

# Mid-Rivers

TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 280 • 904 C Avenue  
Circle, Montana 59215  
(406) 485-3301 • Fax: (406) 485-2924  
800-452-2288 • www.midrivers.com

June 28, 2016

Public Service Commission  
State of North Dakota  
State Capitol – 600 E Blvd, Dept. 408  
Bismarck ND 58505 -0480



RE: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. - (SAC 482246)  
47 CFR 54.313 & 54.422 ETC Reporting Requirements

Enclosed for filing with the North Dakota PSC is an original copy of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s (SAC 482246) FCC Form 481, as filed with the FCC, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), and relevant tribal governments as required by 47 CFR 54.313 & 54.422.

Feel free to contact Erin Lutts if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Candelria".

Michael Candelria  
General Manager

Enclosures

<b>FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form</b>	<b>FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986, OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013</b>
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<010> Study Area Code	482246
<015> Study Area Name	MID-RIVERS TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Erin Lutts
<035> Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	4063777438 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutts@midrivers.coop
Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

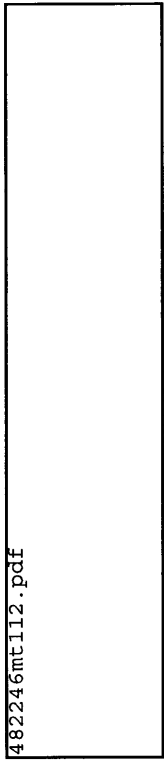
**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

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

<010> Study Area Code 482246  
 <015> Study Area Name MID-RIVERS TEL COOP  
 <020> Program Year 2017  
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Erin Lutts  
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 406377438 ext.  
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

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

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



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

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

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



**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request  
Data Collection Form**

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

<010> Study Area Code

482246

<015> Study Area Name

MID-RIVERS TEL COOP

<020> Program Year

2017

<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data

Erin Lutts

<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>

4063777438 ext.

<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>

erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

4

482246mt330.pdf

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Attached Document

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
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July 2013

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<015>	Study Area Name	MID-RIVERS TEL COOP	
<020>	Program Year	2017	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Erin Lutts	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4063777438 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutts@midrivers.coop	
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.		Offered only fixed voice
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0.0	
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice		
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.		Offered only fixed broadband
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0.0	
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband		

**(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules  
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	482246
<015>	Study Area Name	MID-RIVERS TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Erin Lutze
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4063777438 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutze@midrivers.coop
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	482246MT510 . pdf

**(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations  
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	482246
<015> Study Area Name	MID-RIVER TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Erin Lutta
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4063777438 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutta@midrivers.coop
<600> Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610> Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	482246MT610.pdf







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

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

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 <020> Program Year 2017  
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Erin Lutts  
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 4063777438 ext.  
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) Yes

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves  
 Fort Peck Tribes of Assiniboine and Sioux  
 Crow Nation  
 Turtle Mountain Trust Lands

482246mt920.pdf

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

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

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

- <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.

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481  
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 July 2013

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 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Erin Lutts  
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 406377438 ext.  
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Attached Document

Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1020> Broadband comparability certification

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

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

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<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Erin Lutts
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4063777438 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

<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 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

**(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers  
Lifeline  
Data Collection Form**

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

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<015> Study Area Name MID-RIVERS TEL COOP

<020> Program Year 2017

<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Erin Lutts

<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 4063777438 ext.

<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> erin.lutts@midrivers.coop



Name of Attached Document

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

www.midrivers.com/mid-rivers-personal-phone-low-income.php

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

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



**(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)**

**Data Collection Form**

*Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*

FCC Form 481

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

July 2013

**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)}**

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017B> Attach information for Phase II - 54.313(e)(1) - list of geocoded locations already meeting the 54.309 public interest obligations at the end of calendar year 2015 and total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price

cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2015.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(2)(ii)

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(2)(v)

<2020> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 40% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2017 - 54.313(e)(3)

<2021> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 60% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2018 - 54.313(e)(4)

<2026> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 80% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2019 - 54.313(e)(5)

<2027> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 100% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2020 - 54.313(e)(6)

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

[Empty box]

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

<010>	Study Area Code	482246
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

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

(3009) Progress Report on 5 Year Plan  
Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)

Yes - Attach Certification

(3010A) Milestone Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)} 482246mt3010.pdf

(3010B) Please Provide Attachment Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3012A) Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)} Yes - Attach New Community Anchors

(3012B) Please Provide Attachment Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

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

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

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

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

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

(3017) If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(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

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

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

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

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

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

(3024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.

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

(3026) Attach the worksheet listing required information Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

**(3005) Rate of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)**  
**Data Collection Form**

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

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<b>&lt;020&gt;</b> Program Year	2017
<b>&lt;030&gt;</b> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Erin Luttis
<b>&lt;035&gt;</b> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4063777438 ext.
<b>&lt;099&gt;</b> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.luttis@midrivers.coop

<b>Financial Data Summary</b>	
(3027) Revenue	39386992
(3028) Operating Expenses	37107448
(3029) Net Income	4850004
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)	251187222
(3031) Total Assets	122789645
(3032) Total Debt	42440051
(3033) Total Equity	80349594
(3034) Dividends	0

<010>	Study Area Code	482246
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutts@mldrivers.coop

**4005 Rural Broadband Experiment**

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

**Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)**

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission's public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

**4001.** Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

**Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)**

**4003a.** RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

**4003b.** Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information \_\_\_\_\_

**Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)**

**4004a.** Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481. Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information \_\_\_\_\_

**4004b.** Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area. Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

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

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	MID-RIVERS TEL COOP
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE <span style="float: right;">Date 06/28/2016</span>
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Craig Johnson
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	President
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	4064853301 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	482246 <span style="float: right;">Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2016</span>
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

<b>Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

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<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4063777438 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

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

<b>Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier</b>	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent: _____	
Name of Reporting Carrier: _____	
Signature of Authorized Officer: _____	Date: _____
Printed name of Authorized Officer: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

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

<b>Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier</b>	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: _____	
Name of Authorized Agent Firm: _____	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	Date: _____
Name of Authorized Agent Employee: _____	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: _____	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: _____	Filing Due Date for this form: _____
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

## Attachments



**(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data  
Data Collection Form**

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

<010> Study Area Code 482246

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<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Erin Lutts

<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 4063777438 ext.

<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> erin.lutts@midrivers.coop

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date

<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

<703>

1/1/2016

<a1>	<a2>	<a3>	<b1>	<b2>	<b3>	<b4>	<b5>	<c>
State	Exchange (ILEC)	SAC (CEIC)	Rate Type	Residential Local Service Rate	State Subscriber Line Charge	State Universal Service Fee	Mandatory Extended Area Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fees
MT	Baker		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Bloomfield		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Carlyle		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Circle		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Custer		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
ND	East Carlyle		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Ekalaka		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Fallon		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Grass Range		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Jordan		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Lambert		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Lavina		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Lindsay		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Melstone		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Musselshell		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	9.75	25.75
MT	North Ryegate		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Plevna		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Richey		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Rock Springs		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Roundup		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0
MT	Roy		FR	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0







**Progress Report on Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan  
for Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

In its *USF/ICC Transformation Order* and subsequent Orders, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) requires Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) to submit a five-year plan in a manner consistent with Section 54.202(a)(1)(ii) of the Commission’s Rules by July 1, 2014, and to submit annual progress reports thereafter.<sup>1</sup> In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans “should describe the carrier’s network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories.”<sup>2</sup>

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Mid-Rivers” or the “Company”) is a rate-of-return carrier ETC. Mid-Rivers submitted its initial five-year build-out plan in 2014 covering 2015-2019, and hereby submits its second progress report pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(1)<sup>3</sup> covering the entire calendar year 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; High-Cost Universal Service Support; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Lifeline and Link-Up; Universal Service Reform—Mobility Fund*; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, GN Docket No. 09-51, WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 11-61 (rel. Nov. 18, 2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order*) at Para. 587; *pets. for review pending sub nom. In re: FCC 11-161*, No. 11-9900 (10th Cir. filed Dec. 8, 2011); see also *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 12-147 (rel. Feb. 12, 2012) at Para. 5 (amending Section 54.313(a)(1) to clarify this requirement); *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Third Order on Reconsideration, FCC 12-52 (rel. May 14, 2012) at Para. 10 (changing the filing deadline for the annual reports from April 1 to July 1); *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) (“*March 5, 2013 Order*”) at Para’s. 4, 6-9. Delaying Five Year Plan until July 1, 2014 see WC Docket No. 10-90, Order, DA 13-1115, Para. 8 (released May 16, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> *March 5, 2013 Order* at Para. 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

<sup>3</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1) specifies that recipients should submit “[a] progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to § 54.202(a), including maps detailing its progress towards meeting its plan targets, an explanation of how much universal service support was received and how it was used to improve service quality, coverage, or capacity, and an explanation regarding any network improvement targets that have not been fulfilled in the prior calendar year. The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.”

## I. Introduction

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) and a certified Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in MT Study Area 482246. This ILEC Study Area is extremely rural, with an average population density of less than one person per square mile. Recent housing density data released by the Commission estimates the statewide density of this study area to be 0.42 housing units per square mile.<sup>4</sup> Mid-Rivers is the largest land-mass telephone cooperative in the Continental U.S., serving approximately 30,000 square miles of Eastern and Central Montana.

Improvements targeted in Mid-Rivers' five-year plan included projects related to the expansion of the network, updating technology to accommodate new services or higher bandwidth, and maintenance projects to reduce trouble reports and replace outdated equipment. Additionally, there were some projects to improve or upgrade the entire network rather than discrete areas within a study area, and ongoing projects that currently have no specific start and completion dates.

The projects included in the five-year plan represented the initial phase of a three-phase, long-term strategy to bring broadband to all subscribers in our Study Area. However, please note that this strategy was developed in 2014 within the constraints of the known aspects of the regulatory and economic environment at that time (as well as several assumptions). It is likely that this plan will be adjusted (perhaps substantially)

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<sup>4</sup> DA 16-478, *Wireline Competition Bureau Releases Density Data for Rate-of-Return Carrier Study Areas*. Released May 3, 2016. WC Docket No. 10-90.

over time as new support mechanisms for small rural carriers are implemented. Phase I of this plan included:

- Intermediate steps to increase speeds by upgrading existing facilities (i.e., dedicated copper plant that can be upgraded to provide 8M or 12M DSL using upgraded equipment). New broadband benchmark speed requirements have caused Mid-Rivers to consider FTTP to end users in place of further investment in copper plant upgrades.
- Possible Fiber to the Tower in some areas for a fixed LTE solution as a short-term fill-in for white spaces in broadband coverage where feasible. This service is not capable of 10/1 broadband speeds on a consistent basis, and has several other limitations including equipment availability, inconsistent quality of service, and high backhaul and core switching costs. For these reasons the company plans to focus resources on FTTP builds rather than these experimental, short-term wireless solutions.
- Continued FTTP builds in certain areas as necessary to address the highest-priority maintenance issues, with all fiber construction sized for complete FTTP build in the future. As noted in the previous bullets, additional focus is also being placed on end user FTTP builds for long-term efficiencies and ability to provide 10/1 and 25/5 broadband speed benchmarks.

## II. Maps Explaining Progress Toward Deployment Targets

*Appendix A* to this progress report includes maps at the wire center level detailing progress toward this plan that took place during calendar year 2015. Projects completed to improve service quality, coverage and capacity included:

- **Exchange Maintenance & Plant Additions:** Work orders were issued and completed in all exchanges in this study area to place facilities to new subscriber locations and also to upgrade/replace service drops to existing subscriber locations.
- **FTTP Exchange Upgrades:**
  - Construction was completed from the Jordan central office to the White Horse remote in the Jordan exchange to improve broadband speeds for approximately 52 subscribers. As noted elsewhere in this FCC Form 481 Annual Report filing, this project included the extension of new broadband service to one (1) Community Anchor Institution, the Pine Grove School District #19 in Brusett, Montana.
  - Additional fiber transport facilities were placed by the Mid-Rivers construction crew in the Jordan Exchange.
  - The fiber expansion project in the Ekalaka exchange was adjusted to a transport route upgrade only with the fiber sized for future FTTP. This adjustment was a result of engineering changes from a 20km FST design to a 40km fiber from Node 0 design, which is more consistent with a logical long-term complete network FTTP build-out plan. The fiber transport route upgrade in the Ekalaka exchange was completed as detailed on the map in Attachment A.

- **Softswitch Migration:** Mid-Rivers completed the migration of all landline subscribers in all exchanges to its IP-based softswitch platform.
- **Remote Serving Terminal (RST) Upgrades:** Equipment on RST's in the Jordan exchange was upgraded to provide broadband capability up to VDSL speeds. This increased broadband speed availability for customers within 3,500 feet of each RST from 8M to as high as 40M downstream. This primarily impacted subscribers in the town of Jordan, which had a 2010 Census population of 343. Backhaul capacity was increased in the Jordan, Carlyle and Winnett exchanges to provide improved broadband capacity to subscribers.
- **Battery/Power Board Upgrades:** Battery/Power Board Upgrades were completed in the Jordan, Roundup, Fallon and West Glendive exchanges.
- **Construction Equipment:** Construction equipment purchases and upgrades planned for 2015 were completed and equipment put into service. These included the purchase of a skid steer loader with backhoe attachment, compact excavator, a small drop plow and a utility tractor.
- **Gigabit Ethernet Ring:** Additional capacity was turned up on the company's fiber ring for redundancy and capacity. A 20GB ring capacity addition was completed to provide geographic broadband redundancy to a previously single-threaded exchange. Mid-Rivers is constantly adding incremental capacity to the backbone network to meet customer demand.
- **Servers, Printers & PC's:** Servers necessary for subscriber Internet and email services, and PC's required for employees are continually being upgraded as needed.

- **Fleet Vehicles:** Vehicle purchases planned for 2015 were completed and equipment was placed in to service.
- **Work & Test Equipment:** Equipment including copper test meters, field OTDR meters for Outside Plant and Central Office employees, PON activation meters, portable fusion machines for fiber splicing, and locating equipment planned for 2015 was purchased and put into service.

## **II. Amount of Universal Service Support Received**

For calendar year 2015, Mid-Rivers received \$3,191,487 in total Universal Service support for this study area. An estimated \$842,155 of this amount was spent on capital expenses and \$2,349,332 on operating expenses.

## **III. How Support Was Used To Improve Service Quality, Coverage, or Capacity**

Mid-Rivers depends upon its receipt and utilization of federal universal service support to provide rural telephone customers with affordable and quality voice and broadband services. Mid-Rivers' progress report demonstrates how the Company is using USF for improvements and upgrades as well as for the provision and maintenance of the facilities and services to which the support was intended. Expenditures exceeding the support amounts detailed in Section II of this report were made by the company to improve service quality, coverage and capacity in this study area.

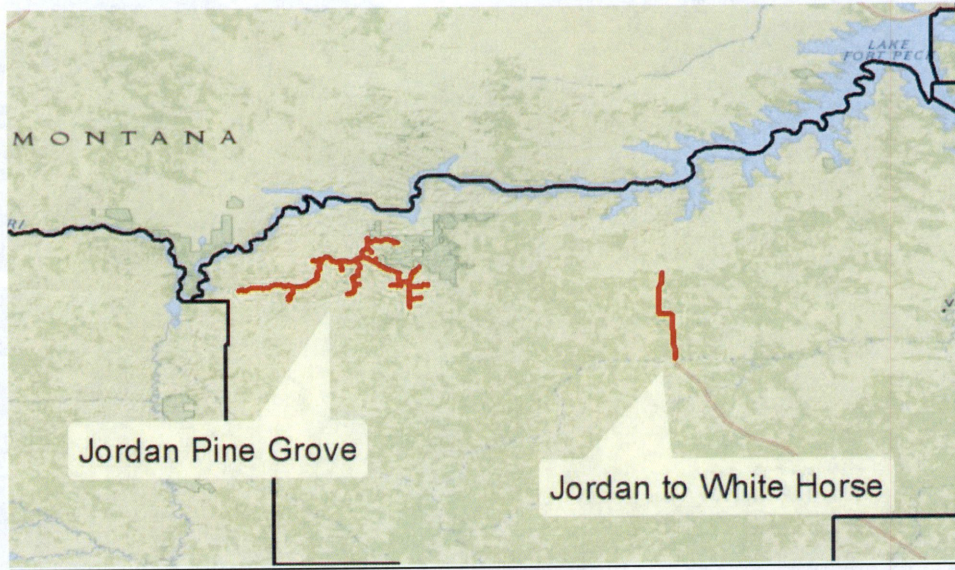
**IV. Explanation Regarding Any Network Improvement Targets Not Fulfilled in Prior Calendar Year**

At this time Mid-Rivers is still on track to meet the network improvement targets as laid out in the initial five-year service quality improvement plan submitted in 2014. As stated earlier, the initial five-year plan was drafted in 2014 under the regulatory and economic conditions at that time and is subject to change pending the final outcomes of universal service support reform for Rate of Return carriers and other factors. Notable changes to the original plan to date include the shift in focus from short-term fixed wireless LTE to additional FTTP subscriber deployments to meet new broadband speed benchmarks and gain long-term operating efficiencies; and engineering adjustments for FTTP deployments from 20KM FST builds to 40KM fiber builds from Node 0.

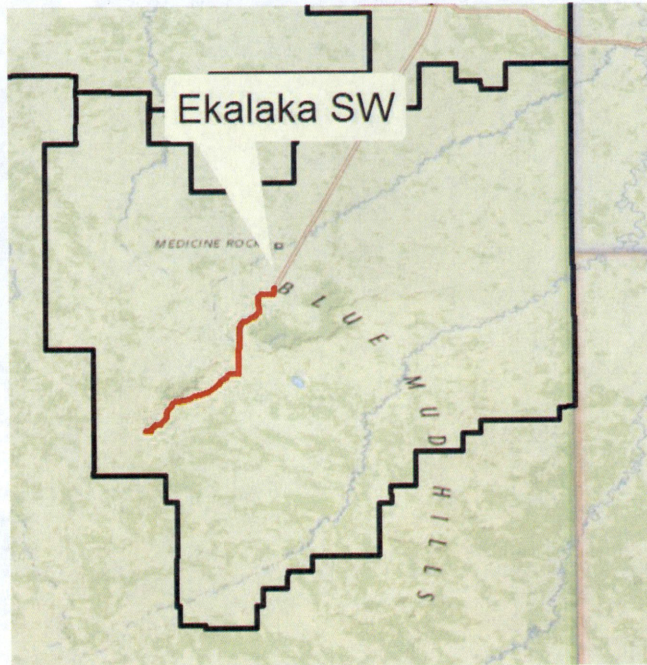
Appendix A

Maps Explaining Progress Towards Deployment Targets

Jordan Exchange



Ekalaka Exchange



**CERTIFICATION OF MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**Reporting Period January 1- December 31, 2015**

**SEC. 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(1)(i) Milestone Certification**

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a) Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Rivers) here by certifies that it has taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of 4Mbps downstream/1Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to reasonably comparable offering in urban areas, and that request for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

I verify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on June 24, 2016.



Michael Candelaria, General Manager, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

FCC Form 481  
Line 3010(b) Community Anchor Institutions

State: Montana Year: 2015  
Study Area Code: 482246  
Study Area Name: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Number	Name	Address
1	School District #19 Pine Grove	9 Seven Blackfoot Road, Brusett Montana, 59318

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0572-0031. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 4 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

<b>USDA-RUS</b>  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	<i>This data will be used by RUS to review your financial situation. Your response is required by 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq. and, subject to federal laws and regulations regarding confidential information, will be treated as confidential.</i>	
	BORROWER NAME Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  (Prepared with Audited Data)	
INSTRUCTIONS-Submit report to RUS within 30 days after close of the period. For detailed instructions, see RUS Bulletin 1744-2. Report in whole dollars only.	PERIOD ENDING December, 2015	BORROWER DESIGNATION MT0512
<b>CERTIFICATION</b> We hereby certify that the entries in this report are in accordance with the accounts and other records of the system and reflect the status of the system to the best of our knowledge and belief. <b>ALL INSURANCE REQUIRED BY 7 CFR PART 1788, CHAPTER XVII, RUS, WAS IN FORCE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD AND RENEWALS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FOR ALL POLICIES.</b>  DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT PURSUANT TO PART 1788 OF 7CFR CHAPTER XVII (Check one of the following)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All of the obligations under the RUS loan documents have been fulfilled in all material respects.		
<input type="checkbox"/> There has been a default in the fulfillment of the obligations under the RUS loan documents. Said default(s) is/are specifically described in the Telecom Operating Report		
Michael Candelaria	3/28/2016	
DATE		

PART A. BALANCE SHEET					
ASSETS	BALANCE PRIOR YEAR	BALANCE END OF PERIOD	LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	BALANCE PRIOR YEAR	BALANCE END OF PERIOD
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
1. Cash and Equivalents	8,644,215	11,627,992	25. Accounts Payable	3,208,791	1,148,421
2. Cash-RUS Construction Fund	104	104	26. Notes Payable	0	0
3. Affiliates:			27. Advance Billings and Payments	917,155	1,691,379
a. Telecom, Accounts Receivable	2,333,550	3,212,266	28. Customer Deposits	255,436	278,811
b. Other Accounts Receivable	238,994	1,532,986	29. Current Mat. L/T Debt	3,723,282	3,882,199
c. Notes Receivable	0	0	30. Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev.	0	12,500
4. Non-Affiliates:			31. Current Mat.-Capital Leases	0	0
a. Telecom, Accounts Receivable	0	0	32. Income Taxes Accrued	(1,903,994)	3,476,985
b. Other Accounts Receivable	(6,686,534)	14,082,625	33. Other Taxes Accrued	661,721	582,827
c. Notes Receivable	0	0	34. Other Current Liabilities	4,577,774	4,606,754
5. Interest and Dividends Receivable	712	709	35. Total Current Liabilities (25 thru 34)	11,440,165	15,679,876
6. Material-Regulated	1,764,021	1,739,197	<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>		
7. Material-Nonregulated	0	0	36. Funded Debt-RUS Notes	15,363,729	11,898,851
8. Prepayments	365,607	399,521	37. Funded Debt-RTB Notes	9,161,068	7,906,174
9. Other Current Assets	0	0	38. Funded Debt-FFB Notes	0	0
10. Total Current Assets (1 Thru 9)	6,660,669	4,430,150	39. Funded Debt-Other	0	0
<b>NONCURRENT ASSETS</b>			40. Funded Debt-Rural Develop. Loan	300,000	300,000
11. Investment in Affiliated Companies			41. Premium (Discount) on L/T Debt	0	0
a. Rural Development	0	0	42. Reacquired Debt	0	0
b. Nonrural Development	22,806,638	32,747,857	43. Obligations Under Capital Lease	0	0
12. Other Investments			44. Adv. From Affiliated Companies	0	0
a. Rural Development	300,000	300,000	45. Other Long-Term Debt	0	0
b. Nonrural Development	2,269,377	2,345,670	46. Total Long-Term Debt (36 thru 45)	24,824,797	20,105,025
13. Nonregulated Investments	0	0	<b>OTHER LIAB. &amp; DEF. CREDITS</b>		
14. Other Noncurrent Assets	0	0	47. Other Long-Term Liabilities	5,119,244	6,490,577
15. Deferred Charges	0	0	48. Other Deferred Credits	411,600	164,573
16. Jurisdictional Differences	0	0	49. Other Jurisdictional Differences	0	0
17. Total Noncurrent Assets (11 thru 16)	25,376,015	35,393,527	50. Total Other Liabilities and Deferred Credits (47 thru 49)	5,530,844	6,655,150
<b>PLANT, PROPERTY, AND EQUIPMENT</b>			<b>EQUITY</b>		
18. Telecom, Plant-in-Service	248,604,655	251,187,222	51. Cap. Stock Outstand. & Subscribed	0	0
19. Property Held for Future Use	0	0	52. Additional Paid-in-Capital	0	0
20. Plant Under Construction	4,237,341	4,244,023	53. Treasury Stock	0	0
21. Plant Adj., Nonop. Plant & Goodwill	8,758,490	12,541,023	54. Membership and Cap. Certificates	0	0
22. Less Accumulated Depreciation	173,760,169	185,006,300	55. Other Capital	0	0
23. Net Plant (18 thru 21 less 22)	87,840,317	82,965,968	56. Patronage Capital Credits	72,703,377	75,499,590
24. TOTAL ASSETS (10+17+23)			57. Retained Earnings or Margins	5,377,818	4,850,004
			58. Total Equity (51 thru 57)	78,081,195	80,349,594
			59. TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (35+46+50+58)	119,877,001	122,789,645

Total Equity = 65.44% % of Total Assets

USDA-RUS

BORROWER DESIGNATION

**OPERATING REPORT FOR  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS**

MT0512

PERIOD ENDING

December, 2015

INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2

**PART B. STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS OR MARGINS**

ITEM	PRIOR YEAR	THIS YEAR
1. Local Network Services Revenues	6,307,026	6,461,279
2. Network Access Services Revenues	19,355,019	19,808,464
3. Long Distance Network Services Revenues	2,157,352	2,037,859
4. Carrier Billing and Collection Revenues	70,394	69,565
5. Miscellaneous Revenues	10,484,307	11,533,805
6. Uncollectible Revenues	19,385	523,980
7. Net Operating Revenues (1 thru 5 less 6)	38,354,713	39,386,992
8. Plant Specific Operations Expense	12,774,705	14,150,794
9. Plant Nonspecific Operations Expense (Excluding Depreciation & Amortization)	5,284,706	5,598,128
10. Depreciation Expense	10,527,543	11,297,928
11. Amortization Expense	630,422	630,422
12. Customer Operations Expense	2,240,093	2,332,827
13. Corporate Operations Expense	3,108,986	3,097,349
14. Total Operating Expenses (8 thru 13)	34,566,455	37,107,448
15. Operating Income or Margins (7 less 14)	3,788,258	2,279,544
16. Other Operating Income and Expenses	92,630	225,864
17. State and Local Taxes	0	0
18. Federal Income Taxes	123,117	(856,032)
19. Other Taxes	1,322,852	1,167,966
20. Total Operating Taxes (17+18+19)	1,445,969	311,934
21. Net Operating Income or Margins (15+16-20)	2,434,919	2,193,474
22. Interest on Funded Debt	1,416,977	761,125
23. Interest Expense - Capital Leases	0	0
24. Other Interest Expense	0	0
25. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction	267,881	290,633
26. Total Fixed Charges (22+23+24-25)	1,149,096	470,492
27. Nonoperating Net Income	129,975	281,970
28. Extraordinary Items	0	(2,828,503)
29. Jurisdictional Differences	0	0
30. Nonregulated Net Income	3,962,020	5,673,555
31. Total Net Income or Margins (21+27+28+29+30-26)	5,377,818	4,850,004
32. Total Taxes Based on Income	0	0
33. Retained Earnings or Margins Beginning-of-Year	4,138,242	5,377,818
34. Miscellaneous Credits Year-to-Date	133,212	119,935
35. Dividends Declared (Common)	0	0
36. Dividends Declared (Preferred)	0	0
37. Other Debits Year-to-Date	3,747,708	1,371,333
38. Transfers to Patronage Capital	523,746	4,126,420
39. Retained Earnings or Margins End-of-Period [(31+33+34) - (35+36+37+38)]	5,377,818	4,850,004
40. Patronage Capital Beginning-of-Year	73,467,461	72,703,377
41. Transfers to Patronage Capital	523,746	4,126,420
42. Patronage Capital Credits Retired	1,287,830	1,330,207
43. Patronage Capital End-of-Year (40+41-42)	72,703,377	75,499,590
44. Annual Debt Service Payments	5,374,097	6,148,495
45. Cash Ratio [(14+20-10-11) / 7]	0.6480	0.6472
46. Operating Accrual Ratio [(14+20+26) / 7]	0.9689	0.9620
47. TIER [(31+26) / 26]	5.6800	11.3084
48. DSCR [(31+26+10+11) / 44]	3.2908	2.8054

USDA-RUS

**OPERATING REPORT FOR  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS**

INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2

BORROWER DESIGNATION

MT0512

PERIOD ENDED

December, 2015

**Part C. SUBSCRIBER (ACCESS LINE), ROUTE MILE, & HIGH SPEED DATA INFORMATION**

EXCHANGE	1. RATES		2. SUBSCRIBERS (ACCESS LINES)			3. ROUTE MILES	
	B-1 (a)	R-1 (b)	BUSINESS (a)	RESIDENTIAL (b)	TOTAL (c)	TOTAL (including fiber) (a)	FIBER (b)
778	24.80	16.00	531	712	1,243	377.82	117.58
583	24.80	16.00	7	77	84	253.51	95.82
588/688	24.80	16.00	3	46	49	127.73	28.58
485	24.80	16.00	192	522	714	1,248.84	335.43
856	24.80	16.00	30	95	125	242.42	152.62
775	24.80	16.00	118	418	534	764.92	87.27
486	24.80	16.00	26	216	242	570.99	173.42
428	24.80	16.00	55	205	260	504.31	95.46
557	24.80	16.00	163	444	607	1,298.62	276.86
774	24.80	16.00	59	195	254	373.17	115.04
636	24.80	16.00	14	90	104	55.35	17.14
584	24.80	16.00	13	71	84	197.86	19.65
358	24.80	16.00	27	127	154	198.94	49.68
947	24.80	16.00	26	284	310	660.67	155.17
575	24.80	16.00	14	141	155	313.73	13.73
772	24.80	16.00	47	184	231	419.27	83.64
773	24.80	16.00	49	147	196	297.36	59.33
354	24.80	16.00	6	71	77	341.03	4.18
323	24.80	16.00	324	1,133	1,457	569.14	145.32
464	24.80	16.00	37	101	138	285.08	41.97
568	24.80	16.00	57	151	208	282.10	114.16
776	24.80	16.00	31	139	170	63.53	14.90
525	24.80	16.00	47	233	280	260.12	48.57
635	24.80	16.00	117	212	329	67.60	19.64
687	24.80	16.00	46	277	323	575.61	161.42
798	24.80	16.00	60	271	331	518.47	157.37
429	24.80	16.00	44	259	303	580.89	172.86
MobileWireless					0		
Route Mileage Outside Exchange Area						0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,143</b>	<b>6,819</b>	<b>8,962</b>	<b>11,449.08</b>	<b>2,756.83</b>
No. Exchanges	27						

USDA-RUS

**OPERATING REPORT FOR  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS**

INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2

BORROWER DESIGNATION

MT0512

PERIOD ENDED

December, 2015

**Part C. SUBSCRIBER (ACCESS LINE), ROUTE MILE, & HIGH SPEED DATA INFORMATION**

**4. BROADBAND SERVICE**

**Details on Least Expensive Broadband Service**

EXCHANGE	No. Access Lines with BB available (a)	No Of Broadband Subscribers (b)	Number Of Subscribers (c)	Advertised Download Rate (Kbps) (d)	Advertised Upload Rate (Kbps) (e)	Price Per Month (f)	StandAlone/Pckg (f)	Type Of Technology (g)
778	1,243	938	333	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
583	84	65	30	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	Fiber to the Home
588/688	49	31	1	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
485	714	573	181	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
856	125	102	22	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
775	534	376	72	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
488	242	193	37	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
428	260	178	23	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
557	607	395	77	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
774	254	208	49	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	Fiber to the Home
636	104	87	25	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
584	84	55	4	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
358	154	88	18	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
947	310	234	60	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
575	155	103	14	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
772	231	151	33	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
773	196	149	39	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
354	77	33	0	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
323	1,457	1,219	287	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
464	138	86	20	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
568	208	123	43	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
776	170	148	48	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
525	280	212	13	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
635	329	269	84	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
687	323	255	27	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
798	331	268	42	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
429	303	207	42	>6,000	768	44.95	StandAlone	DSL
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,982</b>	<b>6,744</b>						

USDA-RUS  
**OPERATING REPORT FOR  
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS**

BORROWER DESIGNATION

MT0512

PERIOD ENDING

December, 2015

INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2

**PART D. SYSTEM DATA**

1. No. Plant Employees	2. No. Other Employees	3. Square Miles Served	4. Access Lines per Square Mile	5. Subscribers per Route Mile
93	74	26,828	.33	.78

**PART E. TOLL DATA**

1. Study Area ID Code(s) a. 482246 b. _____ c. _____ d. _____ e. _____ f. _____ g. _____ h. _____ i. _____ j. _____	2. Types of Toll Settlements (Check one)		
	Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Average Schedule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cost Basis
	Intrastate:	<input type="checkbox"/> Average Schedule	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost Basis

**PART F. FUNDS INVESTED IN PLANT DURING YEAR**

1. RUS, RTB, & FFB Loan Funds Expended	(5,300,000)
2. Other Long-Term Loan Funds Expended	
3. Funds Expended Under RUS Interim Approval	
4. Other Short-Term Loan Funds Expended	
5. General Funds Expended (Other than Interim)	15,906,411
6. Salvaged Materials	
7. Contribution in Aid to Construction	(333,912)
8. Gross Additions to Telecom. Plant (1 thru 7)	10,272,499

**PART G. INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED COMPANIES**

INVESTMENTS  (a)	CURRENT YEAR DATA		CUMULATIVE DATA		
	Investment This Year (b)	Income/Loss This Year (c)	Cumulative Investment To Date (d)	Cumulative Income/Loss To Date (e)	Current Balance (f)
	1. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Rural Development				
2. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Nonrural Development		5,520,741	4,420,477	28,327,380	32,747,857

**USDA-RUS**  
**OPERATING REPORT FOR**  
**TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS**

BORROWER DESIGNATION

MT0512

PERIOD ENDING

December, 2015

**PART H. CURRENT DEPRECIATION RATES**

Are corporation's depreciation rates approved by the regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the provision of telephone services? (Check one)

YES  NO

EQUIPMENT CATEGORY	DEPRECIATION RATE
1. Land and support assets - Motor Vehicles	20.00%
2. Land and support assets - Aircraft	
3. Land and support assets - Special purpose vehicles	
4. Land and support assets - Garage and other work equipment	11.51%
5. Land and support assets - Buildings	2.50%
6. Land and support assets - Furniture and Office equipment	17.43%
7. Land and support assets - General purpose computers	20.00%
8. Central Office Switching - Digital	12.46%
9. Central Office Switching - Analog & Electro-mechanical	
10. Central Office Switching - Operator Systems	
11. Central Office Transmission - Radio Systems	
12. Central Office Transmission - Circuit equipment	10.42%
13. Information origination/termination - Station apparatus	25.48%
14. Information origination/termination - Customer premises wiring	25.48%
15. Information origination/termination - Large private branch exchanges	
16. Information origination/termination - Public telephone terminal equipment	18.00%
17. Information origination/termination - Other terminal equipment	10.00%
18. Cable and wire facilities - Poles	10.00%
19. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable - Metal	7.00%
20. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable - Fiber	7.00%
21. Cable and wire facilities - Underground cable - Metal	5.00%
22. Cable and wire facilities - Underground cable - Fiber	5.00%
23. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cable - Metal	5.00%
24. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cable - Fiber	5.00%
25. Cable and wire facilities - Conduit systems	5.00%
26. Cable and wire facilities - Other	6.00%

USDA-RUS		BORROWER DESIGNATION	
OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS		MT0512	
INSTRUCTIONS – See help in the online application.		PERIOD ENDED	
		December, 2015	
<b>PART I – STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>			
1.	<b>Beginning Cash (Cash and Equivalents plus RUS Construction Fund)</b>		8,644,319
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
2.	<b>Net Income</b>		4,850,004
<i>Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</i>			
3.	Add: Depreciation		11,297,928
4.	Add: Amortization		630,422
5.	Other (Explain) Intangible Asset Impairment		3,152,111
<i>Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities</i>			
6.	Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable		5,223,383
7.	Decrease/(Increase) in Materials and Inventory		24,824
8.	Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments and Deferred Charges		(33,914)
9.	Decrease/(Increase) in Other Current Assets		0
10.	Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable		(2,060,370)
11.	Increase/(Decrease) in Advance Billings & Payments		774,224
12.	Increase/(Decrease) in Other Current Liabilities		5,331,065
13.	<b>Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Operations</b>		29,189,677
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
14.	Decrease/(Increase) in Notes Receivable		0
15.	Increase/(Decrease) in Notes Payable		0
16.	Increase/(Decrease) in Customer Deposits		23,375
17.	Net Increase/(Decrease) in Long Term Debt (Including Current Maturities)		(4,548,355)
18.	Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities & Deferred Credits		1,124,306
19.	Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Stock, Paid-in Capital, Membership and Capital Certificates & Other Capital		0
20.	Less: Payment of Dividends		0
21.	Less: Patronage Capital Credits Retired		(1,330,207)
22.	Other (Explain) Interest and Dividends Receivable		3
23.	<b>Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities</b>		(4,730,878)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
24.	Net Capital Expenditures (Property, Plant & Equipment)		(2,589,249)
25.	Other Long-Term Investments		(10,017,512)
26.	Other Noncurrent Assets & Jurisdictional Differences		0
27.	Other (Explain) Subsidiary (Cable & Cellular Communications, LLC) Impacts		(8,868,261)
28.	<b>Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Investing Activities</b>		(21,475,022)
29.	<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash</b>		2,983,777
30.	<b>Ending Cash</b>		11,628,096

Revision Date 2010

<p>USDA-RUS</p> <p><b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b></p>	<p>BORROWER DESIGNATION</p> <p>MT0512</p>
<p>INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</p>	<p>PERIOD ENDED</p> <p>December, 2015</p>
<p><b>NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b></p>	

<p>USDA-RUS</p> <p><b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b></p>	<p>BORROWER DESIGNATION</p> <p>MT0512</p>
<p>INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</p>	<p>PERIOD ENDED</p> <p>December, 2015</p>
<p><b>CERTIFICATION LOAN DEFAULT NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b></p>	

FCC Form 481  
 Line 330 - Unfulfilled Broadband Service Requests Resolution

State: **Montana** Year: **2015**  
 Study Area Code: **482246**  
 Study Area Name: **Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**


Wire Center	Date of Request	Reasonable Request Determination
Rock Springs	10/26/2015	Subscriber is served on single pair analog carrier system with approximately 9 miles of construction needed. Cost to upgrade does not meet Reasonable Request standard. Satellite no longer available due to closed beams in area. No broadband available at this time.
Fallon	12/22/2015	Subscriber is approximately 130,000 feet from the Central Office. Cost to upgrade does not meet Reasonable Request standard. Satellite no longer available due to closed beams in area. No broadband available at this time.
Jordan	12/22/2015	Subscriber is approximately 15+ miles from the Central Office on analog carrier system. Cost to upgrade does not meet Reasonable Request standard. Satellite no longer available due to closed beams in area. No broadband available at this time.
Ismay	12/31/2015	Subscriber is 20+ miles from Remote Serving Terminal on analog carrier system. Cost to upgrade does not meet Reasonable Request standard. Satellite no longer available due to closed beams in area. No broadband available at this time.

**CERTIFICATION OF MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
**Reporting Period January 1 – December 31, 2015**

**Sec. 54.313(a)(5) & 54.422 Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Compliance**

Pursuant to §54.313(a)(5) for High-cost Recipients and §54.422 for Lifeline Recipients Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Rivers), hereby certifies that is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Mid-Rivers follows applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Mid-Rivers follows Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) rules and also files the annual CPNI certification with the FCC pursuant to the FCC's current CPNI rules and regulations. Attached is a copy of the annual notice sent to customer on matters related to customer privacy. Mid-Rivers has also implemented an Identity Theft Prevention Program in accordance with the federal Red Flag Rules.

I verify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on June 24, 2016.



Michael Candelaria, General Manger, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

# CPNI

## *An Important Message About the Privacy of Your Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI)*

Protecting customer privacy is of utmost importance to Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Rivers), its divisions, and its employees. Under federal law you have the right and we have the duty to protect the privacy of your confidential customer information. Your confidential customer information is referred to as "customer proprietary network information" or "CPNI." Please take a moment to read this important message about the privacy of your CPNI.

What is CPNI? CPNI includes the types of telecommunications services and features you purchase, how you use these services and the related billing information. CPNI does not include your telephone number, your name or your address. Note: if your telephone number is non-published, it will be kept confidential. You have the right to restrict use of, disclosure of, and access to your CPNI.

Mid-Rivers offers various communications-related services, including local telephone, long distance, Internet, cable television and wireless services. In order to better serve your communication needs, from time to time, we would like to share your CPNI across the product lines within Mid-Rivers for our own marketing purposes. Our use of CPNI will enhance our ability to offer products and services tailored to your specific needs.

*continued on back*

# CPNI

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*continued on back*

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*continued on back*

Mid-Rivers will not sell or otherwise disclose your customer information to third parties, except where required by law.

To allow Mid-Rivers to use your CPNI in this way, no further action is required. If you would prefer that Mid-Rivers not use your CPNI to offer you additional products and services, you may write, email or call our business office at the address/number provided below, at any time. If we do not receive notification from you 33 days after mailing this notice, you are granting us permission to use your information to offer you products and services that you may find beneficial.

Your decision to permit or restrict the use of CPNI will remain in effect until you decide to change it - which you can do at any time without charge. Restricting your information will not affect the provision of any products or services you currently receive from Mid-Rivers. Please note that even if you choose to restrict Mid-Rivers' use of your CPNI, you may receive marketing information that has been developed without using your confidential information.

Thanks for your business.

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Attention: Customer Service - CPNI  
P.O. Box 280  
Circle, MT 59215  
1-800-452-2288  
mrtcc@midrivers.com  
www.midrivers.com

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., d.b.a.

**Mid-Rivers**  
COMMUNICATIONS



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Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc., d.b.a.

**Mid-Rivers**  
COMMUNICATIONS



**CERTIFICATION OF MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.****Reporting Period January 1 – December 31, 2015****Sec. 54.313(a)(6) & 54.422 Ability to Function in an Emergency Situation**

Pursuant to §54.313(a)(6) for High-cost Recipients and §54.422 for Lifeline Recipients, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mid-Rivers), hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situation as set forth in §54.202(a)(2). Mid-Rivers is able to remain functional in an emergency situation through the use of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source. Mid-Rivers has backup battery or equivalent power reserve in its central offices, which enables the provision of service for a reasonable period of time if commercial/external power is lost. Mid-Rivers' network is engineered to handle reasonable excess traffic in the event of traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations. Mid-Rivers has redundancy in its network for use in re-routing traffic when facilities are damaged.

I verify that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on June 24, 2016.



Michael Candelaria, General Manger, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

# **Mid-Rivers**

TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 280 • 904 C Avenue  
Circle, Montana 59215  
(406) 485-3301 • Fax: (406) 485-2924  
800-452-2288 • www.midrivers.com

October 12, 2015

AT Rusty Stafne, Chairman  
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation  
P.O. Box 1027  
Poplar, MT 59255  
*Via U.S. Mail, Return Receipt Requested*

Chairman Stafne:

Mid-Rivers Communications (“Mid-Rivers”), an independent telecommunications provider serving rural Eastern and Central Montana, would like to reach out to the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribal government of the Fort Peck Reservation once again regarding opportunities for broadband expansion on Tribally-owned lands within our service area. Mid-Rivers has identified an area near Wolf Point that is both within our service area boundaries and part of the Fort Peck Reservation. Mid-Rivers and our subsidiary Cable & Communications Corporation continue to be interested in learning about any telecommunications and broadband needs that residents and businesses in this area may have.

In November 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) comprehensively reformed the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) which helps companies like Mid-Rivers provide state-of-the-art communications services in high-cost and rural areas. Among the reforms, the FCC adopted a rule requiring Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) who receive high-cost USF support to engage with Tribal leaders about broadband deployment on Tribally-owned lands and report annually on five specific outreach activities. In July 2012, the FCC’s Office of Native Affairs Policy (“ONAP”) issued specific guidance on outreach and engagement activities between telecommunications providers and Tribal governments.

Mid-Rivers is committed to providing voice, video, and broadband services to rural and remote areas in Montana, and we would value the opportunity to invite you and other leaders from the Fort Peck Reservation Tribal government to discuss ways that we can meet your telecommunications and broadband needs. Specifically, Mid-Rivers would like to discuss the following items:

- Needs assessment and deployment planning focused on Tribal community anchor institutions (such as schools, libraries and health centers);
- Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;

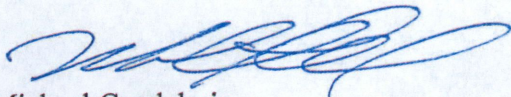
- Compliance with Rights of way, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental review and cultural preservation review processes;
- Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Mid-Rivers is interested in learning whether the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation have any specific broadband needs that our company may be able to meet, depending on the scope and scale of the project. For example, are there any of your members within our service area who currently do not have access to broadband? Are there any needs such as distance learning or telemedicine that Mid-Rivers could help facilitate? We also want to make sure that we respect your cultural heritage, property rights, business customs, and any other rules and procedures of your government.

Mid-Rivers is a locally-owned cooperative and has been serving rural Montana for over 60 years. We are dedicated to serving and employing members of our community and we want to ensure that the individuals and businesses of the Fort Peck Reservation are served as best as possible.

Mid-Rivers extends this invitation to set up an in-person meeting or conference call between our management staff and members of your Tribal government at your earliest convenience. Please contact Erin Lutts, our External Relations Manager, at 406-377-7438 or [erin.lutts@midrivers.coop](mailto:erin.lutts@midrivers.coop). We look forward to discussing this important issue with you.

Respectfully,



Michael Candelaria  
General Manager

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

AT Rusty Stafne, Chairman  
 Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the  
 Fort Peck Indian Reservation  
 P.O. Box 1027  
 Poplar, MT 59255



9590 9403 0299 5155 8662 96

2 Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7015 0640 0006 7272 1879

PS Form 3811, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X *Judy Stafne*  Agent  
 Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery

*Judy Stafne* 10/15

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes  
 If YES, enter delivery address below:  No  
 PO BOX 1027 • Poplar, MT 59255

3. Service Type

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Mail Express®                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery           | <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail™                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail®                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Mail Restricted Delivery        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery            | <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collect on Delivery                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Confirmation™                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery       | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail                                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500) |   |

Domestic Return Receipt

# **Mid-Rivers**

TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 280 • 904 C Avenue  
Circle, Montana 59215  
(406) 485-3301 • Fax: (406) 485-2924  
800-452-2288 • www.midrivers.com

October 12, 2015

Darrin Old Coyote, Chairman  
Crow Nation  
P.O. Box 159  
Crow Agency, MT 59022  
*Via U.S. Mail, Return Receipt Requested*

Chairman Old Coyote:

Mid-Rivers Communications (“Mid-Rivers”), an independent telecommunications provider serving rural Eastern and Central Montana, would like to reach out to the Crow Nation Tribal government once again regarding telecommunications and broadband service on Tribally-owned lands within our service area. As noted in correspondence sent in October of 2012, Mid-Rivers has identified a few small areas near the town of Custer that are both within our service area boundaries and belong to the Crow Off-Reservation Trust. Mid-Rivers and our subsidiary Cable & Communications Corporation continue to be interested in learning if there are any telecommunications needs on these properties.

We have no knowledge of any individuals or businesses on these properties, and as such we do not currently provide voice or broadband service there. However, if anyone from the Crow Nation does occupy this land or if you have plans to develop this land, please feel free to reach out to us and we can discuss the needs and feasibility of providing voice and broadband service on these properties. We have included a map of the area for your reference, where Crow Off-Reservation Trust lands are indicated in yellow.

In November 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) comprehensively reformed the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) which helps companies like Mid-Rivers provide state-of-the-art communications services in high-cost and rural areas. Among the reforms, the FCC adopted a rule requiring Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) who receive high-cost USF support to engage with Tribal leaders about broadband deployment on Tribally-owned lands and report annually on five specific outreach activities. In July 2012, the FCC’s Office of Native Affairs Policy (“ONAP”) issued specific guidance on outreach and engagement activities between telecommunications providers and Tribal governments.

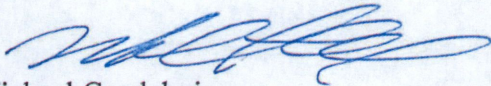
Mid-Rivers is committed to providing voice, video, and broadband services to rural and remote areas in Montana; and we would value the opportunity to learn about your members’ needs within our service area. If you wish to engage with us about expanding telecommunications and broadband services to Crow Nation lands, Mid-Rivers is available to discuss the following items:

- Needs assessment and deployment planning focused on Tribal community anchor institutions (such as schools, libraries and health centers);
- Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- Compliance with Rights of way, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental review and cultural preservation review processes;
- Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Mid-Rivers is a locally-owned cooperative and has been serving rural Montana for over 60 years. We are dedicated to serving and employing members of our communities and we want to ensure that any individuals and businesses of the Crow Nation within our service area are served as best as possible.

Mid-Rivers extends this invitation to set up an in-person meeting or conference call with members of your Tribal government at your earliest convenience. Please contact Erin Lutts, our External Relations Manager, at 406-377-7438 or [erin.lutts@midrivers.coop](mailto:erin.lutts@midrivers.coop). We look forward to discussing this important issue with you.

Respectfully,



Michael Candelaria  
General Manager

Enclosure



**SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION**

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Darrin Old Coyote, Chairman  
 Crow Nation  
 P.O. Box 159  
 Crow Agency, MT 59022



9590 9403 0299 5155 8663 02

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7015 0640 0006 7272 1886

PS Form 3811, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY**

A. Signature

X *[Handwritten Signature]*

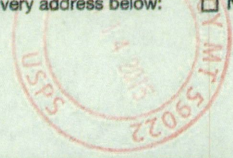
- Agent
- Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

*Verlie Nordmark*

C. Date of Delivery

- D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes
- If YES, enter delivery address below:  No



3. Service Type

- Adult Signature
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- Certified Mail®
- Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- Collect on Delivery
- Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- Insured Mail
- Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)
- Priority Mail Express®
- Registered Mail™
- Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- Signature Confirmation™
- Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt

# **Mid-Rivers**

TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. Box 280 • 904 C Avenue  
Circle, Montana 59215  
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800-452-2288 • www.midrivers.com

October 12, 2015

Richard McCloud, Chairman  
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
P.O. Box 900  
Belcourt, ND 58316-0900  
*Via U.S. Mail, Return Receipt Requested*

Chairman McCloud:

Mid-Rivers Communications (“Mid-Rivers”), an independent telecommunications provider serving rural Eastern and Central Montana, would like to reach out to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal government once again regarding telecommunications and broadband service on Tribally-owned lands within our service area. As noted in correspondence sent in October of 2012 Mid-Rivers has identified a few small areas in McCone County Montana that are both within our service area boundaries and belong to the Turtle Mountain Off-Reservation Trust. Mid-Rivers and our subsidiary Cable & Communications Corporation continue to be interested in learning if there are any telecommunications needs on these properties.

We have no knowledge of any individuals or businesses on these remote properties, and as such we do not currently provide voice or broadband service there. However, if anyone from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa does occupy this land or if you have plans to develop this land, please feel free to reach out to us and we can discuss the needs and feasibility of providing voice and broadband service on these properties. We have included a map of the area for your reference, where Turtle Mountain Off-Reservation Trust lands are indicated in yellow.

In November 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) comprehensively reformed the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) which helps companies like Mid-Rivers provide state-of-the-art communications services in high-cost and rural areas. Among the reforms, the FCC adopted a rule requiring Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) who receive high-cost USF support to engage with Tribal leaders about broadband deployment on Tribally-owned lands and report annually on five specific outreach activities. In July 2012, the FCC’s Office of Native Affairs Policy (“ONAP”) issued specific guidance on outreach and engagement activities between telecommunications providers and Tribal governments.

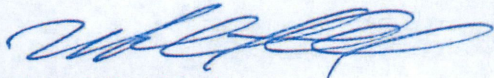
Mid-Rivers is committed to providing voice, video, and broadband services to rural and remote areas in Montana; and we would value the opportunity to learn about your community within our service area. If you wish to engage with us about expanding telecommunications and broadband services to Turtle Mountain Off-Reservation Trust lands, Mid-Rivers is available to discuss the following items:

- Needs assessment and deployment planning focused on Tribal community anchor institutions (such as schools, libraries and health centers);
- Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- Compliance with Rights of way, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental review and cultural preservation review processes;
- Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Mid-Rivers is a locally-owned cooperative and has been serving rural Montana for over 60 years. We are dedicated to serving and employing members of our community and we want to ensure that any individuals and businesses of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa within our service area are served as best as possible.

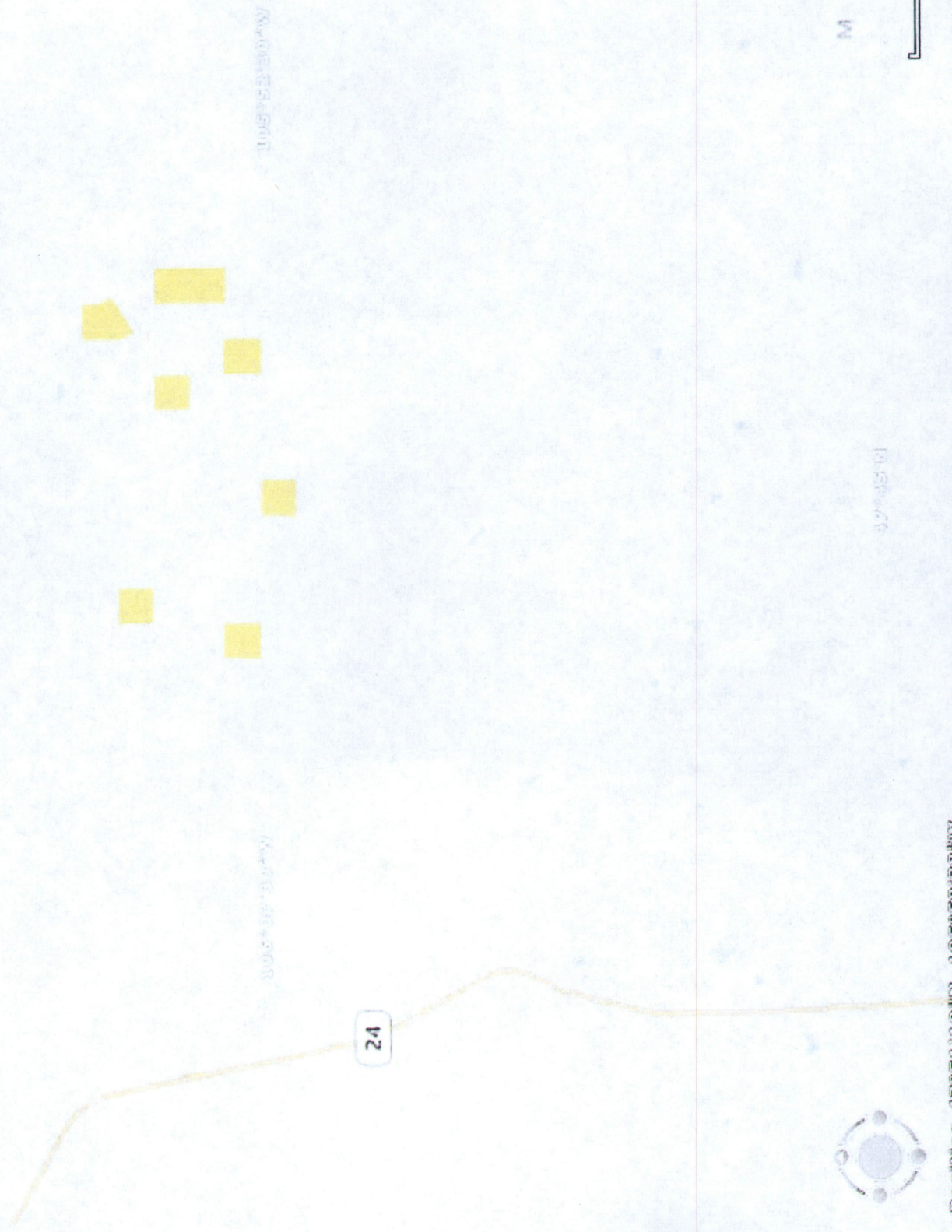
Mid-Rivers extends this invitation to set up an in-person meeting or conference call with members of your Tribal government at your earliest convenience. Please contact Erin Lutts, our External Relations Manager, at 406-377-7438 or [erin.lutts@midrivers.coop](mailto:erin.lutts@midrivers.coop). We look forward to discussing this important issue with you.

Respectfully,



Michael Candelaria  
General Manager

Enclosure



Position 47°51'10"N 105°59'28"W

M C C O N E

2.5 km



Source: USGS

**SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION**

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Richard McCloud, Chairman  
 Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
 P.O. Box 900  
 Belcourt, ND 58316-0900



9590 9403 0299 5155 8662 72

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7015 0640 0006 7272 1855

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY**

A. Signature

*Alian Malate*

- Agent
- Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

*ALIAN MALATE*

C. Date of Delivery

*RR*

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes  
 If YES, enter delivery address below:  No

3. Service Type

- Adult Signature
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- Certified Mail®
- Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- Collect on Delivery
- Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- Insured Mail
- Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)
- Priority Mail Express®
- Registered Mail™
- Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- Signature Confirmation™
- Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

**Lifeline Terms & Conditions*****Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.*****Lifeline Program Plan**

The Mid-Rivers Lifeline plan provides voice-grade access to the public switched telephone network, local usage, touch tone, single-party service, access to emergency services, access to operator services, access to interexchange service, access to directory assistance, primary published directory listing, and toll limitation (toll blocking) at the eligible consumer's principal place of residence.

**Number of Minutes Provided**

The Mid-Rivers Lifeline plan provides unlimited local calling.

**Additional Charges**

Long distance (toll) calling is not included in the Lifeline plan but is available starting at \$0.20 per minute (\$0.10 per minute on weekends and holidays) or \$24.99 per month for 200 minutes. Lifeline subscribers may also choose from any other available long distance service providers.

**Rates**

The monthly rate for this service varies depending on the customer's location. The rate is based on the standard monthly residential local service charge in the customer's exchange less the \$9.25 per month discount for eligible Lifeline subscribers.

Additional discounts are available to qualifying individuals residing on Tribal Lands under the Enhanced Lifeline program. Enhanced Lifeline support currently offers additional Lifeline support of up to \$25.00 per month. The lowest generally available residential rate is \$0.00 for Enhanced Lifeline service to qualifying low-income consumers.