

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

<010>	Study Area Code	391688
<015>	Study Area Name	WESTERN TEL CO.
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Judy Christiansen
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4028181322 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com

 <701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date
 1/1/2017

 <702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge
 18.0

<703>

<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<b3></b3>	<b4></b4>	<b5></b5>	<c></c>
				Residential Local			Mandatory Extended Area	
State	Exchange (ILEC)	SAC (CETC)	Rate Type	Service Rate	State Subscriber Line Charge		Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fees
SD	All		FR	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0

(710) Broadband P	rice Offerin
Data Collection For	rm

FCC Form 481

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<711>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<c> <d1></d1></c>	<d2></d2>	<d2> <d3></d3></d2>		<d4></d4>	
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rates and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service -Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select}	
	SD	All	40.95	0.0	40.95	10.0	10.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance	
	SD	All	47.95	0.0	47.95	20.0	20.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance	
	SD	All	57.95	0.0	57.95	50.0	50.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance	
	SD	All	100.95	0.0	100.95	100.0	100.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance	
	SD	All	150.95	0.0	150.95	500.0	500.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance	
	SD	All	200.95	0.0	200.95	1000.0	1000.0	999999	Other, No limit on usage allowance	

(800) Operating Companies	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code		391688
<015>	Study Area Name		WESTERN TEL CO.
<020>	Program Year		2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person U	SAC should contact regarding this data	Judy Christiansen
<035>	> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>		4028181322 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - E	mail Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Venture Communications Cooperative - Wester	rn
<811>	Holding Company	Venture Communications Cooperative	
<812>	Operating Company	Venture Communications Cooperative	

<813>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>
	Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
:	Venture Communications Cooperative	391680	Venture Communications
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<u>Venture Communications Cooperative – Western</u> (SAC 391688)

Certification of Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules

This document details the processes and procedures that Western Telephone Company (the "Company") follows to ensure compliance with service quality standards and consumer protection rules as laid out in FCC Form 481 Instructions.

The Company provides voice grade access to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) at a flat rate, enabling access to emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations such as 911.

For service quality standards that are affected by plant issues, the Company engineers and installs its plant and other facilities in such a way as to ensure safe, adequate and continuous service at all times.

In addition, employees are periodically trained on service quality standards and consumer protection issues. In particular, if any set of issues appear to be prevalent, employees are given briefings on how to handle such issues beyond the normal guidelines in place for resolution of customer complaints.

The Company also periodically reviews its operating procedures to be sure that those operating procedures are in compliance with service quality standards and that the operating procedures are not in violation of consumer protection rules. Internally a compliance officer ensures annual employee training and dictates the disciplinary process for improper use of consumer information. If concerns arise beyond the compliance officer, legal counsel is sought to assist with a resolution.

If complaints are filed with the Company related to service quality standards or consumer protection rules, the complaint is immediately investigated, the matter tracked and any corrective action noted. This process ensures that problems are addressed and corrections made. It should be noted that the Company has received no customer complaints in the past five years regarding service quality standards or consumer protection rules as they relate to the service offered by the Company.

The Company advertises the availability of its services and the charges using media of general distribution and on its website.

<u>Venture Communications Cooperative – Western</u> (SAC 391688)

Statement Demonstrating Functionality in Emergency Situations

At line 600 of FCC Form 481, Western Telephone Company (the "Company") certified that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. §54.202(a)(1)(ii). This means that the Company has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations. This statement will detail how the Company is prepared to ensure continued service in an emergency situation.

Back-Up Power

The Company has a back-up generator available with a minimum of a four hour power supply for its central office. In addition, it has portable generators available for remote sites.

Rerouting of Traffic Around Damaged Facilities

The Company has route redundancy for long distance service, E-911 trunking and SS7 signaling trunking.

In the case of isolated groups of customers that may suffer damage due to a cable cut, the Company maintains sufficient staff and other resources to be able to put customers back in service in a very short amount of time. The Company's emergency service equipment is located within its exchange and requires very little time to dispatch.

Traffic Spikes

The Company's outside plant is designed, engineered and built with sufficient capacity to handle traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations and has been able to do so in the past. The Company is in an area where severe weather strikes periodically and has been able to handle communication needs at those times and has the experience from those situations to be able to handle such emergency situations in the future.

Venture Communications Cooperative – Western (SAC 391688)

Western Telephone Company ("Western") offers Lifeline program-supported service to qualified low-income residential consumers for one telephone line or qualifying broadband internet access service (BIAS) per eligible household. The Lifeline program provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone or qualifying BIAS service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline. Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

Lifeline Program Eligibility Information

Program Based Eligibility

Consumers are eligible for Lifeline if they, one of their dependents or their household participate in one of the following qualifying assistance programs:

Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Medicaid
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Veteran's Pension and Survivor Benefit

Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means.

Acceptable documentation of program-based eligibility includes: current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; program participation documents; or another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.

Income Based Eligibility

In addition, consumers are eligible for Lifeline if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines - 135%

Household Size	48 Contiguous	Alaska	Hawaii
	States and D.C.		
1	\$16,281	\$20,331	\$18,711
2	\$21,924	\$27,392	\$25,205
3	\$27,567	\$34,452	\$31,698
4	\$33,210	\$41,513	\$38,192
5	\$38,853	\$48,573	\$44,685
6	\$44,496	\$55,634	\$51,179
7	\$40,139	\$62,694	\$57,672
8	\$55,782	\$69,755	\$64,166
For each additional person, add	\$5,643	\$7,061	\$6,494

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes: prior year's state, federal or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; social security statement of benefits;

Veterans Administration statement of benefits; retirement/pension statement of benefits; unemployment/workmen's compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice of letter participating in General Assistance; or a divorce decree or child support award or other official document containing income information.

Lifeline Program Service

Western's Voice Lifeline service includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Western's Voice Lifeline Plan does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll. Toll is billed at the standard toll rate depending on which interexchange carrier the consumer subscribes to for toll service. As part of the Lifeline service, Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

BIAS minimum speed and usage allowance standards are required for the service to qualify.

Lifeline recipients may transfer the Lifeline benefit to a new company once every sixty days for telephone service and once every 12 months for BIAS.

Rates

Subscribers may receive the Lifeline credit on any type or grade of local service, including bundled services that are normally offered by Western. Advertised rates do not include any applicable taxes or surcharges.

Recertification of Lifeline Eligibility

Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility annually. Failure to properly recertify a recipient's continued eligibility for the Lifeline program will result in termination of the Lifeline recipient's monthly Lifeline discount and de-enrollment from the Lifeline Program.

Additional Lifeline Program Information

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or BIAS. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

Venture Telecommunications Cooperative – Western (SAC 391688)

Certification of Public Interest Obligations

To be in compliance with the Certification of Public Interest Obligations:

- Western Telephone Company certifies that it has taken reasonable steps to provide upon a reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol.
- The Company provides usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas.
- The Company certifies that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

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

1. Cash and Equivalents 25. Accounts Payable 26. Notes Payable 27. Advance Billings and Payments 27. Advance Billings and Payments 28. Customer Deposits 29. Current Mat. L/T Debt 29. Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev. 29. Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev. 29. Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev. 30. Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev. 31. Current MatCapital Leases 31. Current MatCapital Leases 32. Income Taxes Accrued 33. Other Taxes Accrued 33. Other Taxes Accrued 34. Other Current Liabilities 35. Total Current Liabilities 35. Total Current Liabilities 35. Total Current Liabilities 36. Funded Debt-Rus Notes 37. Funded Debt-Rus Notes 37. Funded Debt-Rus Notes 39. Other Current Assets 18. Funded Debt-Rus Notes 39. Funded Debt-FFB Notes 39. Funded Debt-Other	searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining			ormation collection is estimated to average 4 hours per response, inclu the collection of information.	ding the time for reviewing ins	structions,	
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22. Less Accumulated Depreciation 55. Other Capital 56. Patronage Capital Credits 57. Retained Earnings or Margins 58. Total Equity (51 thru 57)							
23. Net Plant (18 thru 21 less 22) 24. TOTAL ASSETS (10+17+23) 55. Patronage Capital Credits 57. Retained Earnings or Margins 58. Total Equity (51 thru 57)			+				
24. TOTAL ASSETS (10+17+23) 57. Retained Earnings or Margins 58. Total Equity (51 thru 57)	,			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		<u> </u>	
58. Total Equity (51 thru 57)							

USDA-RUS

OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS

BORROWER DESIGNATION

SD0522

PERIOD ENDING

INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2

December, 2016

INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2						
PART B. STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS OR MARGINS						
ITEM	PRIOR YEAR	THIS YEAR				
Local Network Services Revenues						
2. Network Access Services Revenues						
Long Distance Network Services Revenues						
Carrier Billing and Collection Revenues						
5. Miscellaneous Revenues						
6. Uncollectible Revenues						
7. Net Operating Revenues (1 thru 5 less 6)						
8. Plant Specific Operations Expense						
9. Plant Nonspecific Operations Expense (Excluding Depreciation & Amortization)						
10. Depreciation Expense						
11. Amortization Expense						
12. Customer Operations Expense						
13. Corporate Operations Expense						
14. Total Operating Expenses (8 thru 13)						
15. Operating Income or Margins (7 less 14)						
16. Other Operating Income and Expenses						
17. State and Local Taxes						
18. Federal Income Taxes						
19. Other Taxes						
20. Total Operating Taxes (17+18+19)						
21. Net Operating Income or Margins (15+16-20)						
22. Interest on Funded Debt						
23. Interest Expense - Capital Leases						
24. Other Interest Expense						
25. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction						
26. Total Fixed Charges (22+23+24-25)						
27. Nonoperating Net Income						
28. Extraordinary Items						
29. Jurisdictional Differences						
30. Nonregulated Net Income						
31. Total Net Income or Margins (21+27+28+29+30-26)						
32. Total Taxes Based on Income						
33. Retained Earnings or Margins Beginning-of-Year						
34. Miscellaneous Credits Year-to-Date						
35. Dividends Declared (Common)						
36. Dividends Declared (Preferred)						
37. Other Debits Year-to-Date						
38. Transfers to Patronage Capital						
39. Retained Earnings or Margins End-of-Period [(31+33+34) - (35+36+37+38)]						
40. Patronage Capital Beginning-of-Year						
41. Transfers to Patronage Capital						
42. Patronage Capital Credits Retired						
43. Patronage Capital End-of-Year (40+41-42)						
44. Annual Debt Service Payments						
45. Cash Ratio [(14+20-10-11) / 7]						
46. Operating Accrual Ratio [(14+20+26) / 7]						
47. TIER [(31+26) / 26]						
48. DSCR [(31+26+10+11) / 44]						

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OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS

BORROWER DESIGNATION

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PERIOD ENDED

December, 2016

INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2

-			CESS LINE), ROUTE				
1. RATES		2. SUBSCRIBERS (ACCESS LINES)			3. ROUTE MILES		
EXCHANGE	B-1 (a)	R-1 (b)	BUSINESS (a)	RESIDENTIAL (b)	TOTAL (c)	TOTAL (including fiber) (a)	FIBER (b)
Blunt			, ,				
Bowdle							
Britton							
Cresbard							
East Onida							
Faulkton							
Gettysburg							
Harrold							
East Onida							
Faulkton							
Gettysburg							
Harrold							
Highmore							
Hitchcock							
Hoven							
Langford							
Lebanon			ī				
North Britton							
Onaka							
Onida							
Orient							
Pierpont							
Ree Heights							
Roscoe							
Rosholt							
Roslyn							
Selby							
Seneca							
Sisseton							
Tolstoy							
Tulare							
Wessington							
Wessington Springs							
West Onida							
MobileWireless					7		
Route Mileage Outside Exchange Area				•	•		
Total							
No. Exchanges							

USDA-RUS

OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS

BORROWER DESIGNATION

SD0522

PERIOD ENDED

December, 2016

INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2

	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	Type Of Technology (g)
Blunt								
Bowdle								
Britton								
Cresbard								
East Onida								
Faulkton								
Gettysburg								
Harrold								
East Onida								
Faulkton								
Gettysburg								
Harrold								
Highmore								
Hitchcock								
Hoven								
Langford								
Lebanon								
North Britton								
Onaka								
Onida								
Orient								
Pierpont								
Ree Heights								
Roscoe								
Rosholt								
Roslyn								
Selby								
Seneca								
Sisseton								
Tolstoy								
Tulare								
Wessington								
Wessington Springs								
West Onida								

USDA-RUS

OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS

BORROWER DESIGNATION

SD0522

PERIOD ENDED

December, 2016

INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2

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

Total

	R	REDACTED	- FOR PUB	LIC INSPE	CCTION			
	US	SDA-RUS		BORROWER DESIGNATION				
OPERATING REPORT FOR					SD0522			
	TELECOMMUNIC	ATIONS BORRO	OWERS		PERIOD ENDING December, 2016			
INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS E	Bulletin 1744-2							
			PART D. SYSTEM	I DATA				
1. No. Plant Employees	2. No. Other Employees		3. Square Miles Served		4. Access Lines per Squar	re Mile	5. Subscribers per Route Mile	
		_	PART E. TOLL	DATA				
Study Area ID Code(s)		2. Types of Toll Se	ettlements (Check one	e)				
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	a	,	`	Interstate:	Average Schedul	e	X Cost Basis	
	b]			_		_	
	c	1		Intrastate:	Average Schedul	е	X Cost Basis	
	d	1						
	e	1						
	f	-						
	g	1						
	h	1						
	i	+						
	J	1						
		PART F. FU	NDS INVESTED IN F	PLANT DURING YE	AR			
1. RUS, RTB, & FFB Loan Fu	unds Expended							
Other Long-Term Loan Full								
3. Funds Expended Under RI								
4. Other Short-Term Loan Funds Expended								
5. General Funds Expended (Other than Interim)								
Salvaged Materials								
7. Contribution in Aid to Cons								
Gross Additions to Telecor	m. Plant (1 thru 7)							
		PART G. IN	VESTMENTS IN AFF	ILIATED COMPAN	IES			
			CURRENT)	EAR DATA		CUMULATIVE D	ATA	
					Cumulative	Cumulative		
	INVESTMENTS		Investment	Income/Loss	Investment	Income/Loss	Current	
			This Year	This Year	To Date	To Date	Balance	
	(a)		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	
1 Investment in Affiliated Companies Bural Davidenment								

2. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Nonrural Development

LISDA-RUS

BORROWER DESIGNATION		
SD0522		
PERIOD ENDING		
December, 2016		

OPERATING REPORT FOR		BORROWER DESIGNATION				
		SD0522				
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	PERIOD ENDING				
		December, 2016				
	PART H CURPEN	T DEPRECIATION RATES				
	Are corporation's depreciation rates approved by the regulatory authority	T DEI REGIATION RATES				
	with jurisdiction over the provision of telephone services? (Check one)		YES	X NO		
						
	EQUIPMENT CATEGORY		DEPRECIA	ATION RATE		
1.	Land and support assets - Motor Vehicles					
2.	Land and support assets - Aircraft					
3.	Land and support assets - Special purpose vehicles					
4.	Land and support assets - Garage and other work equipment					
5.	Land and support assets - Buildings					
6.	Land and support assets - Furniture and Office equipment					
7.	Land and support assets - General purpose computers					
8.	Central Office Switching - Digital					
9.	Central Office Switching - Analog & Electro-mechanical					
	. Central Office Switching - Operator Systems					
	. Central Office Transmission - Radio Systems					
	. Central Office Transmission - Circuit equipment					
13. Information origination/termination - Station apparatus						
	4. Information origination/termination - Customer premises wiring5. Information origination/termination - Large private branch exchanges					
	. Information origination/termination - Large private branch exchange					
	. Information origination/termination - Other terminal equipment	pinent				
	. Cable and wire facilities - Poles					
	. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable - Metal					
20	. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable - Fiber					
21	. Cable and wire facilities - Underground cable - Metal					
22	. Cable and wire facilities - Underground cable - Fiber					
23	. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cable - Metal					
24	. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cable - Fiber					
	. Cable and wire facilities - Conduit systems					
26	26. Cable and wire facilities - Other					

BORROWER DESIGNATION USDA-RUS SD0522 **OPERATING REPORT FOR** PERIOD ENDED **TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS** December, 2016 INSTRUCTIONS - See help in the online application. PART I - STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS 1. Beginning Cash (Cash and Equivalents plus RUS Construction Fund) **CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES** 2. **Net Income** Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities 3. Add: Depreciation 4. Add: Amortization 5. Other (Explain) Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities 6. Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable 7. Decrease/(Increase) in Materials and Inventory 8. Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments and Deferred Charges 9. Decrease/(Increase) in Other Current Assets 10. Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable 11. Increase/(Decrease) in Advance Billings & Payments Increase/(Decrease) in Other Current Liabilities 13. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Operations **CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES** 14. Decrease/(Increase) in Notes Receivable 15. Increase/(Decrease) in Notes Payable 16. Increase/(Decrease) in Customer Deposits 17. Net Increase/(Decrease) in Long Term Debt (Including Current Maturities) 18. Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities & Deferred Credits 19. Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Stock, Paid-in Capital, Membership and Capital Certificates & Other Capital 20. Less: Payment of Dividends 21. Less: Patronage Capital Credits Retired 22. Other (Explain) 23. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities **CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES** Net Capital Expenditures (Property, Plant & Equipment) 24. 25. Other Long-Term Investments 26 Other Noncurrent Assets & Jurisdictional Differences 27. Other (Explain) 28. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Investing Activities 29. Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash

30.

Ending Cash

REDICTED TORTOBLIC INSI ECTION					
USDA-RUS	BORROWER DESIGNATION SD0522				
OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS					
INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	PERIOD ENDED December, 2016				
NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS					

REDACTED - FOR TODELC HAST ECTION					
USDA-RUS	BORROWER DESIGNATION				
OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	SD0522				
INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	PERIOD ENDED December, 2016				
CERTIFICATION LOAN DEFAULT NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS					