

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

In re: Application of Holston Connect, LLC for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority

Docket No. 18-00075

**EVIDENCE OF MANAGERIAL, TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Holston Connect, LLC submits the following as evidence that it meets the requisite managerial, technical, and financial qualifications to provide video or cable services as set forth in Tenn. Code Ann § 7-59-305(d)(2):

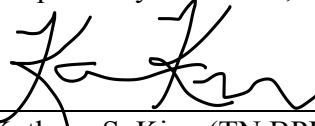
Exhibit D: Managerial Officer Biographies

Exhibit E: Technical Officer Biographies

Exhibit F: Holston Electric Cooperative and Subsidiary  
Consolidated Financial Statements  
for Years Ended June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

Exhibit G: Holston Connect, LLC Section 311 Plan

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. King', is written over a horizontal line.

Kathryn S. King (TN BPR # 025080)  
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## **EXHIBIT D MANAGERIAL QUALIFICATIONS**

**James Sandlin**, has been the General Manager of Holston Electric Cooperative since May 1, 2015. Prior to that, he worked at Scottsboro Electric Power Board for 27 years and was the General Manager for 19 years. Mr. Sandlin has 17 years of cable television experience at the Scottsboro Electric Power Board. He managed many aspects of the cable system during his time there, including conceptualization, capitalization, construction, and service rollout. Under his management, the cable system came in \$2 million under budget and saw a take rate of 85%. He is a licensed profession engineer in the State of Alabama and earned a Bachelor of Science in Electric Engineering from the University of Alabama in 1988.

**Shannon Bellamy, Director of Finance & Human Resources**, graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Virginia at Wise in 1985 with a B.S. in Public Administration with concentrations in Accounting and Financial Management. She has over 33 years experience with Holston Electric Cooperative.

**Michelle Simpson, Director of Member Services**, graduated *magna cum laude*, from Tusculum College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a triple focus in accounting, management and marketing. She has worked with Holston Electric Cooperative since 2008, and prior to that she worked as the assistance to the Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller at AGC Flat Glass of North America.

**Chasity England, Customer Service Director**, holds a Bachelor of Business Administration-Accounting from East Tennessee State University. She has over 16 years of experience in customer service and 5 years of experience focused exclusively on cooperative customers.

**Jennifer Dale, Business Development Manager**, joined Holston Connect in May of 2018. She holds a B.S. in Organizational Management and a M.S. in Development Talent from Tusculum College. She has over 15 years of sales experience in industries including telecommunications, insurance, and client management for a large software company.

## **EXHIBIT E TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS**

**Jeffery Gunter, Network Engineer**, has over 26 years experience in network engineering, communications, and IT. He holds a B.S. in Organizational Management with a minor in Computer Science from Tusculum College. Prior to joining Holston Connect in March, 2018, Jeffery has worked as a Technology Manager and Network Engineer for Morristown Utilities and RR Donnelly (formerly known as Rhoades, Inc.), a Quality Assurance Manager for Mundet (formerly known as International Playing Card and Label Co.), a Technology Trainer for Eastman Kodak (formerly known as Creo), and IT Manager/Information Security Officer/Network Administrator for Civis Bank.

**Steven Pittman, Director of Information Technology**, has worked in IT for Holston Electric Cooperative since 2011. Prior to 2011, Steve spent over 12 years at TRW Automotive in Rogersville, TN serving as their Client Services Analyst. Steve also spent over 7 years with Raytheon Engineers & Constructors in TN and IL as a Systems Administrator. Other IT support positions included work for BASF Chemical Company, Kingsport City Schools System, and Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management from Tusculum College and an Associate Degree in Drafting Design from Northeast State Community College.

**Thomas Powell, Broadband Plant Manager**, was hired to work with Holston Connect as its Broadband Plant Manager in April, 2018. He has over 25 years of experience through the telecommunications industry. He has served as Chief Technician, Plant Manager, and Technical Operations Manager for SRI Telecom – the leading systems integrator in the nation. He has led teams performing build-outs and complex integration services for virtually every major telecommunications in the United States. He is a past Vice President and President of the Music City chapter of the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers. He proudly served in the United States Army.

**In addition to its in-house staff, Holston Connect, LLC also has a contract with FiberRise Communications, LLC ("FiberRise") to support the deployment Holston Connect's fiber network infrastructure. The following officer biographies are provided as evidence of FiberRise's technical qualifications:**

**Chad Dieselberg, Chief Technology Officer**, holds numerous patents, real world experience operating and designing fiber broadband systems, outside plant engineering, central office technician and engineering designs. He has over 20+ years of direct fiber experience, holds a B.S. in Math, a B.S. in Computer Science. Chad designed one of the nation's earliest FTTH systems while working with a rural service provider in the mid 2000's:

**Noah Southerland, Chief Operations Officer**, helped launch one of the largest FTTH Gigabit projects in the nation while working at ADTRAN. He has extensive networking, application, and business expertise and holds an M.S., and MBA from Auburn. Noah has over ten years of fiber and communication experience.

**Tommy Harmon, Chief Executive Officer,** has twenty-five years of communication experience working with electric utilities and broadband operators. He began working for electric cooperatives in 2010 while working with North Alabama Electric Cooperative as they launched their FTT(x) project. This was one of a handful of early electric cooperatives entering the fiber space. He holds a BA, and has served in numerous engineering and business leadership roles.

**EXHIBIT F**  
**PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL**  
**NOT SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE TENNESSEE OPEN RECORDS ACT**

**Holston Electric Cooperative and Subsidiary**  
**Consolidated Financial Statements Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2017**

**EXHIBIT G**  
**PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL**  
**NOT SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE TENNESSEE OPEN RECORDS ACT**

Holston Connect, LLC  
Section 311 Plan