

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
RTC COMMUNICATIONS CORP. FOR)
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE) CAUSE NO. 41052-ETC ⁹³
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER FOR)
THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING RURAL)
DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FUND PHASE I)
SUPPORT)

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH P. MCCARTER IN SUPPORT OF PETITION OF
RTC COMMUNICATIONS CORP. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

Q1. PLEASE STATE YOUR FULL NAME AND TITLE.

A1. My name is Joseph P. McCarter. I am the president of RTC Communications Corp.
(“RTCCC”).

Q2. WHAT ARE YOUR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RTCCC?

A2. As President of Rochester Communications Corp. (RTCCC), I oversee, in conjunction
with the management team, the strategy and general operation of the corporation,
subsidiaries and partnerships.

**Q3. PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON YOUR PROFESSIONAL
BACKGROUND.**

A3. I have been in the telecommunications industry for nine years as President of Rochester
Telephone Company, Inc. and RTC Communications Corp., as well as Co-President of S
and R Communications, L.L.C. and Co-President of Marshall County Fiber, LLC. I have
a bachelor of science degree in management and a master of business administration
degree, both from Indiana University.

**Q4. PLEASE PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RTCCC, INCLUDING
THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES.**

A4. RTCCC is an Indiana corporation organized under Ind. Code § 23-1-1-1 *et seq.* and registered with the Indiana Secretary of State. A copy of RTCCC's Certificate of Existence is attached hereto as **Exhibit JPM-1**. Its principal place of business is located at 117 W. 8th Street, P.O. Box 507, Rochester, Indiana 46975. RTCCC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rochester Telephone Company, Inc. They both provide telecommunication services, including telephone, fixed-wireless and broadband fiber internet, video service, cable television, internet protocol-enabled services and advanced services to individuals and businesses located in Rochester and Akron, Indiana and many surrounding areas and towns including Macy, Fulton, Kewanna and Mentone, Indiana.

Q5. WHAT CERTIFICATIONS DOES RTCCC CURRENTLY HOLD FROM THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION ("COMMISSION")?

A5. On December 9, 1998 in Cause No. 41281, the Commission granted RTCCC a certificate of territorial authority ("CTA") to provide competitive local exchange service throughout the state of Indiana by using its own facilities and by resale of bundled local exchange service from other providers. On July 25, 2009 in Cause No. CSP0906-5, the Commission officially acknowledged a change to the authorized services provided by RTCCC under its CTA to include video service, broadband service, internet protocol-enabled services and advanced services. In this Cause, the Commission specifically acknowledged RTCCC's authority to provide broadband, internet protocol-enabled and advanced services in the City of Rochester and Town of Akron and to provide wireless broadband service in the towns of Macy, Fulton, Kewanna and Mentone. On January 6, 2021, RTCCC filed a Notice of Change to its CTA to add broadband service and interconnected VoIP as a telecommunications service throughout the entire state of

Indiana, which will encompass all of RTCCC's designated ETC service area as requested herein.

Q6. PLEASE SUMMARIZE RTCCC'S REQUEST IN THIS PROCEEDING.

A6. Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (the "Act") and Section 54.201 of the FCC's rules, RTCCC requests designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") within specified areas to become authorized to receive federal support from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I. RTCCC was allocated RDOF Phase I support through its participation in the Co-Op Connections Consortium (the "Consortium"). The Consortium was provisionally awarded RDOF Phase I support from the FCC on December 7, 2020, and has allocated the awarded support and census block groups to its members, including RTCCC. RTCCC will be eligible to receive this support subject to completing certain requirements, such as being designated as an ETC in the funded areas. Pursuant to Section 54.101(d) of the FCC's rules, any ETC, including an ETC designated to receive high-cost support, must offer Lifeline service in its designated service area. Accordingly, to the extent necessary, RTCCC also requests designation as a Lifeline provider within the requested service area. RTCCC respectfully requests that the Commission grant this petition on or before June 7, 2021 to ensure that RTCCC meets the FCC's June 7, 2021 deadline for designation as an ETC in order to receive the RDOF Phase I support allocated to RTCCC.

Q7. PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RDOF PHASE I AUCTION.

A7. On August 2, 2019, the FCC proposed the RDOF to provide an additional \$20.4 billion in support through a reverse auction to bring broadband service to areas that lack access to

both fixed voice and 25/3 Mbps broadband services.¹ The minimum supported speed under RDOF is 25/3 Mbps, but the auction rules give priority to faster broadband speeds of up to a gigabit per second and lower latency service. RDOF Phase I support recipients must offer the required voice and broadband service to *all* eligible homes and small businesses within the awarded areas. RDOF Phase I support will be disbursed over a 10-year period. While RDOF Phase I targeted census blocks that are *wholly* unserved with broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps, the FCC reserved some of the funding for Phase II, which will target census blocks that are only partially served, as well as census blocks unawarded in the Phase I auction.²

The FCC used a two-step application process for the RDOF Phase I auction. Potential bidders, including the Consortium, were required to submit a short-form application to establish eligibility to participate in the auction. The Bureau of Wireline Competition reviewed the short-form applications and approved bidders, including the Consortium, as qualified to participate in the auction. Winning bidders in RDOF Phase I must file a long-form application that demonstrates the bidder is legally, technically and financially qualified to receive support. The long-form application includes ownership disclosure, financial and technical capability certification, public interest obligations certification, an extensive description of technology and system design, available funds certification and ETC eligibility and documentation.³ Winning bidders must also provide an irrevocable standby letter of credit to ensure that awarded funds can be recovered if

¹ *In the Matter of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund et al., Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 34 FCC Rcd 6778 (August 1, 2019) (“*Rural Digital Opportunity Fund NPR*”).

² *In the Matter of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund et al., Report and Order*, 35 FCC Rcd 686 (January 20, 2020) (“*Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order*”).

³ *See, generally, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order*, 35 FCC Rcd 686.

the recipient does not comply with the RDOF Phase I deployment and service requirements.

Q8. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CONSORTIUM'S SHORT-FORM APPLICATION FOR THE RDOF PHASE I AUCTION.

A8. Following the procedure established in the Auction 904 Notice,⁴ the Consortium submitted its FCC Form 183 short-form application prior to the July 15, 2020 deadline. This application provided identification, operations and financial information of the Consortium's members and described their proposed networks using RDOF Phase I funding. Specifically, RTCCC's proposed deployment consists of a fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network which will be designed in a manner that permits RTCCC to utilize various technologies such as active ethernet, gigabit passive optical network ("GPON"), ten gigabit (XGS-PON) passive optical network or various other next-generation technologies. Based upon its Form 183 short-form application, the FCC determined that the Consortium members, including RTCCC, met the legal, technical and financial qualifications to participate in Auction 904 and to meet the service requirements associated with the performance tier and latency combination(s) on which the Consortium bid during Auction 904.

Q9. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CONSORTIUM'S AUCTION 904 WINNING BIDS.

A9. On December 7, 2020, the FCC announced the winning bidders of Auction 904, including the Consortium, which was awarded \$723,260 in RDOF Phase I funding over

⁴ *In the Matter of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund et al., Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction Scheduled for October 29, 2020, Notice and Filing Requirements and Other Procedures for Auction 904*, 35 FCC Rcd 6077 (June 11, 2020) ("Auction 904 Notice").

10 years.⁵ The Consortium was the successful bidder for 788 locations in Indiana and participated in the FCC's Divide Winning Bids procedure to allocate to RTCCC \$78,006 in RDOF Phase I funding for two census block groups, which are identified on **Exhibit B** attached to the Verified Petition in this Cause. The proposed FTTP network architecture allows for the delivery of voice and data services across the fiber broadband access platform delivering multiple low latency (as defined by the FCC for RDOF) speed tiers from 50Mbps/15Mbps to 1000Mbps/200Mbps. Broadband and unified communications to rural America bring many benefits, including but certainly not limited to the following. E-commerce allows local businesses access to global markets. Consumers can benefit from more choices and savings on e-commerce purchases. Educational opportunities such as e-learning and distance education, including higher education and multi-participant interactive video benefit not only students but can help elevate the general workforce. Telemedicine connects the public to healthcare. Increased job growth is a benefit from allowing people to work where they want to live. Ag-businesses can access weather data, manage nutrient application, map crop yields, adjust planting and harvest with modern precision agriculture tools. Remote monitoring systems aided by live-stream video have obvious benefits. Deployment milestones will be met on or before RDOF deadlines.

Q10. PLEASE DESCRIBE RTCCC'S SUBSEQUENT AUCTION 904 LONG-FORM APPLICATION.

A10. Winning bidders of Auction 904 must submit the FCC Form 683 long-form post-auction application for support by no later than January 29, 2021 in order to become authorized

⁵Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction (Auction 904) Closes; Winning Bidders Announced; FCC Form 683 Due January 29, 2021, AU Docket No. 20-34; WC Docket No. 19-126; WC Docket No. 10-90 (December 7, 2020) ("Winning Bidders Announcement").

by the FCC to receive the support awarded during Auction 904.⁶ RTCCC will submit its Form 683 long-form application within the timeframe prescribed by the FCC and, following its submission, will make portions of said application available to the Commission upon request as the Commission considers the Verified Petition and in accordance with the Commission's rules on confidential filings, if applicable. As part of the long-form application, RTCCC will acknowledge that it must be designated by the Commission as an ETC for all of the eligible census block groups allocated to it. RTCCC has 180 days from the release of the Auction 904 closing public notice (until June 7, 2021) to obtain ETC designation in all areas for which it will receive RDOF Phase I support and to provide documentation of the same to the FCC.⁷ RTCCC will not be authorized to receive RDOF Phase I support, nor will any such support be released to RTCCC, if it does not obtain the appropriate ETC designation.

Q11. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE SERVICES AND PLANS THAT RTCCC INTENDS TO OFFER IN THE REQUESTED SERVICE AREA USING RDOF PHASE I SUPPORT.

A11. RTCCC will offer service plans within the requested service area that include voice and broadband services that meet the RDOF Phase I tier/latency requirements of RTCCC's winning bids. A description of the voice and broadband service plans to be offered is attached hereto as **Exhibit JPM-2.**

Q12. IS RTCCC MANAGERIALLY, FINANCIALLY AND TECHNICALLY CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED USING RDOF PHASE I SUPPORT?

⁶ Auction 904 Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 6077.

⁷ Auction 904 Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 6077. The FCC indicated that if a long-form applicant is unable to obtain the necessary ETC designation within the 180-day timeframe, it would be appropriate to waive the 180-day timeframe if the long-form applicant is able to demonstrate that it has engaged in good faith efforts to obtain an ETC designation, but the proceeding is not yet complete. The FCC will presume that a long-form applicant acted in good faith if it files its ETC application with the state commission within 30 days of the release of the Auction 904 closing public notice.

A12. Yes. The Board of Directors and management team of RTCCC are familiar with the managerial, financial and technical needs of a communications company. RTCCCC has served in the communications industry for 19 years, including 18 years of service to more than 1,700 customers. Rochester Telephone Company, the parent of RTCCCC, has been serving in the communications industry for more than 120 years. Its chief financial officer, president and regulatory lead have more than 75 years of combined experience in the industry and performing similar builds to that which will be funded using RDOF support. In addition, RTCCC owns and operates various network facilities and back office, billing and customer support functions to provide the services required as an ETC. Additionally, RTCCC will provide to the FCC, pursuant to the Auction 904 procedure, audited financial statements, including balance sheets, net income and cash flow, which have been audited by an independent certified public accountant. As evidenced by the FCC's selection of the Consortium as a winning bidder in Auction 904, the FCC is satisfied, based upon the financial information provided, that the members of the Consortium, including RTCCC, are financially capable of providing the required services.

Q13. WHAT IS THE SERVICE AREA IN WHICH RTCCC SEEKS DESIGNATION AS AN ETC IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A13. In the *Winning Bidders Announcement*, the Consortium was named the winning bidder for 788 locations in Indiana and participated in the FCC's Divide Winning Bids procedure to allocate to RTCCC \$78,006 in RDOF Phase I funding for two census block groups. Thus, RTCCC is requesting designation as an ETC in the associated census block groups in Indiana listed in **Exhibit B** attached to the Verified Petition. A map of the awarded census block groups was attached as **Exhibit A** to RTCCC's Verified Petition.

All of the awarded census block groups are within the ILEC study area of CenturyLink, Inc., which is not a rural telephone company as defined in 47 CFR § 51.5.

Q14. IF DESIGNATED AS AN ETC, WILL RTCCC PROVIDE THE REQUIRED VOICE AND BROADBAND SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA?

A14. Yes. RTCCC intends to provide all of the required services in the census blocks it was allocated during Auction 904 and for which it is requesting ETC designation. RTCCC will provide state-of-the-art broadband services via a fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network which will be designed in a manner that permits RTCCCCC to utilize various technologies such as active ethernet, gigabit passive optical network (“GPON”), ten gigabit (XGS-PON) passive optical network or various other next-generation technologies to all locations within the eligible census blocks allocated to RTCCC as part of the RDOF Phase I auction. This technology provides carrier-grade internet over a fiber optic cable network. RTCCC will provide voice grade access to the public switched telephone network by a class 5 unified communications IP digital switch (Metaswitch) with geo-diversely redundant capabilities.

Q15. IS RTCCC A COMMON CARRIER PURSUANT TO 47 USC § 153(11)?

A15. Yes. The term “common carrier” includes any person engaged as a common carrier for hire in interstate or foreign communication by wire or radio.⁸ RTCCC will offer communication services for sale to the public by wire and transmits communications both interstate and intrastate, making it a “common carrier” for purposes of being designated at an ETC and receiving universal service support.

Q16. WILL RTCCC PROVIDE SERVICES REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED BY AN ETC USING ITS OWN FACILITIES OR VIA RESALE OF ANOTHER CARRIER’S SERVICES?

⁸ 47 USC § 153(11).

A16. Consistent with the requirements of Section 214(e)(1) of the Act and sections 54.101 through 54.207 of the FCC's rules, RTCCC will provide all services required in order to be eligible for high-cost universal service support using its own facilities and, if necessary, through resale of another carrier's services. Specifically, RTCCC will use FTTP in a GPON with the central office equipment in Rochester, Indiana. Such network will be built out over six years, per the FCC's established RDOF timeline and benchmarks.

Q17. WILL RTCCC PROVIDE VOICE GRADE ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK OR ITS EQUIVALENT?

A17. As set forth in the Verified Petition, RTCCC will provide voice grade access to the public switched telephone network or its equivalent by reselling RTCCC's VoIP services. VoIP service is often considered to have similar call quality to TDM local and long distance and is interconnected with and often switched over the public switched telephone network. The voice protocol used between the Zhone MXK shelves and the Metaswitch is session initiation protocol ("SIP"), which is a form of VoIP. The voice trunk groups will be leased by RTCCCCC from RTCCC. These trunks have established 911 public service answering points ("PSAPs") connectivity with a low utilization rate and available capacity. The VoIP SIP trunks' current hardware utilization is less than one percent (1%). The SIP proxies' current license utilization is approximately fifty percent (50%). New interconnections will be established where needed for local calling utilizing the same design principles in the assigned service areas to ensure proper call delivery for public switched telephone network and 911 traffic.

Q18. WILL RTCCC PROVIDE MINUTES OF USE FOR LOCAL SERVICE AT NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE TO END USERS?

A18. As part of the voice grade access to the public switched telephone network, an ETC must provide minutes of use for local service at no additional charge to end users.⁹ The FCC has yet to specify a minimum amount of local usage to be offered by an ETC, but RTCCC will offer rate plans that provide subscribers with minutes of use for local service at no additional charge.

Q19. WILL RTCCC PROVIDE ACCESS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES?

A19. RTCCC will provide access to emergency services for its customers in the requested ETC service area, including access to both 911 and enhanced 911 service from local public service answering points (“PSAPs”). Specifically, RTCCC will provide 911 and enhanced 911 services by utilizing Emergency Routing Service (“ERS”), 911 calls are routed to PSAPs. ERS is a hosted E911 service that connects companies to more than 6,000 PSAPs across North America. An RTCCCC VOIP would make a 911 call, which would be routed from that user to the ERS 911 call center. Standards-based call routing conforms to state and FCC regulations and follows National Emergency Number Association i2 standards.

Q20. WILL RTCCC PROVIDE TOLL LIMITATION SERVICES TO QUALIFYING LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS?

A20. RTCCC will offer toll limitation to qualifying low-income customers at no additional charge within the service area requested in this Cause. As a participant in Lifeline, customers are eligible to receive toll blocking and/or toll control service at no charge. This service will be provided only at the customer’s request. Additionally, Lifeline participants will not be disconnected from local service for nonpayment of toll charges.

⁹ 47 CFR § 54.101(a)(1).

In addition, the company will not deny reestablishment of local service to customers who are eligible for Lifeline and have been previously disconnected for non-payment of toll charges. A description of RTCCCCC's Lifeline and toll limitation services is attached hereto as **Exhibit JPM-3**.

Q21. WILL THE BROADBAND SERVICES PROVIDED BY RTCCC IN THE REQUESTED SERVICE AREA BE CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING DATA FROM ALL OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALL INTERNET ENDPOINTS?

A21. Pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.101(a)(2), RTCCC will provide broadband services with the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of communications service, but excluding dial-up service. RTCCC will not prioritize among endpoints, and there is no plan or intent to limit connectivity within or outside the network.

Q22. HOW WILL RTCCC ADVERTISE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE VOICE AND BROADBAND SERVICES REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED BY AN ETC?

A22. RTCCC will advertise the availability and rates for the voice telephony and broadband access services to be offered within the designated ETC service area using media of general distribution, as required by Section 54.201(d)(2) of the FCC's rules.¹⁰ Specifically, RTCCC will advertise its services via newspaper, mail circulars and radio and will target residential customers with its advertising efforts. RTCCC intends to follow the FCC's Lifeline advertising guidelines in establishing an advertising program for its Lifeline services to reach eligible households that do not currently receive service. These guidelines suggest posting notices at public transportation stops and

¹⁰ 47 CFR § 54.201(d)(2).

agencies, shelters and soup kitchens; running public service announcements; providing information booths at central locations; providing customer service to disabled program participants on an equal basis by using telecommunications relay services (“TRS”), text telephone (“TTY”), and speech-to-speech (“STS”) services; and providing outreach materials in Braille. Additionally, the guidelines suggest developing advertising that can be read by members of any sizeable non-English speaking populations and coordinating outreach efforts with governmental agencies that administer relevant government assistance programs.

Q23. WHAT INFORMATION HAS RTCCC PROVIDED THE FCC THAT SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF A FIVE-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PLAN WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICES PROVIDED USING RDOF PHASE I SUPPORT?

A23. In accordance with the ETC designation requirements applicable to winning bidders in Auction 904 adopted by the FCC, RTCCC requested in its Verified Petition that the Commission waive the requirement in the Commission’s General Administrative Order 2019-5 that RTCCC file a five-year improvement plan.¹¹ As an Auction 904 winning bidder, RTCCC will provide the FCC with audited financials, cost estimates and descriptions of proposed improvements to its network throughout the proposed service area. In addition, as part of its Form 683 long-form application, RTCCC will provide the FCC with a project schedule describing the major milestones associated with the project

¹¹ General Administrative Order of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission 2019-5 (December 27, 2019) (“GAO 2019-5”); *WCB Reminds Connect America Fund Phase II Auction Applicants of the Process for Obtaining a Federal Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 10-90 (July 10, 2018) (“*Federal ETC Procedural Guidance*”). The Federal ETC Procedural Guidance was released during the CAF Phase II Auction and provided guidance for CAF Phase II recipients seeking federal ETC designation. However, the Federal ETC Procedural Guidance was re-released during the RDOF Phase I Auction, and its justification for waiving the five-year plan requirement remains true with respect to RDOF Phase I recipients. *See* RDOF Phase I (Auction 904) releases: <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904/releases>.

and defining a plan to complete the network deployment within the timeframe prescribed by the FCC.

Q24. EXPLAIN THE CAPABILITY OF RTCCC TO REMAIN FUNCTIONAL IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

A24. RTCCC provides access to a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, the ability to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and the capability of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations. In its Verified Petition, RTCCC described its capabilities of remaining functional in emergency situations for the requested ETC service area.

Q25. EXPLAIN HOW RTCCC INTENDS TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICES PROVIDED USING RDOF PHASE I SUPPORT.

A25. RTCCC commits to satisfying all applicable state and federal requirements related to consumer protection and service quality standards with respect to the services provided using RDOF Phase I support. Specifically, RTCCC's service quality and consumer protection standards and policies can be found at www.RTC1.com.

Q26. HOW WILL RTCCC'S SERVICE OFFERINGS RECEIVING RDOF PHASE I SUPPORT BENEFIT INCREASED CONSUMER CHOICE?

A26. The requested ETC service area is generally considered unserved or underserved by communication providers. RTCCC's service offerings will provide services to some customers who currently do not have access to such services. To the extent some customers within the ETC areas already have access to some level of service, RTCCC's service offerings in the requested ETC service area will promote increased competitive choice, thereby increasing innovation and incentivizing other carriers to improve their existing networks to remain competitive. This will ultimately result in greater access to

high-speed broadband and voice services, as well as improved service quality for customers in the requested ETC service area.

Q27. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES OF RTCCC’S SERVICE OFFERINGS RECEIVING RDOF PHASE I SUPPORT.

A27. As fully set forth in the Verified Petition, RTCCC’s use of the RDOF Phase I support in the awarded census blocks will directly advance the Act’s principal goals of securing lower prices and higher quality services for consumers and encouraging the rapid deployment of new technology to all citizens regardless of location or income.¹² Not only will RTCCC’s service offerings in the designated ETC service area provide critical high-speed and reliable connectivity to consumers and promote economic growth and competition, it also has been determined by the FCC, in awarding RDOF Phase I support to RTCCC, that said service offerings would promote the public interest. All services will be through an all fiber optic (FTTP) network, installed and supported locally by RTCCCCC customer service representatives and technicians. The network and speeds being delivered to the RDOF funded locations will be superior to the current services provided to these locations. These locations will have access to 1 Gb speeds.

Q28. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW RTCCC’S USE OF RDOF PHASE I SUPPORT WILL IMPACT THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND.

A28. As set forth in the Verified Petition, the funds awarded to RTCCC pursuant to Auction 904 have already been set aside by the FCC for that specific purpose; thus, RTCCC’s use of said funds will have no *per se* impact on the Universal Service Fund. The use of Auction 904 to award the funds ensured that funding went to bidders who could provide services to unserved or underserved areas for the lowest possible cost to the Universal

¹² *Telecommunications Act of 1996*, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56.

Service Fund. Additionally, as set forth in the Verified Petition, permitting RTCCC to provide services in previously unserved areas will increase the contributions that RTCCC makes to the Universal Service Fund based upon a portion of its revenues.

Q29. IS THE DESIGNATION OF RTCCC AS AN ETC IN THE REQUESTED SERVICE AREA IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

A29. Yes. As explained herein, RTCCC's designation as an ETC in the requested service area and subsequent provision of services in this area would benefit increased consumer choice, provide unserved and underserved areas with critical communications infrastructure and promote economic development without having a detrimental impact upon the Universal Service Fund. Such designation furthers the goals of the Act and subsequent FCC rules.

Q30. PLEASE DESCRIBE RTCCC'S PLANNED LIFELINE SERVICE OFFERINGS IN THE REQUESTED SERVICE AREA.

A30. RTCCC will provide Lifeline voice and broadband service throughout the areas covered by its winning RDOF bids to qualifying low-income consumers pursuant to the Lifeline program rules.¹³ The terms and conditions of RTCCC's Lifeline offering will be posted on RTCCC's website at www.RTCCC1.com. They include details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, additional charges (if any) for toll calls, and rates for each plan. Additionally, customers will be provided with these terms after completion of enrollment. Annually, RTCCC will complete income verifications based on information provided by Lifeline.

Q31. HOW WILL RTCCC ADVERTISE AND DISCLOSE THE TERMS OF ITS LIFELINE SERVICE OFFERINGS TO QUALIFYING CUSTOMERS?

¹³ See 47 CFR §§ 54.101(c), (d); 54.405(a); 47 CFR Subpart E; *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, Third Report and Order et al., WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016).

A31. RTCCC will advertise the availability of Lifeline services and charges through media of general distribution in a manner reasonably designed to reach potential Lifeline customers and make them aware of such offerings, as required by 47 CFR § 54.405(b), including by disclosing RTCCC's name, that the service is a Lifeline service, that it is a government assistance program, that the service is non-transferable, and that it is available only to eligible consumers and limited to one discount per household. Specifically, RTCCC will advertise the availability of Lifeline services using the same media outlets as described herein for the advertisement of telephone and internet services and including all required statements pertaining to the availability of Lifeline services. Guidelines for participation in Lifeline will be available on RTCCC's website and printed materials.


Q32. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A32. Yes.

VERIFICATION

I, Joseph P. McCarter, president of RTCCC Communications Corp., affirm under penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated: 1-6-2021



Joseph P. McCarter
President
RTCCC Communications Corp.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Direct Testimony of Joseph P. McCarter in Support of Petition of RTC Communications Corp. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier has been electronically served upon the following this 6th day of January, 2021:

Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
infomgt@oucc.in.gov

/s/ Jeremy L. Fetty

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1596697

**State of Indiana
Office of the Secretary of State**

CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE

To Whom These Presents Come, Greeting:

I, CONNIE LAWSON, Secretary of State of Indiana, do hereby certify that I am, by virtue of the laws of the State of Indiana, the custodian of the corporate records and the proper official to execute this certificate.

I further certify that records of this office disclose that

RTC COMMUNICATIONS CORP.

duly filed the requisite documents to commence business activities under the laws of the State of Indiana on July 17, 1998, and was in existence or authorized to transact business in the State of Indiana on January 06, 2021.

I further certify this Domestic For-Profit Corporation has filed its most recent report required by Indiana law with the Secretary of State, or is not yet required to file such report, and that no notice of withdrawal, dissolution, or expiration has been filed or taken place. All fees, taxes, interest, and penalties owed to Indiana by the domestic or foreign entity and collected by the Secretary of State have been paid.



In Witness Whereof, I have caused to be affixed my signature and the seal of the State of Indiana, at the City of Indianapolis, January 06, 2021

Connie Lawson

CONNIE LAWSON
SECRETARY OF STATE

1998071047 / 20211794389

All certificates should be validated here: <https://bsd.sos.in.gov/ValidateCertificate>

Expires on February 05, 2021.

Exhibit JPM-2: Plans & Pricing				
INSTALLATION CHARGE				
Standard Residential Connection in Project/Neighborhood		\$99 or 2yr Agreement		during project
Business Standard Connection		\$199 or 2yr Agreement		during project
"On fiber route" Connection		\$299		on route
Off Route		\$5.22		per foot
BUSINESS INTERNET				
	Rate Schedules	SMB	(Suggested)	ELAN*
IFB-SUCCESS	50/20	Call Sales	\$90	na
IFB-120	120/40	Call Sales	\$120	na
IFB-250	250/70	Call Sales	\$150	as low as \$250
IFB-500	500/100	Call Sales	\$200	as low as \$500
IFB-750+	1G/200	Call Sales	\$250	as low as \$750
SMB	High Speed Fiber Internet - Business Priority Support 8am-8pm, Battery Backup			
Enterprise	Fiber ELAN Internet - 24x7 w/ Service Assurance			
Term Agreement - 2 years (or pay installation charge of \$199)				
Note: No data caps! Business tiers balance data usage, speed, premium support and cost.				
Abuse of shared network capacity may result in termination of service.				
*Call Centers, Server Farms, Hosting Sites, etc. - Pricing will be based on SLA and data load				
** School pricing depends on SLA and sustained bandwidth and peak bursting demand.				
RESIDENTIAL INTERNET				
	Rate Schedules	Residential		
IFH-ADVANCED	50/15	\$59.95		
IFH-PRO	120/30	\$79.95		
IFH-250	250/50	\$99.95		
IFH-750+	1G/200	\$149.95		
Residential	High Speed Fiber Broadband Internet - Managed WiFi add \$5/month			
Term Agreement - 2 years (or pay installation charge of \$99)				
Note: No data caps! Abuse of shared network capacity may result in termination of service.				
PHONE LINE - VoIP*				
		Residential	SMB	UC/HPBX
	ATA-5	\$12.95	Call Sales	Call Sales
	100-4	\$15.95	Call Sales	Call Sales
	250-3	\$19.95	Call Sales	Call Sales
Note: Wired to ONT port or ATA (analog adapter) supplied. Telephone extra or customer supplied.				
Installation charge may apply for non-standard installations				
100 minutes of local service included at no charge. Overages at plan rate				
* Price listed requires MCF broadband Internet				
ATA-5 Dial tone w/telephone number. Customer provided analog phone. LD @ 5 cents/min. Includes Caller ID.				
100-4 All of ATA-5 package plus;				
Basic seat includes free LD up to 100 minutes w/ overage at 4 cents/min. Includes Call Forwarding and Voice Mail.				
250-3 All of 100-4 package plus;				
SOHO seat includes included LD up to 250 minutes w/ overage at 3 cents/min. Call Waiting included				
All voice and broadband Internet prices do not include applicable taxes and regulatory fees				

Exhibit JPM-3

RTC Communications Corp.

Description of Lifeline

Assistance Programs

RTC Communications Corp. offers a low income assistance program, Lifeline Assistance. Any subscriber who meets the low-income eligibility criteria established by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), and lives within the RTC Communications Corp. RDOF service area is eligible for participation in this program.

An eligible household may receive the Lifeline benefit on broadband service OR one wireless OR one home telephone. An eligible household may not receive the Lifeline benefit from more than one provider. For the purpose of Lifeline, a household is an individual or any group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income or expenses. Lifeline discounts may not transfer to another person, even if he or she is eligible.

In order to meet the low income eligibility criteria established by the IURC, a customer must be a participant in one of the following programs: **Medicaid, food stamps, Supplementary Security Income (SSI), federal public housing assistance or Section 8 (a Federal Housing Assistance Program administered by the Department of Urban Development), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program, or Income-based Federal eligibility—a family income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.**

Lifeline provides discounts on monthly telephone or broadband service for eligible consumers. An eligible customer receives a monthly Lifeline Credit in the amount of \$9.25.

As a participant in Lifeline Assistance, customers are eligible to receive Toll Blocking service at no charge. This service will only be provided at the customer's request. Also, participants in Lifeline Assistance will not be disconnected from local service for nonpayment of toll charges. In addition, the company will not deny re-establishment of local service to customer who are eligible for Lifeline Assistance and have been previously disconnected for nonpayment of toll charges.