
Please	check these boxes to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 301	7, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) of	compliance requires:
(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for		
	Telecommunications Borrowers)		<u>'-</u>
(3016)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Ce	sh Flows	
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual		
	report and all required documentation		
		·	
		Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	$\sim$
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(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 fo	ormat comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications	
(2020)	Decimental to Balance Short toward Statement and Statement of S	anh Flavor	
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of C	EST FlOWS	
(3021)	Management letter and audit opinion issued by the independent certified po	ublic 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)			
	Independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a		<b></b>
	format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers.		
taanas	•		
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		=
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<b>}</b>
(3025)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Co	sh Flows	البيبا
		5323930R3026.pdf	
		•	
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information		
	<b>-</b>	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	

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

<010>	Study Area Code	532393
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pioneer.net

Financial Data Summary (3027) Revenue	14213892
(3028) Operating Expenses	13739148
(3029) Net Income	570992
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)	74765659
(3031) Total Assets	28711677
(3032) Total Debt	0
(3033) Total Equity	27842847
(3034) Dividends	7656

Certification - Reporting Carrier	FCC Form 481
Oata Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	532393
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pioneer.net

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

# Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or U Recipients 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: PIONEER TEL COOP Signature of Authorized Officer: Date Printed name of Authorized Officer: MICHAEL MHALEN Title or position of Authorized Officer: EXECUTIVE VP Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 5419298256 ext. Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 532393 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015 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.

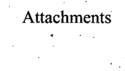
	ion - Agent / Carrier ection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Cor July 2013	ntrol No. 3060-0819
<010>	Study Area Code	532393	
<015>	Study Area Name	PIGNEER TEL COOP	
<020>	Program Year	2016	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pioneer.net	

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

Certification of Officer to Au	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) also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports as	; my responsibilities include ensuring th	authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized is accurate.				
Name of Authorized Agent:						
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:	Filling Due Date for	this form:				
Persons willfully making false statements on this form	can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the under Title 18 of the United States Cod	Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment s, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.				

### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	Certification of Agent A	horized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
		ed to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provide orting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	ed
Name of I	Reporting Carrier:		
Name of	Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:		
Signature	of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Date:	
Printed na	ame of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:		
Title or po	osition of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent		
Telephon	e number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Ag		
Study Are	a Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:	
	Persons willfully making false statements on this form	be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. 55 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Titl 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	532393
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	\$419298256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen#pioneer.net

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date
<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

1/1/2015

<703>

<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<b3></b3>	<b4></b4>	<b5></b5>	<⊘
State	Exchange (ILEC)	SAC (CETC)	Rate Type	Residential Local Service Rate	State Subscriber Line Charge	State Universal Service Fee	Mandatory Extended Area Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fee
OR	ALSEA		PR	15.0	0.0	1.53	2.95	19.48
OR	BELLFOUNTAIN		FR	15.0	0.0	1.67	7.0	23.87
OR	BLODGETT		PR	15.0	0.0	1.53	2.95	19.48
OR	CHITWOOD		PR	15.0	0.0	1.61	3.95	20.56
OR	HARLAN		PR	15.0	0.0	1.53	2.95	19.48
OR	HORTON		FR	15.0	0.0	1.67	7.0	23.87
OR	LOBSTER VALLEY		FR	15.0	0.0	1.53	2.95	19.48
OR	PHILOMATH		PR	15.0	0.0	1.61	3.95	20.56
OR	SOUTH BEACH		PR	15.0	0.0	1.7	4.95	21.65
OR	SUMMIT		PR	15.0	0.0	1.53	2.95	19.48
OR	TIDEWATER		PR	15.0	0.0	1.53	2.95	19.48
OR	TRIANGLE LAKE		PR	15.0	0.0	1.96	8.0	24.96
OR	WALDPORT		PR	15.0	0.0	1.53	2.95	19.48
OR	YACHATS		PR	15.0	0.0	1.53	2.95	19.48

(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OM8 Control No. 3060-0986/OM8 Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	532393
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@nioneer.net

<711>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<b1></b1>	<b>&lt;</b> b2>	<⇔ <d1></d1>	<d2></d2>	<d3></d3>		<d4></d4>
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rates and Fees	Broadband Service -	Broadband Service -Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached (select)
ĺ	OR	ALL	56.95	0.0	56.95	6.0	1.0	999999	Other, NONE
	OR	ALL	61.95	0.0	61.95	10.0	1.0	999999	Other, NONE
	OR	ALL	66.95	0.0	66.95	16.0	1.0	999999	Other, NONE
	OR	ALL	71.95	0.0	71.95	15.0	3.0	999999	Other, NONE
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(800) Operating Companies	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OM8 Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	532393
<015>	Study Area Name	PIONEER TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	MICHAEL WHALEN
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	5419298256 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mikewhalen@pionecr.net
		• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
<810>	Reporting Carrier PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	

<b>/910&gt;</b>	Reporting Carrier	* ANTONIA STREET WITH WAS WELLT.
<811>	Holding Company	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative (OR)
<812>	Operating Company	PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

» <del>— — —</del>	<a1></a1>	<82>	<a3></a3>	
	Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation	
CASCO C	OMMUNICATIONS, INC.		PEAK INTERNET	
			<del></del>	
		,		
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<del>-  </del>	
	<del>.</del>			
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# PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE 2015

# PROGRESS REPORT ON SERVICE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### **PREAMBLE**

This document is an integral part of Company's 2015 Annual Report, as attached to Form 481. It is in compliance with § 54.313(a)(1) adopted in the FCC's USF/ICC Transformation Order (11-161) and incorporates all further clarifications identified in subsequent Reconsideration Orders, as applicable, that were in effect at the time the annual Report was due by Rule; to the requisite regulatory authorities.

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative advises that the environment in which the Company operates is dynamic, not static. As a result, certain network targets identified in the initial Five Year Network Improvement Plan filed in 2014, may be modified in response to regulatory decisions that have been subsequently adopted, and as their implication upon the Company's financial viability in providing the required services and service level quality became known.

Modifications to the network plan may also have been taken due to changes in market conditions, technology, support, weather, or other emergency related contingencies.

Targets not met or changed since the initial Five Year Plan filing are identified and reasons provided for those changes.

### UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT RECEIVED IN 2015

Per the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), as available for the period up to this filing, Pioneer Telephone Cooperative received a total of \$1,515,520 in USF support funds. The breakdown of the funding to the point of filing is:

- \$ 0 High Cost Loop Support
- \$631,230 Connect America Fund-Intercarrier Compensation Support
- \$884,290 Interstate Common Line Support

Universal Service Support funds are used to: 1) maintain, upgrade, and improve the Company's network and, 2) cover operating expenses as necessary to permit it to offer a high level of service for both voice and broadband throughout its authorized service area.

USF support will continue to be included in the Company's current revenue accounts and forward-looking projections. Revenues, in the aggregate, are used for both capital expenditures as well as to cover operating expenses. The Company does not segregate USF separately for purposes of capital and operating expenditures; USF is expended in the same proportion as all other Company revenues.

The proportionate share of USF expenditures in 2015 to date for CAPEX is estimated to be \$288,000 (19%); OPEX \$1,227,520 (81%).

In the accompanying 2015 project detail, expenditures for network improvements sometimes involve service quality, coverage, and capacity as an integrated improvement project and are not mutually exclusive of one another. Where a project involves a single qualifier, it is so noted.

### PROGRESS REPORT

The total budget for Outside Plant and Central Office for 2015 is approximately \$2,200,000. While most of the projects have been started, very little is complete due mainly to weather in Oregon. Pioneer Telephone Cooperative serves from the Willamette Valley to the Oregon coast. These areas experience significant amounts of rainfall from November to June of each year. As a result, very little construction occurs during the first six months of the year. The primary construction season is the third quarter of the year.

In addition to weather related issues, Pioneer was also in the process of completing a conversion of the switch network from a circuit switched platform to a packet switch platform. This Packet Switch was purchased and installed in 2014 and was not part of the 2015 capital budget. However, much of the transfer of voice lines from the old switch to the new occurred in the first quarter of 2015.

The Central Office budget for 2015 is approximately \$813,000. The routine portion of the budget was approximately \$150,000. This portion is for upgrades and replacements that occur in the normal course of business and cannot necessarily be foreseen each year. To date, \$38,000 has been spent for these types of projects. These projects combine service quality, coverage, and capacity increases related to DSL.

The Central Office budget also included \$663,000 for projects that were mainly for increasing capacity for DSL service. To date, \$230,000 has been spent on these projects. None of these projects are complete as of the date of this report. The \$663,000 included approximately \$128,000 for new Calix E-3 digital loop carriers. The primary purpose of this is to push fiber deeper into the network in order to provide greater DSL speeds to end users. The Five Year Plan submitted in 2014 included 16 Calix E-3's. Since that plan was submitted, we have revised the E-3 deployment. It is now anticipated that in 2015 we will place 20 E-3 units. This revision was done based on bandwidth demands from end users. The other project was a major upgrade to our fiber optic ring capacity at a cost of \$535,000. This project will be completed in the second half of 2015.

The Outside Plant budget for 2015 is \$1,373,000. To date, only about \$35,000 has been completed and closed. The closed projects are primarily service drops to end users and other routine projects. The Outside Pant budget included \$657,000 related to the Calix E-3 digital remotes included in the Central Office budget. None of these projects are complete, however \$276,000 has been spent to date. Another project for \$183,000 that

will improve service quality has yet to be started. reliability by putting several remotes on a fiber optic	This project ring.	will improve r	network
	,		
	·		
		,	

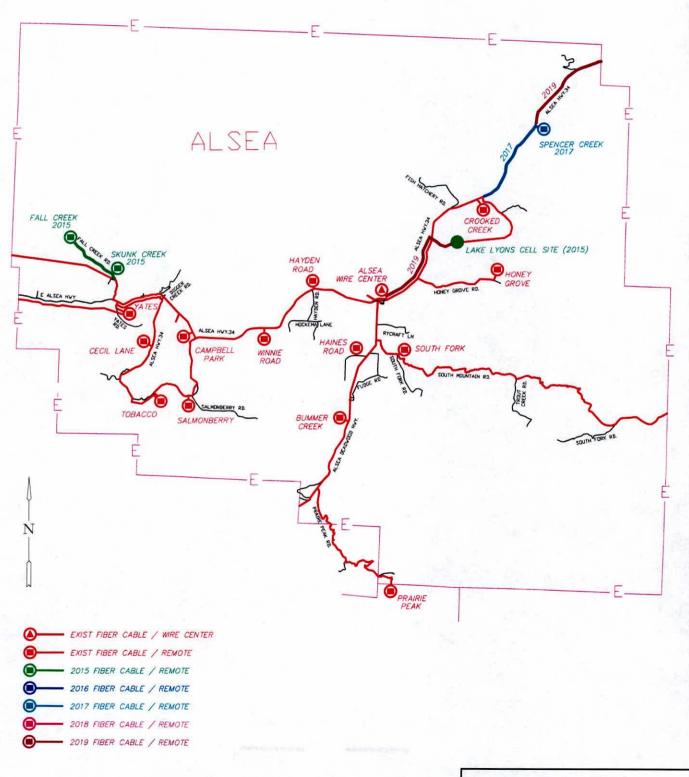
PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE / OREGON

ALSEA WIRE CENTER

CLLI: ALSEORXXRS1

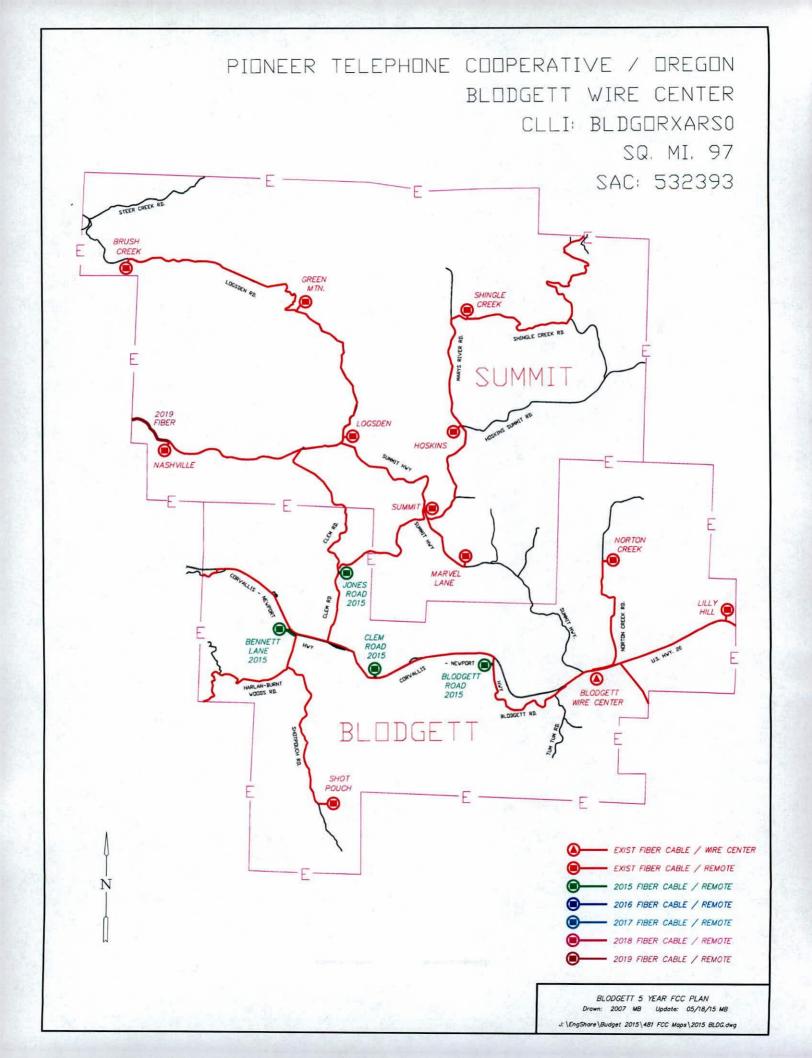
SQ. MI. 184

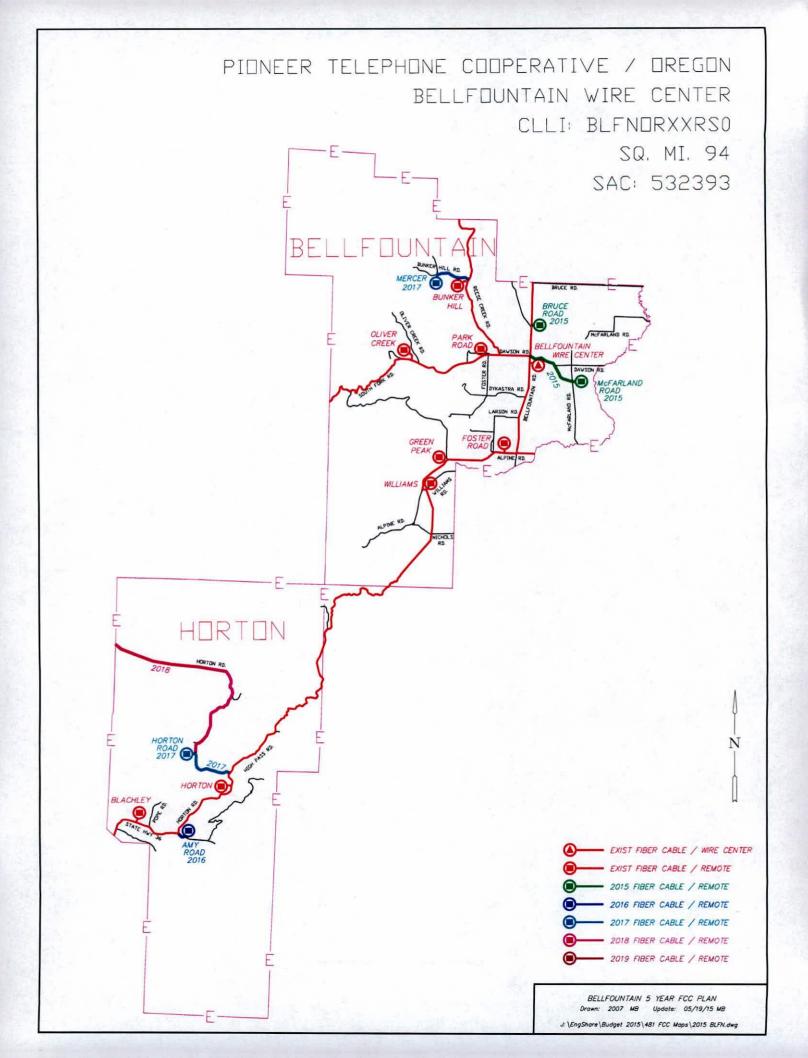
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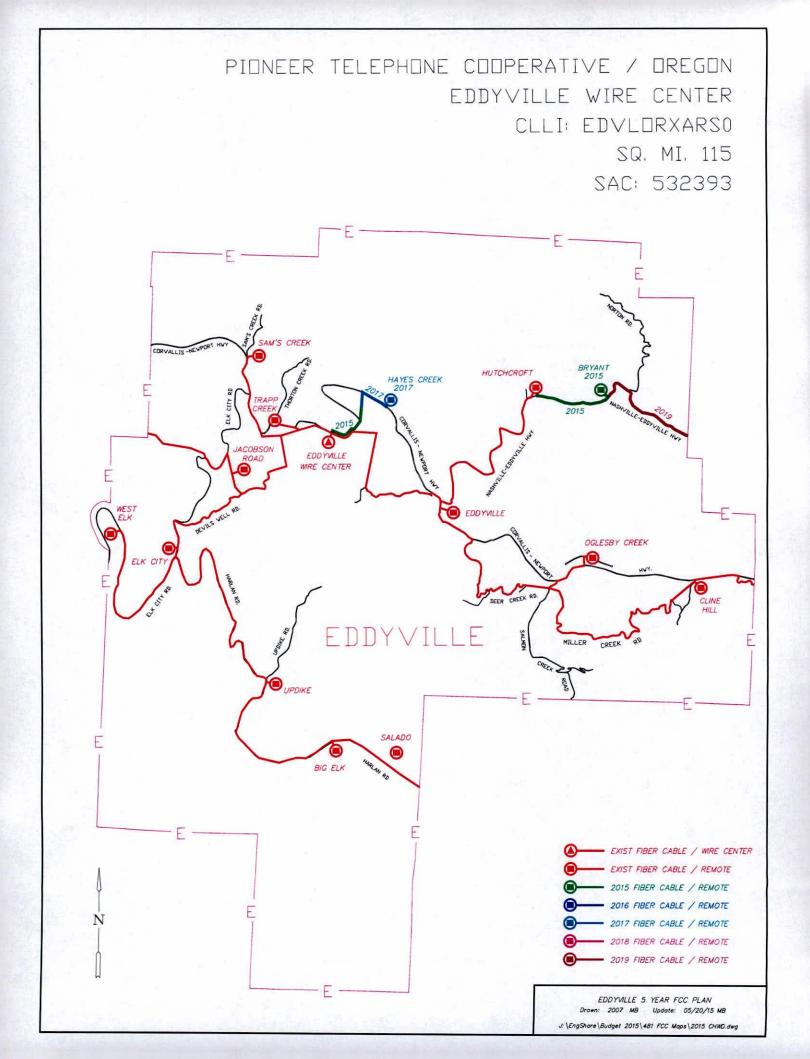


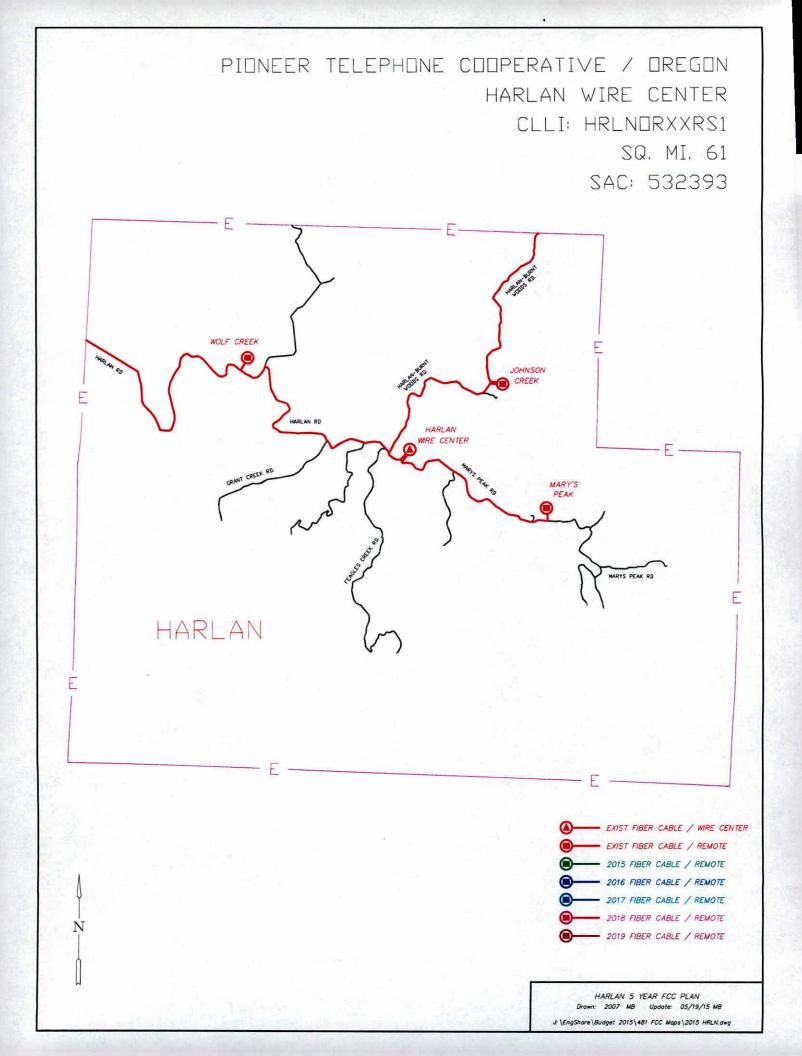
ALSEA 5 YEAR FCC PLAN
Drown: 2007 MB Update: 05/18/15 MB

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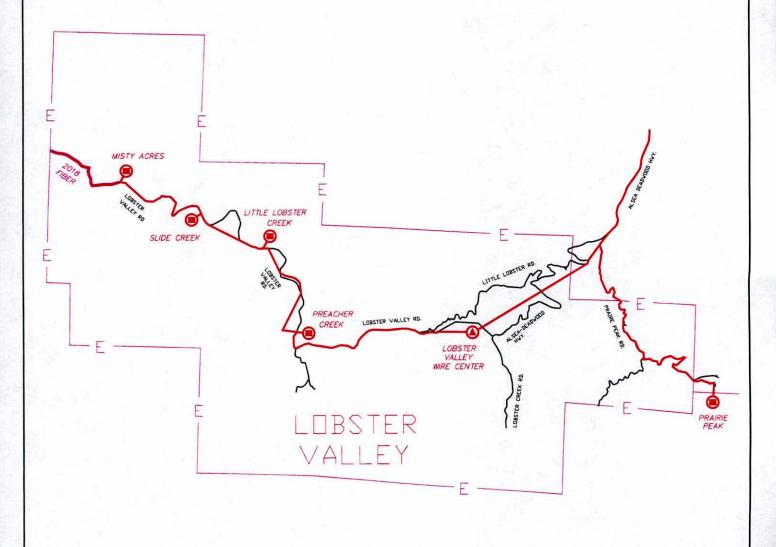








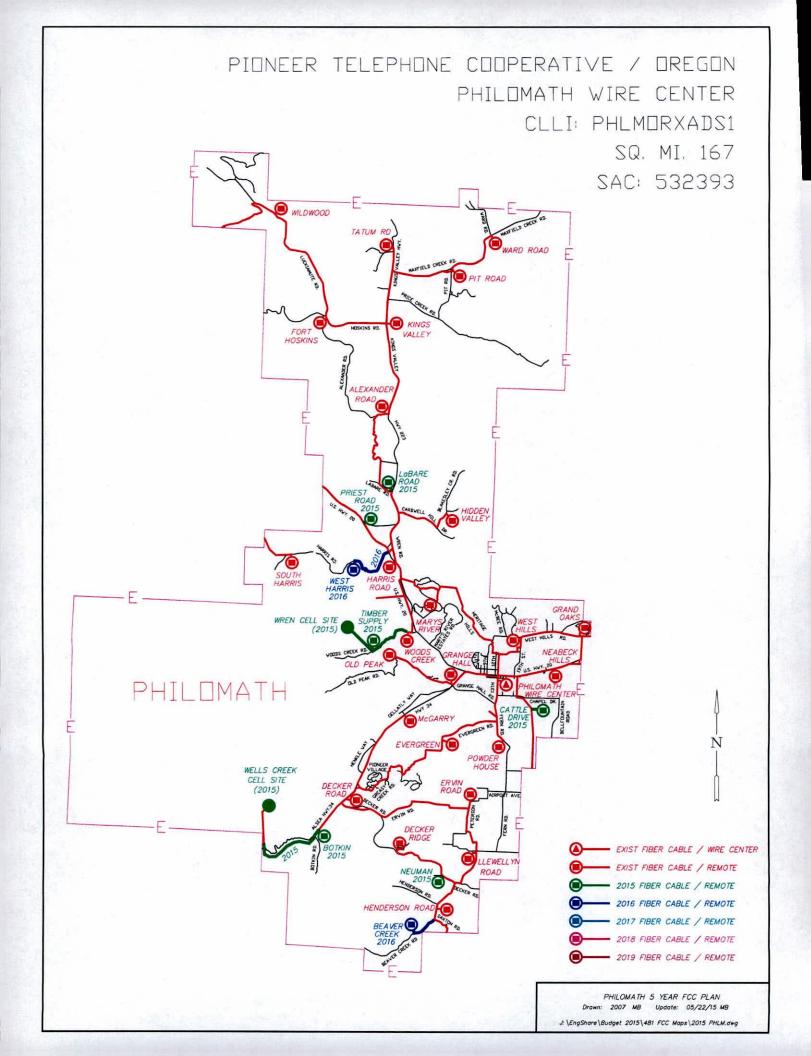
PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE / OREGON
LOBSTER VALLEY WIRE CENTER
CLLI: LBVYORXXRS1
SQ. MI. 41
SAC: 532393

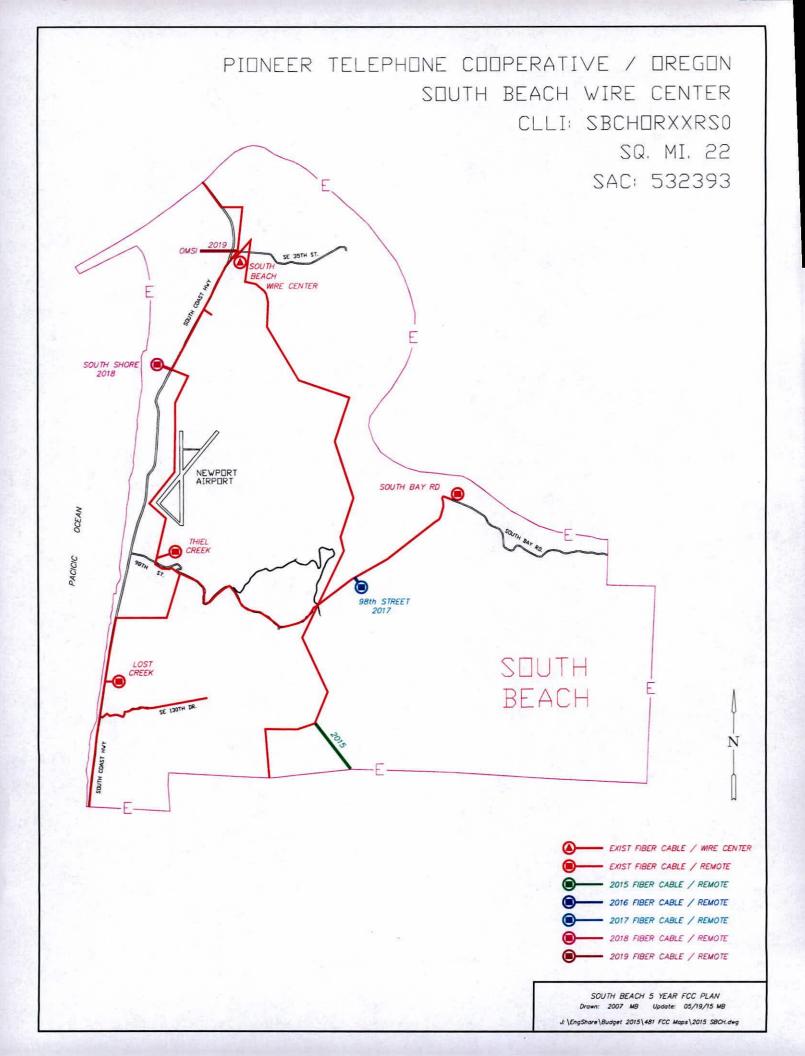


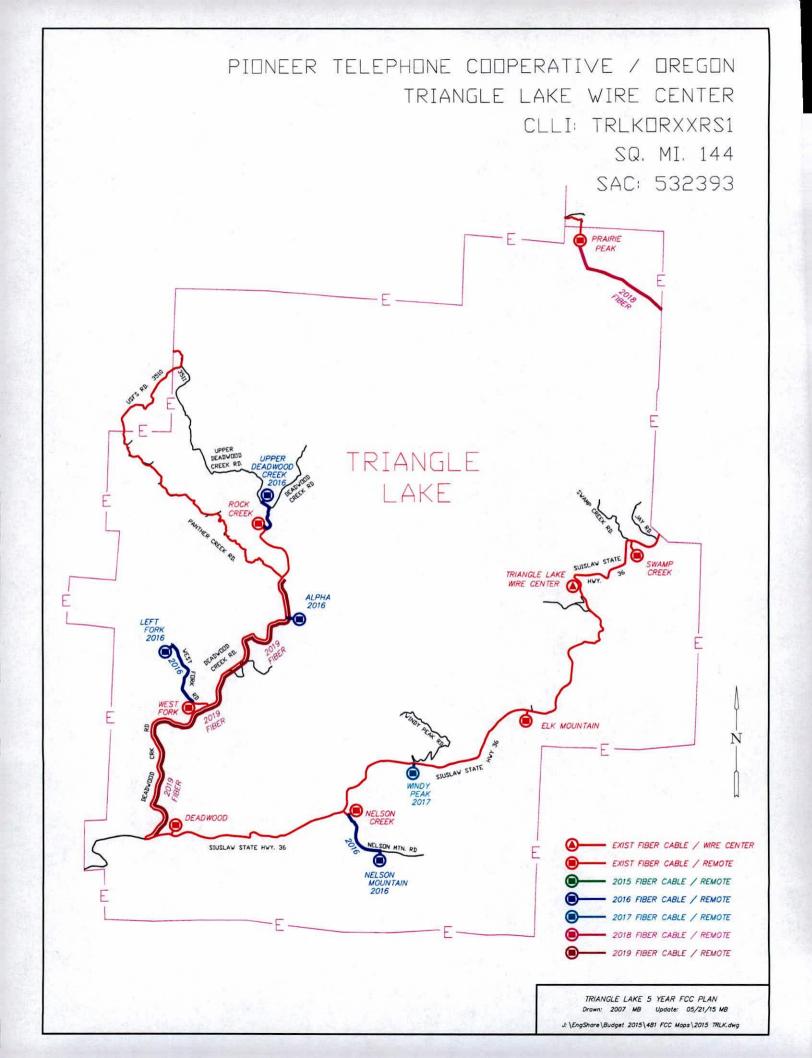


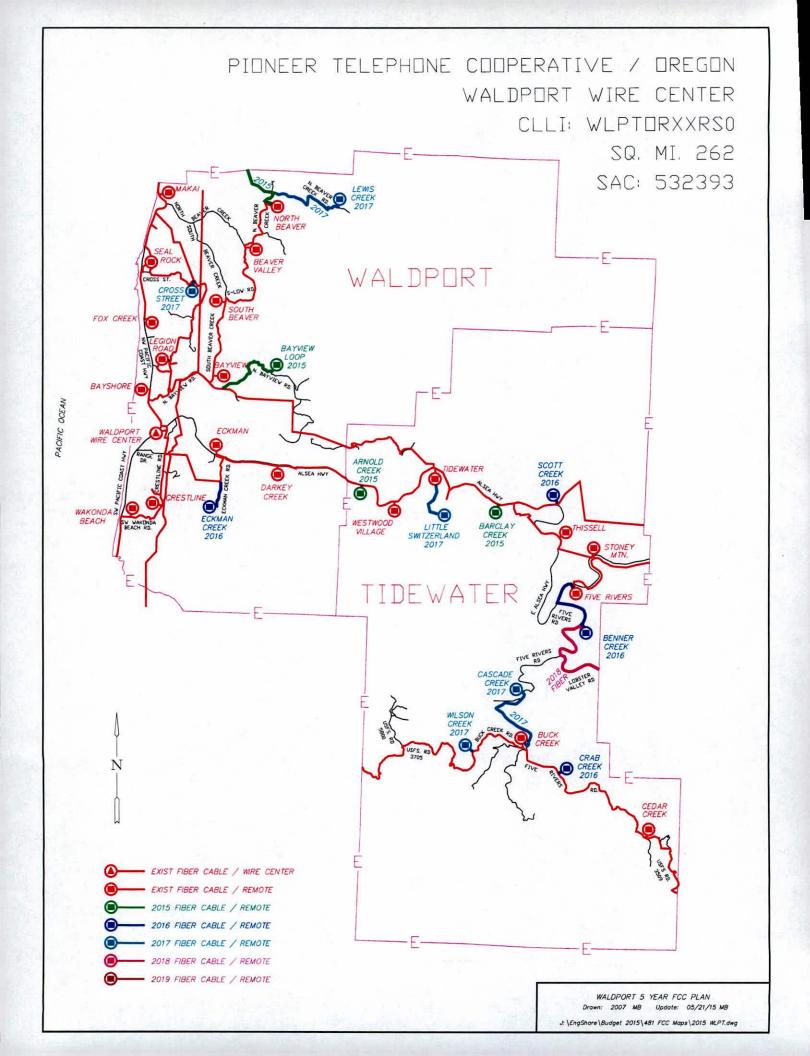
LOBSTER VALLEY 5 YEAR FCC PLAN Drawn: 2007 MB Update: 05/21/15 MB

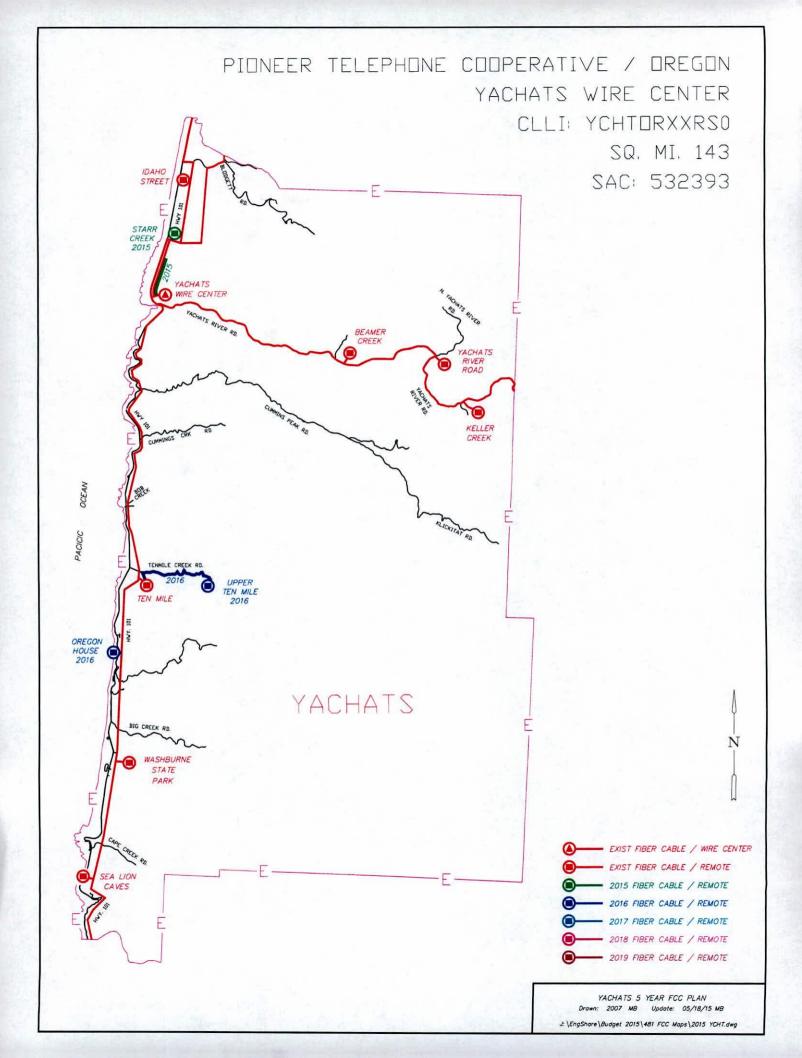
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### PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

2015 FCC Form 481

(510) Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance

47 CFR § 54.313(a)(5) – Pioneer Telephone Cooperative complies with applicable service quality standards as stated in Oregon Administrative Rules 860-034-0390, Retail Telecommunications Service Standards for Small Telecommunications Utilities and consumer protection rules as defined in 47 CFR Part 64 Subpart U, Customer Proprietary Network Information and the Federal Trade Commission Red Flag rules to prevent identity theft.

### **BROADBAND**

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative follows the service standards noted in NECA Tariff #5 and is committed to provide the highest quality service to its broadband customers.

#### PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

2015 FCC Form 481 (600) Functionality in Emergency Situations

## **Back-up Power**

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative has the following back-up power capabilities:

Switches (stand alone and/or host), Remote Central Offices, Subscriber Carrier, DLC:

See next page for the list of back-up power capabilities

Network Interface Devices (NIDs)

**Pioneer Telephone Cooperative** has 10,152 access lines with metallic (copper) connections to the Central Office and their NIDs are powered from the Central Office.

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative has 303 access lines with non-metallic (fiber optic) connections to the Central Office. Of these, 110 NIDs are battery powered in case of emergency, with batteries rated at 8 hours based on Telcordia GR-909 specifications, and 193 NIDs are powered from the Central Office with SureReach technology by Generonix®.

## Ability to reroute traffic around damaged facilities:

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative has built redundant facilities between its exchanges and its connecting company. This redundant facility is in the form of a SONET ring with alternate physical facilities between Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and CenturyLink, its interconnection to the Public Switched Telephone Network.

## Capability to manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations

**Pioneer Telephone Cooperative** has 8,877 customers, switching capacity of 10,455 simultaneous calls, and transport capacity for 1,080 simultaneous calls. **Pioneer Telephone Cooperative** takes no responsibility for the capabilities of interconnected networks to manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations, but will continue its best efforts for its networks during such events.

## Pioneer Telephone Cooperative Back-up Power

Philomath

			•				
1		200	Diesel	520	52 HR.	4180	8.69 HR.
Alsea		30	Diesel	550	183 HR.	1000	12 HR.
Bellfountain		25	Diesel	30	30 HR.	2090	22 HR.
Blodgett		25	Diesel	30	30 HR.	930	16.5 HR.
Chitwood		<b>2</b> 5	Diesel	30	30 HR.	1000	14.50 HR.
Deadwood		15	Diesel	220	183 HR.	400	8.9 HR.
South Beach		80	Diesel	250	48 HR.	2090	22.25 HR.
Waldport		75	Diesel	280	60 HR.	2090	14.25 HR.
Yachats		30	Diesel	250	104 HR.	2090	17 HR.
Harlan		15	Diesel	- 132	121 HR.	500	16 HR.
Lobster Valley		15	Diesel	132	121 HR.	775	29 HR.
	Horton	25	DIESEL	30	30 HR.	310	82.5 HR
	Tidewater	13	PROPANE	120	85 HR.	465	31.5 HR.
	Triangle Lake	30	DIESEL	550	229 HR.	465	74.25 HR.
	Alexander Road					155	77 HR.
	Bayshore Bayview					620 290	24.75 HR. 37.25 HR.
	Beamer Creek					155	37.23 HR. 88.5 HR.
	Beaver Valley					290	46.25 HR.
	Bennett Lane					125	50.0 HR.
	Big Elk Creek					155	62 HR.
	Blachly					170	18.60 HR.
	Brush Creek					225	163 HR.
	Bruce Road			Line Po	wered From Bellfo	untain 22.	5 HR. (+ Generator)
	Buck Creek					290	55 HR.
	Bummer Creek					300	68.5 HR.
	Bunker Hill					125	24.25 HR.
	Campbell Park					155	77.5 HR.
	Cecil Lane				Line Power		obacco Road 72 HR.
	Cedar Creek					245	115 HR.
	Clem Road					290	38.6 HR.
	Cline Hill Crooked Creek				Line Powered	_	esby Creek 22.2 HR.
	Darkey Creek					290 290	38.6 HR. 31.6 HR.
	Decker Ridge					145	72.5 HR.
	Decker Road					155	13.75 HR
	Eckman					465	32.6 HR.
	Eddyville					100	13.25 HR.
	Elk City					155	72.75 HR.
	Elk Mountain Rd.					145	46.4 HR.
	Ervin Road					290	15.3 HR.
	Evergreen Rd					125	31.25 HR.
	Five Rivers					155	41.3 HR.
	Foster Road					255	12.9 HR.
	Fox Creek				Line Po		m Seal Rock 29 HR.
	Grand Oaks					600	43.0 HR.
	Green Mountain						m Summit 82.5 HR.
	Green Peak Harris Road			,	Line Power		ster Road 12.9 HR.
	Henderson Rd					290 290	32 HR. 33.6 HR.
	Hidden Valley					290	38.5 HR.
	Honeygrove					125	90.75 HR.
	Hoskins Road				Line Po		m Summit 82.5 HR.
	Hutchcroft Road					155	82.5 HR.
	Idaho St.					435	33 HR.
	Jacobson Road			Line	Powered From Bl	odgett 16.	5 HR. (+ Generator)
	Johnson Creek					155	112 HR.
	Keller Creek					155	47.5 HR.
	Kings Valley					620	66.00 HR.
	Fort Hoskins						gs valley 66.00 HR.
	Grange Hall			Line P	Powered From Phil		9 HR. (+ Generator)
	Legion Road		•			435	31.5 HR.
	Little Lohster Creek				Line Poure	rad Fram 9	lide Creek 41 3 HR

Line Powered From Slide Creek 41.3 HR.

Little Lobster Creek

#### Pioneer Telephone Cooperative Back-up Power

T 31 7731	
Lilly Hill	Line Powered From Blodgett 16.5 HR. (+ Generator)
Llewellyn Road	Line Powered From Ervin Road 15.3 HR.
Logsden Road	Line Powered From Summit 82.5 HR.
Lost Creek	465 47.5 HR.
Hayden Road	Line Powered From Alsea 12.12 HR. (+ Generator)
Haynes Road Makai	Line Powered From Alsea 12.12 HR. (+ Generator)
1.141141	310 27.5 HR.
Marvel Road	Line Powered From Summit 82.5 HR.
Mary's Peak	290 225 HR.
Marys River Est	290 18.5 HR.
McGarry	310 31 HR.
McFarland	Line Powered From Bellfountain 22.5 HR. (+ Generator)
Misty Acres Rd. Nashville	Line Powered From Slide Creek 41.3 HR.
Neabeack Hill	100 80 HR.
Nelson Creek	375 27.25 HR.
North Beaver	155 47.5 HR.
Norton Creek	145 72.5 HR 125 40 HR.
Oglesby Creek	125 40 HR. 125 22.20 HR.
Old Peak	Line Powered From Philomath 8.69 HR. (+ Generator)
Oliver Creek	155 77.50 HR.
Park Road	Line Powered From Bellfountain 22.5 HR. (+ Generator)
Dit Dood	125 76.75 HR.
Powder House	Line Powered From Philomath 8.69 HR. (+ Generator)
Preacher Creek	145 82.86
Rock Creek	155 77.50 HR.
Salmonberry	Line Powered From Campbell Park 77.5 HR.
Sam's Creek	80 33.5 HR.
Sea Lion Caves	300 50 HR.
Seal Rock	600 29 HR.
Shingle Creek	300 140 HR.
Shotpouch	155 112 HR.
Slide Creek	155 41.3 HR.
Solado	Line Powered From Big Elk 62 HR.
South Bay Rd	145 96.5 HR.
South Beaver	290 46.25 HR.
South Harris	145 105 HR.
South Fork	Line Powered From Alsea 12.12 HR. (+ Generator)
Stoney Mountain	Line Powered From Five Rivers 41.3 HR.
Summit	620 82.50 HR.
Swamp Creek Rd.	155 77.5 HR.
Tatum Lane	Line Powered From Kings Valley 66.00 HR.
Ten Mile	500 31.50 HR.
Thiel Creek	435 30.5 HR.
Thissell	155 42.75 HR.
Tobacco Road	270 72 HR.
Trap Creek	Line Powered From Chitwood 14.50 HR. (+ Generator)
Updike	Line Powered From Elk City 72.5 HR.
Waconda Beach	600 47.5 HR.
Ward Road	145 77.25 HR.
Washburne S.P.	300 80 HR.
West Elk	145 77.25 HR.
West Fork	155 82.5 HR.
West Hills	290 20.1 HR.
Westwood Village	375 31.5 HR.
Wildwood	270 54 HR.
Williams Road	Line Powered From Foster Road 12.91 HR.
Winnie Road	Line Powered From Campbell Park 77.5 HR.
Wolfe Creek	290 210 HR.
Woods Creek	290 35 HR.
Yachats River Rd	290 46.25 HR.
Yates	120 12 HR.

PHILOMATH
T: 541.929.3135
F: 541.929.1221
1304 Main St
Philomath, OR 97370

WALDPORT T: 541.563.3135 F: 541.563.1211 575 W. Willow St Waldport, OR 97394

June 22, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 9300 East Hampton Drive Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Re: WC Docket No. 14-58, 2015 Annual Report, Form 481 for High-Cost Recipient 54.313(f)(1) "Milestone Certification"

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In compliance with the filing requirements associated with, and attached to Form 481, we wish to advise the Commission that Pioneer Telephone Cooperative:

- Has taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of 4 Mbps downstream / 1 Mbps upstream;
- Provides latency suitable for real-time applications including VoIP and usage capacity which is reasonably comparable to those in urban areas and;
- That reasonable requests for service are met within a reasonable timeframe.

If there are questions, I may be contacted at 541-929-8256.

Sincerely,

Michael Whalen, CPA

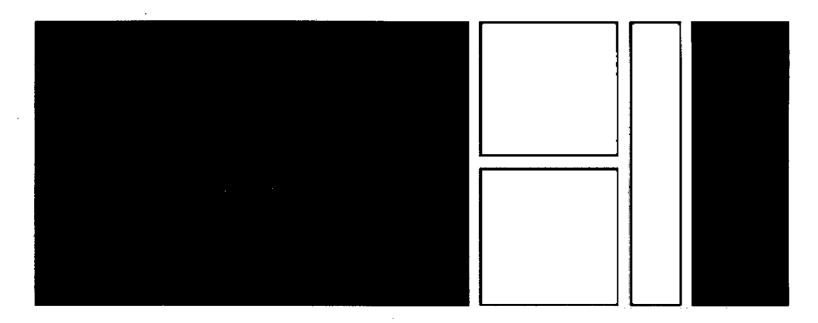
Executive VP/General Manager

michael w halen

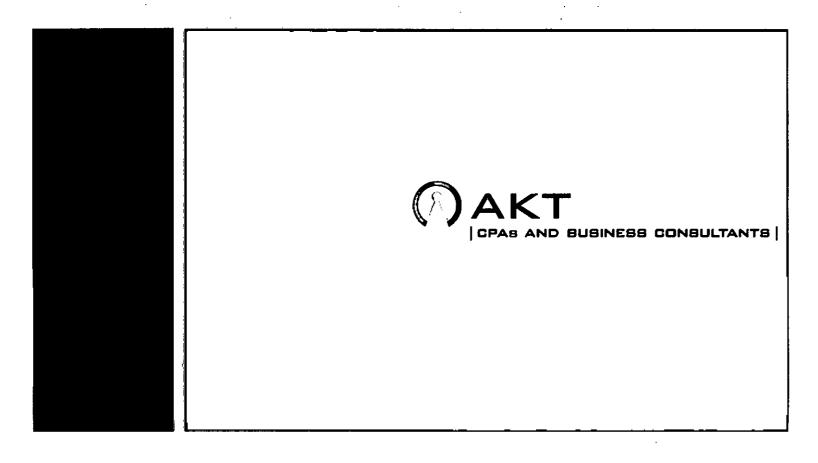
WALDPORT — PO Box 504 • Waldport, OR 97394-0504

www.pioneer.net

No anchor institutions required or requested broadband service in 2014. Pioneer Telephone Cooperative continues to monitor customer demand and technological innovation, planning to size its network in anticipation of requests and demand for higher speed broadband needs.



**Consolidated Financial Statements** 



## **Consolidated Financial Statements**

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

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## CPAS AND BUSINESS CONSULTANTS



#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and Subsidiary Philomath, Oregon

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and Subsidiary, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in members' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

#### MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **OPINION**

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and Subsidiary, as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

AKTLLP

Salem, Oregon April 8, 2015

## **Consolidated Balance Sheets**

December 31, 2014 and 2013

ASSETS	_	2014		2013
Current Assets:				_
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	8,314,542	\$	6,091,335
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful				
accounts of \$10,000		66,782		65,458
Other receivables		849,293		1,126,755
Materials and supplies		341,804		351,283
Prepaid expenses	_	247,597		258,208
Total Current Assets	_	9,820,018		7,893,039
Other Assets and Investments	-	3,443,018		3,451,948
Property, Plant, and Equipment:				
In service		74,765,659		72,729,875
Under construction	_	2,825		12,347
		74,768,484		72,742,222
Less accumulated depreciation	_	59,319,843		55,721,915
Property, Plant, and Equipment, net	-	15,448,641		17,020,307
•	\$ _	28,711,677	\$ _	28,365,294
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY				
Current Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$	269,560	\$	198,013
Accrued expenses	_	361,343		734,518
Total Current Liabilities	_	630,903	_	932,531
Deferred Income Taxes	***	237,927	<u> </u>	172,382
Members' Equity:				
Memberships		8,995		9,261
Patronage capital		23,126,096		22,742,067
Other equity	_	4,707,756	_	4,509,053
Total Members' Equity	_	27,842,847	. <u>-</u>	27,260,381
	\$	28,711,677	\$ _	28,365,294
·				

## **Consolidated Statements of Operations**

	,	2014		2013
Operating Revenues:			_	
Local network	\$	3,078,603	\$	3,195,953
Network access		9,943,576		10,709,499
Miscellaneous	-	1,191,713		1,193,383
Total Operating Revenues	-	14,213,892		15,098,835
Operating Expenses:				
Plant specific		2,788,225		2,589,887
Plant nonspecific		1,999,952		1,862,599
Customer		2,273,506		2,407,265
Corporate	1	2,036,518		2,010,409
Depreciation		3,841,419		3,386,238
Other taxes		380,504		383,271
Other operating expenses	-	419,024		429,161
Total Operating Expenses	-	13,739,148	_	13,068,830
Operating Margin	-	474,744	_	2,030,005
Other Income (Expense):				
Interest and other income		76,390		140,068
Income tax expense		(96,260)		(159,357)
Nonregulated income (loss), net		(37,872)		8,915
Income from other investments	-	158,386	· _	130,283
Total Other Income, net	-	100,644	· <u>-</u>	119,909
Margin Available for Fixed Charges		575,388		2,149,914
Fixed Charges - Interest on Long-Term Debt	-	4,396		46,672
Net Margin	\$ =	570,992	\$ =	2,103,242

## Consolidated Statements of Changes in Members' Equity

		Memberships	Patronage Capital		Other Equity		Total
Balance, December 31, 2012	\$	9,793	\$ 20,764,239	\$	4,395,632	\$	25,169,664
Change in memberships		(532)	-		-		(532)
Estate payments		-	(30,992)		-		(30,992)
Excise tax refund			18,999				18,999
Other adjustments		-	762		(762)		-
Net margin	_		1,989,059	_	114,183	,	2,103,242
Balance, December 31, 2013	\$ =	9,261	\$ 22,742,067	\$ _	4,509,053	\$	27,260,381
Change in memberships		(266)	-		-		(266)
Estate payments		·	(7,656)		-		(7,656)
Excise tax refund		-	19,396		-		19,396
Other adjustments		-	5,570		(5,570)		-
Net margin	_	_	366,719	_	204,273		570,992
Balance, December 31, 2014	. \$ _	8,995	\$ 23,126,096	\$ _	4,707,756	\$ .	27,842,847

## **Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

		2014	_	2013
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:				
Net margin	\$	570,992	\$	2,103,242
Adjustments to reconcile net margin to net cash				
provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation		3,841,419		3,386,238
Income from investments		(159,676)		(137,421)
Change in deferred taxes		65,545		122,789
Changes in assets and liabilities:				
Accounts receivable		(1,324)		205,851
Other receivables		277,462		549
Materials and supplies		9,479		(35,744)
Prepaid expenses		10,611		(13,533)
Accounts payable		71,547		56,238
Accrued expenses		(373,175)	_	(135,585)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	-	4,312,880	_	5,552,624
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:				
Purchase of property, plant, and equipment, net		(2,269,753)		(1,356,612)
Purchase of other investments		(28,000)		(202,500)
Proceeds from other investments	_	196,606	_	133,707
Net Cash Used by Investing Activities	_	(2,101,147)	_	(1,425,405)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:				
Payments on long-term debt		_		(1,840,910)
Net change in memberships		(266)		(532)
Excise tax refunds received		19,396		18,999
Estate payments	_	(7,656)	_	(30,992)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Financing Activities	_	11,474	_	(1,853,435)
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		2,223,207		2,273,784
Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning	_	6,091,335	_	3,817,551
Cash and Cash Equivalents, ending	\$ _	8,314,542	\$ _	6,091,335
Cash Paid During the Year for Interest	\$ _	6,313	\$ _	79,806

#### **Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

#### Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### **Organization**

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative (the Cooperative) is an Oregon cooperative corporation providing telecommunications services from within and around the City of Philomath, Oregon to the City of Waldport, Oregon. The Cooperative invests in other telecommunication-related ventures through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Pioneer Consolidated, Inc.

#### **Basis of Consolidation**

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Pioneer Consolidated, Inc. (the Subsidiary). All intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in the consolidation.

#### **Estimates**

The Cooperative uses estimates and assumptions in preparing consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Regulation

The Cooperative is subject to limited regulation by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Cooperative maintains its accounting records in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts, as prescribed by the FCC and adopted by the PUC. As a result, the application of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America by the Cooperative differs in certain respects from the application by nonregulated businesses. Such differences primarily concern the time at which certain items enter into the determination of net margin.

Regulatory and legislative actions, as well as future regulations, could have a significant impact on the Cooperative's future operations and financial condition. See Note 1, National Broadband Plan and FCC Order.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Cooperative considers cash investments with an original maturity of 3 months or less to be cash equivalents. The Cooperative maintains its cash and cash equivalents in bank deposit accounts that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to a limit of \$250,000 per depositor per bank. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Cooperative did not have cash in any one bank that exceeded the FDIC limit due to the Cooperative having funds swept nightly into repurchase agreements which are fully collateralized.

The Cooperative has not experienced any losses in its bank accounts and believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash.

#### Accounts Receivable

The Cooperative generally does not require collateral or other security to support accounts receivable. An allowance for doubtful accounts is maintained, based upon management's review of the year-end accounts receivable aging and past credit and collection history. Receivables are written off when the Cooperative determines an account is uncollectible. Past due status is determined based on how recently payments have been received.

#### **Investments**

Investments in which the Cooperative holds a 20%-50% interest are accounted for on the equity method. Investments accounted for on the equity method are recorded at cost and adjusted for the Cooperative's share of income or loss. Investments in which the Cooperative holds less than a 20% interest are recorded at cost, and income is recorded when dividends are received.

#### **Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

### Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

#### Materials and Supplies

Materials and supplies are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined principally by the average cost method.

#### Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Cooperative's financial instruments, none of which are held for trading purposes, include cash and cash equivalents, receivables, and payables. The Cooperative estimates that the fair value of all of these non-derivative financial instruments at December 31, 2014 and 2013 does not differ materially from the aggregate carrying value of its financial instruments recorded in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

## Property, Plant, and Equipment

Telecommunications plant in service and under construction is stated at cost, including estimated overhead expense. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated life of the classes of property and equipment in accordance with rates consistent with industry standards. Depreciation rates range from 2.2% to 14.3%. Costs of plant retired are eliminated from telecommunications plant accounts and such costs plus removal expenses, less salvage, are charged to accumulated depreciation.

#### Memberships

An initial refundable membership fee of \$1 is charged to all new member subscribers, which entitles the member to vote at the annual meeting.

#### Patronage Allocations

The net margin of the Cooperative, less Subsidiary net margin, is allocated to its members in proportion to each member's access minutes of use and local service. Losses sustained by the Cooperative may be allocated to the accounts of individual patrons or offset to other equity at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

#### Other Equity

Other equity represents the accumulated earnings of Pioneer Consolidated, Inc. and any unallocated equities and unallocated losses.

#### Network Access Revenues

Network access revenue is received under a system of access charges. Access charges represent a methodology by which local telephone companies, including the Cooperative, charge the long-distance carrier for access and interconnection to local facilities. The Cooperative has elected to file access tariffs through the National Exchange Carriers Association (NECA) and directly through the PUC for these changes. These access tariffs are subject to approval by the FCC for interstate charges and the PUC for intrastate charges.

When network access revenues have been received pursuant to the settlement and access agreements above, they are then either placed into a common pooling arrangement with other exchange carriers for redistribution or kept by the Cooperative. The redistributions are made according to formulas established by the governing boards of the pools and are generally based upon expenses incurred and investments maintained.

The Cooperative participates in various pooling arrangements with NECA. They also participated in pooling arrangements with the Oregon Exchange Carrier Association (OECA) through July 2013, at which time the OECA Optional pool closed.

Settlement, access, and pool distribution revenues are recorded when the amounts become determinable. Related expenses are recorded when incurred. Subsequent true-ups and retroactive adjustments, which are generally allowed for a period of 24 months (NECA pool only) after the close of the related calendar year, are recorded in the year in which such adjustments become determinable, based upon studies prepared by outside consultants.

#### **Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

#### Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

#### Network Access Revenues, continued

In addition to recoveries from the pools, the Cooperative also receives revenues from the Universal Service High Cost Loop Fund (HCL) and other support mechanisms administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). These universal service support revenues are intended to compensate the Cooperative for the high cost of providing service in rural areas. The amount of support received from HCL is based on the number of customers served and the cost of providing service in that area being in excess of the national average cost per loop, as determined by the FCC. The Cooperative also receives funding from Oregon Universal Service Funds (OUS) administered by the PUC. These support revenues are included in the network access revenues in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

In 2014, the Cooperative received \$562,505 from the USAC High Cost Loop Fund (\$1,112,811 in 2013) and \$7,285,088 (\$7,377,392 in 2013) in interstate access revenues administered through the NECA Pools. In 2014, the Cooperative received \$1,765,061 from the OUS fund (\$1,654,916 in 2013). The current funding levels for the Oregon Universal Service Fund are determined in accordance with PUC Order 13-162 which ends June 30, 2016. The level of funding after this date cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

#### National Broadband Plan and FCC Order

In 2010, the FCC issued the National Broadband Plan, which outlined a long-term plan to increase broadband penetrations and services throughout the United States of America. The plan further outlined a proposed long-term phase-out of access charges (referred to as Intercarrier Compensation) and moved to support mechanisms based on broadband services rather than the current Universal Service High Cost Loop Fund administered by USAC.

In response to the plan, the FCC on October 27, 2011, approved Report and Order 11-161 (the Order), that begins the process of reforming the universal service and intercarrier compensation (ICC) systems and adopts support for broadband-capable networks as an express universal service principle. The Order further creates the Connect America Fund which will ultimately replace all existing high-cost support mechanisms as well as help facilitate ICC reforms.

The key provisions of the order include:

- Capping the federal universal service fund at current levels.
- Placing limitations on capital and operating spending.
- Establishing local rate benchmarks.
- Capping the per-line support amount for the universal service high cost loop fund at \$250 per month.
- Phase out of local switching support and the establishment of the CAF for recovery of investment and expenses related to the provision of switching services.
- Reforming the ICC system by adopting a plan to transition from access charges to a bill and keep
  framework. The transition period for rate-of-return carriers such as the Cooperative is approximately 9 years
  from the date of the order.
- Adoption of a monthly Access Recovery Charge as a transitional recovery mechanism to mitigate the impact of reduced intercarrier revenues.

The Order was effective December 29, 2011 and implementation began July 1, 2012. As of the implementation date, CAF recovery is calculated based on the frozen fiscal year 2011 interstate switched access revenue requirement, plus certain 2011 intrastate access revenues, and will decline annually by 5% during the transition period.

#### **Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

#### Note 1 - Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

#### National Broadband Plan and FCC Order, continued

In 2014, the FCC issued Orders for Reconsideration that included provisions to eliminate the quantile regression benchmarking analysis (this removes the limitations on capital spending contained in the Order), reinstate the safety-net additive that was eliminated as part of the Order, and continued the transition of the local rate benchmark.

As of December 31, 2014, the Cooperative is transitioning its local rates and meets the local rate benchmark requirements. The Cooperative is not subject to the \$250 per line support cap. Furthermore, for the period ended December 31, 2014 the impacts to the Cooperative related to the 5% annual decline in switched access revenues have not been significant.

The overall reform process will take place in phases and will take several years to implement. Furthermore, the Order includes a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and the FCC has issued numerous Orders for Reconsideration and continues to seek comments on various items. As a result, the ultimate outcome of these proceedings and their impact is uncertain at this time.

#### Income Taxes

The Cooperative has been granted an exemption from federal income taxes, except for "unrelated" business income, under Section 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Cooperative is also exempt from state income taxes. However, in any year for which greater than 15% of gross revenue is derived from nonmember services, the Cooperative becomes a taxable cooperative. The Cooperative was exempt from income taxes in 2014 and 2013. Federal and state taxes payable by taxable cooperatives are computed differently from taxes payable by other corporations, primarily because cooperatives are allowed to deduct margins allocated or paid to patrons within 8 1/2 months after the end of each taxable year. Pioneer Consolidated, Inc. is a taxable corporation and files a separate income tax return.

Deferred taxes represent the future tax return consequence of differences between the financial statement and the tax basis of assets and liabilities, which will either be taxable or deductible when the related assets or liabilities are recorded or settled. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount expected to be realized.

The Cooperative follows accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America related to the recognition of uncertain tax positions. The Cooperative recognizes accrued interest and penalties associated with uncertain tax positions as part of the income tax provision, when applicable. There were no amounts accrued in the consolidated financial statements related to uncertain tax positions.

The Cooperative files informational returns in the United States and various state and local jurisdictions. With limited exceptions, the Cooperative is no longer subject to examinations for years before 2011.

#### Revenue Recognition

The Cooperative recognizes revenues when earned regardless of the period in which they are billed.

Monthly service fees derived from local telephone service and internet service are billed in advance. Accounts receivable are reduced by advanced billings and subsequently transferred to income in the period earned. Access charges (see Note 1, Network Access Revenue), long distance and other revenues based on usage are billed in arrears.

## Subsequent Events

The Cooperative has evaluated subsequent events through April 8, 2015, which is the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.

#### **Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

Note 2 - Other	Assets and	Investments
----------------	------------	-------------

Other assets and investments, at cost, consist of the following:

•	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Communications Supply Service Association	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
National Telcom Corporation	50,000	50,000
CoBank patronage certificates	916,695	1,112,011
ANPI Holding, Inc.	198,432	198,432
CHR Solutions, Inc.	145,401	145,401
RTIC Holding Company, Inc.	228,000	200,000
Total, at cost	\$ <u>1,563,528</u>	\$ <u>1,730,844</u>
Other investments, equity method:		
Casco Communications, Inc.	\$ 1,580,000	\$ 1,416,786
Wilcom LLC	299,490	304,318
Equity Investments	\$ <u>1,879,490</u>	\$ 1,721,10 <del>4</del>
	· <del></del>	
Total Other Assets and Investments	\$ <u>3,443,018</u>	\$ <u>3,451,948</u>

CoBank is a cooperative bank. Borrowers are required to invest a minimum of \$1,000 or 2% of their loan, whichever is less. Patronage dividends are paid annually in cash and in stock at the discretion of the board of directors of CoBank.

During 2013, the Subsidiary purchased 200 shares of class B common stock of RTIC Holding Company, Inc., an affiliate of Telcom Insurance Group, which will provide a 3% guaranteed dividend for ten years and provide a 5% reduction in insurance costs to the Cooperative. In 2014, the Cooperative invested an additional \$28,000 in cash.

The Subsidiary has a 50% ownership interest in Casco Communications, Inc. (Casco), a corporation providing internet access and other services. The investment is recorded using the equity method of accounting. Based on audited financial statements, the Subsidiary recorded income of \$163,214 related to this investment in 2014 (\$136,297 in 2013).

Following is a summary of financial position and results of operations of Casco Communications, Inc.:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Current assets Net property and equipment	\$ 1,357,781 1,789,662	\$ 2,287,223 428,073
Other assets and investments	<u>1,304,680</u>	1,253,190
	\$ <u>4,452,123</u>	\$ <u>3,968,486</u>
Current liabilities Other liabilities	\$ 366,385	\$ 352,996
Noncontrolling interest	363,000 507,093	261,000 465,273
Stockholders' equity	<u>3,215,645</u>	2,889,217
	\$ <u>4,452,123</u>	\$ <u>3,968,486</u>
Operating revenue Net income after taxes and noncontrolling interest	\$ <u>6,421,575</u> \$ <u>326,428</u>	\$ <u>6,343,029</u> \$ <u>272,594</u>

#### **Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

#### Note 2 - Other Assets and Investments, continued

During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Cooperative recorded an investment loss of \$4,828 from Wilcom LLC, (\$6,014 loss in 2013), and did not contribute any additional cash, (\$2,500 in 2013).

## Note 3 - Property, Plant, and Equipment

Listed below are the major classes of telecommunications plant in service:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Pioneer Telephone Cooperative: Land and support Central office Cable and wire facilities Subtotal	\$ 7,303,070 15,368,566 <u>51,461,582</u> 74,133,218	\$ 7,171,489 14,088,797 50,880,047 72,140,333
Pioneer Consolidated, Inc.: Fiber optic cable and equipment	632,441	<u>589,542</u>
	\$ <u>74,765,659</u>	\$ <u>72,729,875</u>

#### Note 4 - Income Taxes

Income taxes are provided for the tax effects of transactions reported in the consolidated financial statements and consist of taxes currently due and deferred income taxes.

Income tax expense consists of the following:

			<u>2014</u>		<u>2013</u>
Federal income tax	4	\$	23,479	\$	28,391
State income tax			7,236		8,179
Deferred income taxes		_	65 <u>,545</u>		122,787
				_	
		\$ _	<u>96,260</u>	\$ <sub>=</sub>	<u> 159,357</u>

The provision for income taxes differs from the amount computed by applying the current statutory federal income tax rate to earnings before income taxes due to the effects of state taxes, nondeductible items, differences in depreciation for book and tax purposes, and the tax-exempt status of the Cooperative.

Deferred income taxes in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets included the following components:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Deferred income tax asset – deferred revenue	\$ 10,236	\$ 10,463
Deferred income tax liability depreciation and investments basis differences	(248,163)	(182,845)
Deferred income tax liability, net	\$ <u>(237,927)</u>	\$ <u>(172,382)</u>

At December 31, 2014 and 2013 deferred taxes have been recorded to recognize the liability for future tax consequences from the prior use of accelerated depreciation for tax purposes and the net gain on any future sale of an investment recorded on the equity method for financial statement reporting versus the tax basis.

#### **Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

#### Note 5 - Employee Benefit Plans

#### Multiemployer Pension Plan

The National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) Retirement and Security Program for Employees of the NTCA and its Member Systems (the Plan) is a defined benefit pension plan covering many of the full-time employees of NTCA, its affiliates and its members that have adopted the Plan. Pursuant to IRC Section 413(c)(4), the Plan is considered a Multiple Employer (other) Master Plan. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. The Plan's employer identification number is 52-0741336 and the Plan Number is 333.

A unique characteristic of a multiemployer plan compared to a single employer plan is that all plan assets are available to pay benefits of any plan participant. Separate asset accounts are not maintained for participating employers. This means that assets contributed by one employer may be used to provide benefits to employees of other participating employers.

The Cooperative is a participant in the above described plan. The Cooperative's contributions to the Plan in 2014 and 2013 represented less than 5 percent of the total contributions made to the Plan by all participating employers. The Cooperative made contributions to the Plan of \$581,161 in 2014 and \$536,132 in 2013. There have been no significant changes that affect the comparability of 2014 and 2013 contributions.

In the Plan, a "zone status" determination is not required and therefore, not determined under the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006. In addition, the accumulated benefit obligations of plan assets are not determined or allocated separately by individual employer. In total, the Plan was approximately 98% percent funded at January 1, 2014, based on the PPA funding target and PPA actuarial value of assets on that date.

Because the provisions of the PPA do not apply to the Plan, funding improvement plans and surcharges are applicable and have been applied. Future contribution requirements are determined each year as part of the actuarial valuation of the Plan and may change as a result of plan experience. There is no collective bargaining agreement that affects future contribution requirements.

The Cooperative also participates in a contributory multi-employer defined contribution savings plan (the Plan) sponsored by the NTCA that covers all full-time eligible employees and contributes 3.5% of each eligible employee's annual salary to the Plan. The Cooperative's contribution to the Plan, including amounts charged to construction at December 31, 2014, was \$150,349 (\$152,756 in 2013).

#### Note 6 - Related Party

The Cooperative provides customer account processing for Casco Communications, Inc. relating to their DSL services. Amounts payable to Casco Communications, Inc. were \$46,553 and zero at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

The Cooperative also provides network access to Casco Communications, Inc. Total revenues billed for these services were \$1,393,633 in 2014 (\$1,257,765 in 2013). Amounts receivable from Casco Communications, Inc. were \$91,958 and \$96,916 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

The Cooperative utilizes after-hours telephone answering services and DSL services provided by Casco Communications, Inc. Total amounts paid for these services were \$92,931 in 2014 (\$87,195 in 2013).

To the Board of Directors

Year Ended December 31, 2014

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To assist you in your responsibilities as a member of the Board of Directors, this section summarizes the most significant conclusions reached and issues addressed during our audit of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and Subsidiary for the year ended December 31, 2014.

### SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSIONS AND ISSUES

We have completed our audit and issued our report dated April 8, 2015. Based on our work performed:

- We rendered an unmodified opinion on the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014.
- We have not identified any conditions which we consider to be material weaknesses in internal control.
- We received the full cooperation of management and staff throughout the organization and were kept informed as to developments and plans affecting our audit scope.
- No restrictions were placed on the scope of our work.

The following report includes our required communications with the Board of Directors.







April 8, 2015

To the Board of Directors

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and Subsidiary

Dear Members of the Board of Directors:

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and Subsidiary (the Cooperative) for the year ended December 31, 2014 and have issued our report thereon dated April 8,, 2014.

Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you in our engagement letter dated July 16, 2012. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### SIGNIFICANT AUDIT FINDINGS

## Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Cooperative are described in Note 1 to the December 31, 2014 consolidated financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the applications of existing policies were not changed during 2014. We noted no transactions entered into by the Cooperative during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the consolidated financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the consolidated financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. We have evaluated the key factors and assumptions used in determining that those estimates are reasonable in relation to the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The most sensitive estimates affecting the consolidated financial statements were:

Management's estimates of the useful lives of property and equipment, any allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is based on industry standards and management's knowledge of previous years' collectability of accounts receivable, and fair value measurements of financial instruments and investments. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain consolidated financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to consolidated financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures are those related to effects and changes in the regulatory environment on the Cooperative.

The disclosures in the consolidated financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear.

680 HAWTHORNE AVENUE SE, SUITE 140, SALEM, OR 97301 PHONE: 503.585.7774 FAX: 503.364.8405

## Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

## Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements noted.

#### Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the consolidated financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated April 8, 2015.

## Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Cooperative's consolidated financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

#### OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Cooperative's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

#### OTHER MATTERS

With respect to the supplemental information accompanying the consolidated financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the consolidated financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplemental information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the consolidated financial statements or to the consolidated financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and Subsidiary and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We will be pleased to discuss this report with you further at your convenience.

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**AKT LLP** 

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