



July 19, 2016

John Hutton
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
Utilities Division
502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

RECEIVED
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TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY
UTILITIES DIVISION

Re: TRA Docket No. 16-00072
Section 254(e) Certification of
United Telephone Company
To Receive USF Disbursements
In Calendar Year 2017

Dear Mr. John Hutton:

Attached hereto is the Certification Letter of Tommy Welch, certifying that United Telephone Company d/b/a United Communications (the "Company") is in compliance with the requirements of Section 254(e) and the requirements established by the Commission In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45 and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 (FCC 01-157) (released May 23, 2001) ("Order") and codified at 47 C.F.R. & 54.314.

United Telephone Company d/b/a United Communications (SAC number 290581) received \$4,394,431.00 in Universal Service Funds in 2015. The funds were used for regulated plant investments and regulated operations.

I am submitting thirteen copies of this letter, pursuant to TRA Rule 1220-1-1-03. In addition is a "stamp and return" copy along with a prepaid postage, self-addressed envelope. All correspondence and inquiries concerning this filing should be addressed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tommy Welch'.

Tommy Welch
Director of Finance and Administration

Enclosures



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Re: TRA Docket No. 16-00072
Section 254(e) Certification of
United Telephone Company
To Receive USF Disbursements
In Calendar Year 2017

Dear Mr. John Hutton:

I, Tommy Welch, Director of Finance and Administration of United Telephone Company d/b/a United Communications (the "Company") do hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. I am the Director of Finance and Administration of the Company
2. The company is a "rural telephone company" as defined in 47 U.S.C. & 153 (37), subject to the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority;
3. The Company is eligible for disbursements from the Federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"); and
4. The Company will utilize its USF disbursements for high cost support (including any high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support) received in 2015 only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tommy Welch'.

Tommy Welch
Director of Finance and Administration