

FILED

AUG 08 2008

STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

INDIANA UTILITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S)
CERTIFICATION OF RURAL CARRIERS')
ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE FEDERAL HIGH-COST)
UNIVERSAL SUPPORT, PURSUANT TO THE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996, THE)
FCC'S MAY 23, 2001 ORDER, AND OTHER)
RELATED FCC ORDERS, AND IN PARTICULAR, THE)
APPLICATION OF TIPTON TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.,)
TO BE SO CERTIFIED)

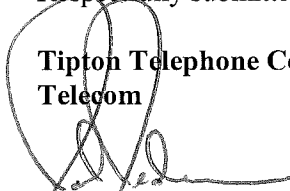
CAUSE NO.
42067-HLS
SUBDOCKET NO.
HLS-2

**Request for Certification by Tipton Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a TDS Telecom
a Rural Telephone Company**

Tipton Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a TDS Telecom (the "Company") hereby files this request for certification in response to the August 22, 2001 decision of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission") in the above-captioned matter. The Company, a rural telephone company as that term is defined under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), respectfully requests that the Commission approve this request and certify to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company by no later than October 1, 2008, that the Company is in compliance with Section 254 (e) of the Act and applicable regulatory decisions and requirements. Such action will ensure that Company will continue to receive federal universal service funds for the full calendar year 2009, thereby continuing without interruption the public interest benefits associated with the Company's receipt of such funds.

Respectfully submitted,

**Tipton Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a TDS
Telecom**

By: 
Paul Pederson
Manager – State Government Affairs

AFFIDAVIT

As an authorized corporate officer Tipton Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a TDS Telecom, I, Kevin G. Hess, under penalty of perjury, hereby affirm familiarity with and understanding of the requirements of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with respect to the receipt of Universal Service funds and affirm that funds received will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 254(e).

Kevin G. Hess July 23, 2008
Kevin G. Hess (Date)
Senior Vice President
Government & Regulatory Affairs

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 23rd day of July, A.D. 2008

Irmingard F. Metz
Irmingard F. Metz – Notary Public
My Commission Expires: May 8, 2011

**2008 Revised High Cost Universal Service Funding Certification
For All Eligible Telecommunications Companies
IURC Cause No. 42067**

*Each ETC is required to complete this form in order to receive certification by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission that the carrier is eligible to receive federal high-cost loop support. If you need to attach additional sheets, please do so. If you have any questions, please call **Jennifer Richardson**, at 317-232-2785. This information is due back to the Commission no later than August 18, 2008.*

Carrier Name: Tipton Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a TDS Telecom

Study Area Code: 320829

IURC Cause No.: 42067-HLS -2

Carrier Address: 525 Junction Road
Madison, WI 53717

Contact Name: Paul Pederson

Contact Email: paul.pederson@tdstelecom.com

Position: Manager – State Government Affairs

Phone: 608-664-4180 **FAX:** 608-664-4185

1. With regard to your Study Area(s) please provide the following information, using the most current year-end financial statements (preferably audited):

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| High Cost Loop Support: | \$ 0.00 |
| Local Switching Support | \$ 223,452 |
| Interstate Common Line Support | \$ 228,948 |
| Interstate Access Support: | \$Applicable to Price Cap companies only |
| Total Federal Support: | \$ 452,400 |

Total Number of Lifeline customers²: 84 customers as of June 30, 2008

Number of customers that receive Linkup discounts³: 14 customers as of June 30, 2008

² To calculate this number, use the most updated figure as of the date of this survey.

³ To calculate this number, use the most updated figure as of the date of this survey.

2. **Explain how your company plans to use federal universal service funds it will receive in the coming calendar year. Indicate below how those funds will be applied to provision, maintain, and upgrade eligible facilities and services.**

Provision: \$ 968,000

2009 forecasted provision amount including depreciation expense.

Maintenance: \$ 525,000

2009 forecasted maintenance amount.

Upgrade: \$ 10,000

2009 forecasted upgrade amount.

Note: These amounts reflect the costs that will be partially offset by the estimated USF that will be received in the coming calendar year and identified in our response to question 3 below.

3. **Please attach your company's three (3) year plan to improve service over your network using universal service support on a wire center basis. This plan should include an update from the 2007 certification in addition to maps or other materials detailing the progress made towards meeting its plan targets, an explanation of how much support will be received and how the support will be used to improve signal quality, capacity or coverage. Attach additional sheets if necessary.**

Below is the detail of our 3 year plan to improve service over our existing network using Universal Service support. Since we have previously invested to create a ubiquitous network, we intend to utilize the majority of USF received to help offset a portion of the ongoing cost to provision and maintain the existing switching and outside plant network to ensure that our customers have continued access to quality local exchange service.

In addition, we plan to use a portion of the USF received to invest in projects that will increase network capacity, coverage, reliability, and security. Anticipated expenditures for 2009 will be \$1,503,000 of which \$10,000 will be for capital upgrades. Estimated USF for 2009 is \$452,400 which will be used to partially offset these expenditures.

The total USF support the company receives is determined after expenditures have been made and is dependent on USF funding formulas in place at the time; therefore, we estimate the amount of support received in future years will be similar to what is received for the current funding year.

2007 Projects Completed:

- Semi-annual preventative maintenance performed at all Digital Line Carrier (DLC) sites, Central Office (CO's) and remotes. Semi-annual checks are completed to ensure batteries, cabinets, grounding, cross connects and generators are all in good working order to ensure we maintain reliable local exchange service.
- Continue to maintain existing facilities by inspecting, testing, repairing and performing preventative maintenance on outside plant. This includes, but is not limited to:

materials, pedestal repair, repair drop wire, protectors, grounding, storm damage cleanup, repair and restoration.

- Added shelves, cards and circuit equipment to meet ongoing customer demand for additional functionality and network capacity.
- Installed new outside plant cable and wire to provide service for new customer growth.

2008 Projects Planned:

- Semi-annual preventative maintenance performed at all DLC sites, CO's and remotes. Semi-annual checks are completed to ensure batteries, cabinets, grounding, cross connects and generators are all in good working order to ensure we maintain reliable local exchange service.
- Continue to maintain existing facilities by inspecting, testing, repairing and performing preventative maintenance on outside plant. This includes, but is not limited to: materials, pedestal repair, repair drop wire, protectors, grounding, storm damage cleanup, repair and restoration.
- In the Tipton exchange, plan to add additional shelves, cards and equipment to existing DSA to meet ongoing demand for additional functionality and increased capacity.
- In the Tipton exchange, plan to engineer for and replace existing cable due to a road project on SR 28 and US 31. This will allow us to maintain a reliable and stable network.

2009 – 2010 Projects Planned:

- Semi-annual preventative maintenance performed at all DLC sites, CO's and remotes. Semi-annual checks are completed to ensure batteries, cabinets, grounding, cross connects and generators are all in good working order to ensure we maintain reliable local exchange service.
- Continue to maintain existing facilities by inspecting, testing, repairing and performing preventative maintenance on outside plant. This includes, but is not limited to: materials, pedestal repair, repair drop wire, protectors, grounding, storm damage cleanup, repair and restoration.
- The company will continue to meet and exceed the expectations of customers and the applicable IURC quality of service requirements. As the 2009-2010 projects evolve and are planned and budgeted for, capital expenditures, consumer demands and needs, along with competitive pressures, will ultimately continue to influence and add to the list of planned capital expenditures.
- Tipton Telephone Company plans to continue to augment existing DSA sites in order to continue to meet customer demand for increased network functionality and capacity.
- In addition, Tipton Telephone Company's 2009-2010 plan will look at working on projects that meet the following goals:
 - Continue to improve the network functionality and capacity.
 - Continue to merge switching platforms to improve overall network efficiency.
 - Continue to deploy FTTH and passive optic network (PON) in new developments whenever feasible.

- 4. Please provide information regarding outages that have lasted 90 minutes or more for any facilities that your company owns, operates, leases or otherwise utilizes that would have affected at least ten percent of the end users served in a designated area. This would also include any 911 facilities. Also include in this**

report the time/date of outage, the number of customers affected by the outage, the services affected, the geographic areas affected by the outage and steps taken to prevent similar outages in the future.

The number of service outages, as defined in FCC rules at 47 CFR Section 54.209(a)(2), that occurred during calendar year 2007: Zero

5. Please provide the number of complaints per 1,000 handsets or lines.

During 2007, the Company had one complaint per 1000 handsets or lines.

6. Does your company offer a local usage plan? If so, and if you are a CETC, is this plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent LEC in your designated area?

The company is the incumbent and offers a tariffed flat rate unlimited Basic Local Service offering.

7. Does your company acknowledge that the FCC may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within the service area?

The Company already provides equal access to long distance carriers.

Attachment 1

Exchange Maps

