**DA 20-742**

**Released: July 15, 2020**

**Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Rate-of-Return Carriers Electing incentive regulation for their business data services**

**WC Docket No. 17-144**

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces that the 99 rate-of-return carriers serving 139 study areas in 32 states and one territory identified in the accompanying Appendix elected to move their lower speed business data services (BDS) Time Division Multiplexed (TDM) transport and end user channel termination services to incentive regulation effective July 1, 2020, as permitted by the *Rate-of-Return BDS Order*.[[1]](#footnote-3)

In the *Rate-of-Return BDS Order*, the Commission adopted a path for rate-of-return carriers that receive model-based or other forms of fixed high cost universal service support to voluntarily elect to transition their lower speed BDS offerings to incentive regulation effective either July 1, 2019 or July 1, 2020.[[2]](#footnote-4) As a result of both years’ elections, a total of 136 rate-of-return carriers serving 227 study areas in 40 states and one territory have now moved their lower speed BDS offerings to incentive regulation.[[3]](#footnote-5) The Commission found that allowing and encouraging carriers “to move from inefficient, burdensome cost-based regulation to incentive regulation . . . promotes efficiency, reduces regulatory burdens, and encourages competition.”[[4]](#footnote-6)

For further information, please contact Christopher Koves, Wireline Competition Bureau, Pricing Policy Division, at 202-418-8209, or at Christopher.Koves@fcc.gov.

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**Appendix**

**Rate-of-Return Carriers Electing Incentive Regulation for Lower Speed BDS**

**TDM Transport and End User Channel Termination Services**

| **Rate of Return Carrier** | **Study Area Name** | **State** | **Study Area** **Code No.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ace Telephone Association | Ace Telephone Association | IA | 351346 |
| Agate Mutual Telephone Cooperative Association | Agate Mutual Telephone Cooperative Association | CO | 462178 |
| Alhambra-Grantfork Communications, Inc. | Alhambra-Grantfork Telephone Company | IL | 340978 |
| All West Communications, Inc. | All West Communications, Inc. | UT | 502288 |
| All West Communications, Inc. | All West Communications, Inc. | WY | 512290 |
| Allband Communications Cooperative | Allband Communications Cooperative | MI | 310542 |
| Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. | Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. - IA | IA | 351405 |
| Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. | Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. - MN | MN | 361405 |
| Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. | Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. - SD | SD | 391405 |
| Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. | Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. - Baltic | SD | 391642 |
| Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. | Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. - Splitrock | SD | 391657 |
| American Samoa Telecommunications Authority | American Samoa Telecommunications Authority | AS | 673900 |
| BEK Communications Cooperative | Absaraka Coop. Tel. Co. | ND | 381601 |
| BEK Communications Cooperative | BEK Communications Cooperative | ND | 381604 |
| Bernard Telephone Company, Inc. | Bernard Telephone Company, Inc. | IA | 351110 |
| Bloomer Telephone Company | Bloomer Telephone Company | WI | 330850 |
| Blue Earth Valley Communications, Inc. | Hager TeleCom, Inc. | WI | 330889 |
| Blue Earth Valley Communications, Inc. | Indianhead Telephone Company | WI | 330936 |
| Brazos Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | Brazos Tel Coop Inc | TX | 442041 |
| Brooklyn Mutual Telecommunications Cooperative | Brooklyn Mutual Telephone Company | IA | 351113 |
| Bruce Telephone Company, Inc. | Bruce Telephone Company, Inc. | WI | 330855 |
| Butler-Bremer Mutual Telephone Company | Butler-Bremer Mutual Telephone Company, Inc. | IA | 351115 |
| Cambridge Telephone Company, Inc. | Cambridge Tel Co | ID | 472215 |
| Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation | Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation | MO | 421864 |
| Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative | Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative | IA | 351129 |
| Citizens Telephone Company of Higginsville, Missouri | Citizens Telephone Company | MO | 421865 |
| Citizens Telephone Cooperative (VA) | Citizens Telephone Cooperative | VA | 190225 |
| Clarence Telephone Company, Inc. | Clarence Telephone Company, Inc. | IA | 351130 |
| Coleman County Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | Coleman County Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | TX | 442057 |
| Communications 1 Network, Inc. | Communications 1 Network, Inc. | IA | 351262 |
| Cooperative Telephone Company | Cooperative Telephone Company | IA | 351139 |
| Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative Inc. | Craw-Kan Telephone Coop., Inc. | MO | 421759 |
| Delhi Telephone Company | Delhi Telephone Company | NY | 150088 |
| Direct Communications Rockland, Inc. | Rico Telephone Company | CO | 462201 |
| Dobson Technologies, Inc. | Dobson Tel Co. | OK | 431988 |
| Dobson Technologies, Inc. | McCloud Tel Co. | OK | 432006 |
| Ellington Telephone Company | Ellington Telephone Company | MO | 421874 |
| F&B Communications, Inc. | F&B Communications, Inc. | IA | 351160 |
| Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company-Moulton | Farmers Mutual Coop. Telephone Company | IA | 351169 |
| Farmers Telephone Company, Inc. | Farmers Telephone Company, Inc. | CO | 462188 |
| Fidelity Communications Company | Fidelity Telephone LLC | MO | 421882 |
| Garden Valley Telephone Company | Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies | MN | 361395 |
| Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association | Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association | MN | 361396 |
| GCI Communication Corp. | United Utilities Inc | AK | 613023 |
| GCI Communication Corp. | Yukon Telephone Company, Inc. | AK | 613025 |
| Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. - Armour | SD | 391640 |
| Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | SD | 391659 |
| Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. - Kadoka | SD | 391667 |
| Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. - Sioux Valley | SD | 391677 |
| Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. - Union | SD | 391684 |
| Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. - Vivian | SD | 391686 |
| Grafton Communications, Inc. | Grafton Telephone Company | IL | 341020 |
| Green Hills Telephone Corporation | Green Hills Telephone Corporation | MO | 421890 |
| Hardy Telecommunications, Inc. | Hardy Telecommunications, Inc. | WV | 200259 |
| Heart of Iowa Communications Cooperative | Heart of Iowa Communications Cooperative | IA | 351297 |
| Hiawatha Communications, Inc. | Midway Telephone Company | MI | 310711 |
| Hiawatha Communications, Inc. | Hiawatha Telephone Company | MI | 310713 |
| Hiawatha Communications, Inc. | Ontonagon County Telephone Company | MI | 310717 |
| Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (KY & TN) | Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | TN | 290565 |
| Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc. | Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc. | WI | 330892 |
| Home Telephone Company, Inc. | Home Telecom | SC | 240527 |
| Hot Springs Telephone Company | Hot Springs Telephone Company | MT | 482241 |
| Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | MN | 361654 |
| Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. | SD | 391654 |
| LaHarpe Telephone Company, Inc. (KS) | La Harpe Tel Co Inc.  | KS | 411791 |
| Lismore Cooperative Telephone Company | Lismore Cooperative Telephone Company | MN | 361419 |
| Lonsdale Telephone Company | Lonsdale Telephone Company | MN | 361422 |
| Lumos Networks Corp. | Lumos Tel. | VA | 190226 |
| Lumos Networks Corp. | Lumos Tel. Botetourt | VA | 190249 |
| Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company | Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company | IA | 351237 |
| Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company | Walnut Telephone Company | IA | 351326 |
| Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc. | Matanuska Tel Assoc.  | AK | 613015 |
| McNabb Communications, Inc. | McNabb Telephone Company | IL | 341048 |
| Midstate Communications, Inc. (SD) | Midstate Communications, Inc. | SD | 391670 |
| Miles Cooperative Telephone Association | Miles Coop. Tel. Assoc. | IA | 351242 |
| Monroe Telephone Company | Monroe Telephone Company | OR | 532385 |
| Mountain West Technologies Corporation | Chugwater Tel. Co. | WY | 512289 |
| Mutual Telephone Company | Heartland-Premier | IA | 351096 |
| Mutual Telephone Company | Hospers Telephone Exchange, Inc. d/b/a Premier Communications | IA | 351202 |
| Mutual Telephone Company | Mutual Telephone Company | IA | 351252 |
| Mutual Telephone Company | Northern Iowa Telephone Company | IA | 351259 |
| Mutual Telephone Company | Webb-Dickens Telephone Corporation | IA | 351327 |
| Nedelco, Incorporated | Hamilton Telephone Company | NE | 371555 |
| Nemont Tel. Coop. | Nemont Tel. Coop - ND | ND | 382247 |
| Nemont Tel. Coop. | Nemont Tel. Coop-MT | MT | 482247 |
| Nemont Tel. Coop. | Project Tel. Co.  | MT | 482250 |
| North-State Telephone Co. (NC) | North State Telephone Company d/b/a North State Communications | NC | 230491 |
| Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company | Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company | NE | 371576 |
| Nucla-Naturita Telephone Company | Nucla-Naturita Telephone Company | CO | 462193 |
| Otelco Inc. | Shoreham Tel. | VT | 140064 |
| Partner Communications Cooperative | Partner Communications Cooperative | IA | 351187 |
| Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative | Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative | MN | 361451 |
| Phillips County Telephone Company | Phillips County Telephone Company | CO | 462197 |
| Pioneer Telephone Cooperative (OR) | Pioneer Telephone Cooperative d/b/a Pioneer Connect | OR | 532393 |
| Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | Poka-Lambro Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | TX | 442131 |
| Red River Rural Telephone Association | Red River Rural Telephone Association d/b/a Red River Communications | ND | 381631 |
| Remote Control, Inc. | Summit Telephone and Telegraph Company of Alaska | AK | 613028 |
| Roggen Telephone Cooperative Company | Roggen Telephone Cooperative Company | CO | 462202 |
| Rural Telephone Service/Golden Belt | Rural Tel- Nex – Tech | KS | 411826 |
| Saddleback Communications Inc. | Saddleback Communications | AZ | 457991 |
| Salina Spavinaw Telephone Co., Inc. | Salina-Spavinaw Tel. Co. | OK | 432022 |
| Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | OK | 432141 |
| Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | TX | 442141 |
| Silver Star Tel. Co. | Columbine Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a Silver Star Communications | ID | 472295 |
| Silver Star Tel. Co. | Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc. | WY | 512295 |
| Sodtown Telephone Company | Sodtown Telephone Company | NE | 371590 |
| Southwest Oklahoma Telephone Company | Southwest Oklahoma Telephone Company | OK | 432025 |
| Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc. | Steelville Telephone Exchange, Inc. | MO | 421949 |
| STEL-CO | Le-Ru Telephone Company | MO | 421908 |
| Taylor Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | Taylor Tel Co-op Inc.  | TX | 442151 |
| TELAPEX, Inc. | Franklin Telephone Company, Inc. | MS | 280454 |
| The Moundridge Telephone Company | Moundridge Tel Co.  | KS | 411808 |
| The North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company | The North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company | PA | 170191 |
| The Peetz Cooperative Telephone Company | Peetz Cooperative Telephone Company | CO | 462196 |
| Totelcom Communications, LLC | Oklatel Communications, Inc. | OK | 432013 |
| Totelcom Communications, LLC | North Texas Telephone Company | TX | 442043 |
| Totelcom Communications, LLC | Totelcom Communications, LLC | TX | 442060 |
| Townes Telecommunications | Pymatuning Independent Tel. Co. | PA | 170200 |
| Townes Telecommunications | Northeast Florida Telephone Company, Inc. | FL | 210335 |
| Townes Telecommunications | Walnut Hill Telephone Company | AR | 401729 |
| Townes Telecommunications | MoKan Dial, Inc. | KS | 411807 |
| Townes Telecommunications | MoKan Dial, Inc. | MO | 421807 |
| Townes Telecommunications | Choctaw Telephone Company | MO | 421893 |
| Townes Telecommunications | Oregon Farmers Mutual Telephone Company | MO | 421935 |
| Townes Telecommunications | Haxtun Telephone Company | CO | 462190 |
| Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc. | Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc. | WI | 330960 |
| TrioTel Communications, Inc. | Triotel Communications, Inc. - McCook | SD | 391669 |
| TrioTel Communications, Inc. | Triotel Communications, Inc. - Tri-County | SD | 391682 |
| Twin Valley Management, Inc. | Twin Valley Telephone Co. | KS | 411840 |
| UBTA-UBET Communications | UBTA-UBET/STRATA | UT | 502287 |
| Vernon Telephone Cooperative, Inc. | Vernon Communications Cooperative | WI | 330966 |
| VNC Enterprises, LLC | Nova Telephone Company | OH | 300644 |
| Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association | Webster-Calhoun Coop. Tel. Assn. | IA | 351328 |
| West Iowa Telephone Company | West Iowa Telephone Company d/b/a WesTel Systems | IA | 351331 |
| West Iowa Telephone Company | Hooper Tel. Co. | NE | 371563 |
| Winnebago Cooperative Telephone Association | Winnebago Coop-IA | IA | 351337 |
| Winnebago Cooperative Telephone Association | Winnebago Coop -IA2 | IA | 351338 |
| Winnebago Cooperative Telephone Association | Winnebago Coop -MN | MN | 361337 |
| Wittenberg Telephone Company | Wittenberg Telephone Company | WI | 330973 |

1. *Regulation of Business Data Services for Rate-of- Return Local Exchange Carriers et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 17-144 et al., Report and Order, Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 33 FCC Rcd 10403 (2018) (*Rate-of-Return BDS Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. *See id.* at 10445, para. 119. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. The Bureau previously identified the rate-of-return carriers that elected incentive regulation for their BDS effective July 1, 2019. *See* *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Rate-of-Return Carriers Electing Incentive Regulation for Their Business Data Services*, WC Docket No. 17-144, Public Notice, 34 FCC Rcd 4846 (2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. *Rate-of-Return BDS Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 10404, para. 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)