

**BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

<b>In the Matter of the Application and Request</b>	<b>)</b>	
<b>Of The Golden Belt Telephone Association,</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>Docket No. 19-GNBT-505-KSF</b>
<b>Inc. for an Increase in its Cost-Based Kansas</b>	<b>)</b>	
<b>Universal Service Fund Support.</b>	<b>)</b>	

**REDACTED DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**ANN DIGGS**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION STAFF**

**October 11, 2019**

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13

14 **I. INTRODUCTION**

15 **Q: Please state your name, occupation and business address.**

16 A: My name is Ann Diggs. I am self-employed as the owner of a certified public  
17 accounting firm, Ann Diggs, CPA. My business address is 107 Chestnut Street,  
18 Wilmington, NC 28401.

19 **Q: Please discuss your professional background and regulatory experience.**

20 A: I received a B.B.A. Degree with a Major in Accounting from Washburn  
21 University in Topeka, Kansas. I am a CPA licensed to practice in North Carolina.  
22 My auditing and accounting experience include nine years of public utility

1 electric, gas and telecommunications regulatory experience with the Staff of the  
2 Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission), where I held various positions  
3 progressing to Chief of Accounting and Financial Analysis. Additionally, since  
4 2006, I have provided regulatory consulting services on behalf of the Commission  
5 Staff (Staff) and have participated in 27 KUSF audits sponsoring various cost of  
6 service adjustments and addressing affiliate transaction and cost allocation issues.  
7 A summary of my work and utility regulatory experience is included in  
8 Attachment AD-1.

9 **Q: Have you previously testified before the Commission?**

10 A: Yes, I have presented written and oral expert witness testimony before the  
11 Commission on a broad range of issues including cost of service, acquisition  
12 premium recovery, affiliate transactions, cost allocations, and merger savings.

13 **Q: Please state on whose behalf you are appearing.**

14 A: I am appearing in this docket on behalf of Staff.

15 **Q: Please describe your responsibilities and the procedures you performed in**  
16 **this docket.**

17 A: My responsibilities in this docket were to analyze Golden Belt Telephone  
18 Association, Inc.'s (Golden Belt Telephone, GBTA, or Company) filing, sponsor  
19 Staff adjustments and in conjunction with Staff provide recommendations to the  
20 Commission. I reviewed the Company's filing and responses to data requests  
21 issued by Staff and participated in an on-site visit at the Company's offices in  
22 Rush Center, Kansas for the purpose of inspecting records, touring the Company's

1 offices and facilities, and meeting with the Company's employees and consultant.

2 I also participated in phone conferences with Staff and reviewed other

3 Commission dockets and materials relevant to the issues I am addressing.

4 **Q: Please describe the purpose and scope of your testimony.**

5 A: I provide background information regarding the Company's services and affiliate

6 transactions, and how costs are assigned and allocated to its non-regulated

7 operations and affiliates. I sponsor Staff's regulated and non-regulated allocation

8 factors and various adjustments to the Company's cost of service, and proffer

9 recommendations regarding the Company's affiliate transactions and cost

10 allocation procedures.

11 **Q: Please identify the additional attachments to your testimony.**

12 A: Attachment AD-2 contains a summary and support of Staff's allocation factors, used

13 to apportion shared costs between the Company's regulated and non-regulated

14 operations. AD-3 contains work papers supporting my sponsored Rate Base and

15 Income Statement adjustments, identified by adjustment number. AD-4 contains data

16 requests (DR) that are referenced in my testimony.

17 **II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

18 **A. Cost of Service Adjustments**

19 **Q: Please summarize your sponsored adjustments.**

A: My sponsored Rate Base (RB) and Income Statement (IS) adjustments are summarized in the following table, along with each adjustment's increase or (decrease) to the Company's total-company and intrastate cost of service.

ADJ #	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COMPANY ADJUSTMENT	INTRASTATE ADJUSTMENT
RB-1	Non-Regulated Allocation of GSF Assets and Accumulated Depreciation	\$ ( 8,132)	\$ (10,436)
IS-1	Non-Regulated Allocation of GSF and Other Common Expenses	\$ (206,706)	\$ (126,617)
IS-2	Payroll Expense and Distribution	\$ (325,669)	\$ (205,455)
IS-3	Employee Benefit and Payroll Tax Expense	\$ (167,297)	\$ (109,055)
IS-4	Allocation of Billing and Collection Expense	\$ 8,314	\$ 18,090
IS-5	Building and Vehicle Lease Expense	\$ (29,685)	\$ (19,124)

Each of the above adjustments is described in detail in Section V – Rate Base Adjustments and Section VI – Income Statement Adjustments of my testimony. The adjustments are further supported by calculations and explanations contained in my workpapers in Attachment AD-3 which are an integral part of my testimony.

**B. Affiliate Transactions and Cost Allocations**

**Q: Please summarize Staff's findings regarding the Company's affiliate transactions and cost allocation procedures.**

1 A: The proper assignment and allocation of shared resources and costs is essential to  
2 ensure KUSF funding of regulated telephone operations does not subsidize  
3 competitive services of non-regulated affiliates. Staff found that management  
4 employees did not directly record time to non-regulated operations resulting in a  
5 violation of FCC cost principles, a violation of the Commission's Order in the  
6 Company's prior KUSF docket, and a failure to comply with allocation  
7 procedures set out in the Company's Cost Allocation Manual and Management  
8 Agreement<sup>1</sup>.

9 Staff also found the Company did not properly allocate shared resources  
10 and costs to non-regulated operations by understating a calculated non-regulated  
11 labor factor which is widely used to allocate common costs to non-regulated  
12 operations, by failing to allocate common costs such as General and  
13 Administrative and Human Resources, and by understating the non-regulated  
14 allocation of various General Support Facility (GSF), Executive, and Board of  
15 Directors costs. The Company also overstated non-regulated cost allocations of  
16 billing and collection costs. Staff's findings relating to the Company's affiliate  
17 transactions and cost allocations are discussed in Section IV (D) of my testimony.

18 **Q: Please summarize Staff's recommendations regarding the Company's**  
19 **affiliate transactions and cost allocation procedures.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Management Agreement between GBTA and Communications in effect during test year, dated January 1, 2018. Staff DR 87 (attachment AD-4).

1 A: In addition to addressing the above findings in Staff's cost of service adjustments,  
2 Staff offers the following recommendations:

3 1. Staff recommends the Commission require the Company to fully  
4 implement the FCC cost principal set out in §64.901(b)(2) which states that  
5 carriers shall directly assign costs to either regulated or nonregulated activities  
6 whenever possible.

7 2. Staff recommends the Commission require the Company to require all  
8 employees, including management, administrative, and accounting to directly  
9 record time to regulated and non-regulated operations whenever possible.

10 3. Staff recommends the Commission require the Company to revise its  
11 Cost Allocation Manual as necessary to reflect the requirement that labor and  
12 non-labor costs shall be directly assigned to non-regulated operations whenever  
13 possible.

14 4. Staff recommends the Commission consider assessing a penalty on the  
15 Company in the amount of \$1,000 for each of the nine years the Company has  
16 been in violation of the 2010 Order in Docket 10-GNBT-526-KSF, for a total  
17 penalty of \$9,000.

18 Staff's recommendations relating to the Company's affiliate transactions  
19 and cost allocations are discussed in Section IV (E) of my testimony.

20 **III. OVERVIEW OF NON-REGULATED AFFILIATES AND SERVICES**

21 Q: Please provide a brief overview of the Company and its non-regulated  
22 affiliate.



1     A:     The Company is a rural Independent Local Exchange Carrier, headquartered in  
2             Rush Center, Kansas. The Company provides regulated local exchange telephone  
3             service to approximately 3,800 customers in 18 exchanges. The Company owns  
4             100% of GBT Communications, Inc. (GBTC or Communications).  
5             Communications provides non-regulated services to the Company's subscribers as  
6             well as customers in several surrounding communities outside of the Company's  
7             regulated service area.

8     **Q:     Please describe what you mean by "non-regulated services"?**

9     A:     Any services provided by an ILEC or its affiliated entity that are not regulated by  
10            the State of Kansas and not eligible for KUSF support. KUSF support is intended  
11            only for "Universal Service" as defined under K.S.A. 66-1,187(p) and includes  
12            landline telephone calls and associated miscellaneous services such as operator  
13            services and directory assistance services. KUSF support is not intended for  
14            broadband, wireless, Cable TV, or other services not regulated by the State of  
15            Kansas. Therefore, direct and shared expenses benefitting these services are  
16            considered "non-regulated" and should not be included in the Company's cost of  
17            service for purposes of determining KUSF support.

18    **Q:     Please describe the non-regulated operations provided by Communications.**

19    A:     Non-regulated services provided by Communications include the following:  
20            

- CLEC telecommunication services to customers outside of the Company's

  
21            regulated service area  
22            

- Cable TV

- 1           • Internet
- 2           • VOIP
- 3           • Security Systems
- 4           • Computer Sales and Repairs

5           In addition, Communications is a minority owner and authorized agent of  
6           Nex-Tech Wireless, a Kansas-based provider of wireless phone, texting, data,  
7           and high-speed mobile internet service. Nex-Tech Wireless is owned by  
8           Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech, Inc., GBT Communications, Mutual Telephone,  
9           and Tri-County Telephone, and provides wireless service in 40 counties of  
10          central and western Kansas as well as local coverage to four counties in  
11          Colorado.

#### 12           **IV. AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS AND COST ALLOCATIONS**

##### 13          **A. Identify affiliate transactions and shared resources and costs**

14       **Q: Please identify transactions and shared costs which occur between the**  
15       **Company and its non-regulated affiliate.**

16       **A:** The Company recorded test year transactions for the following goods or services  
17       provided to its affiliate pursuant to the Management Agreement.

- 18           1. Management and Operational Services, including labor and non-labor  
19           costs of providing general management, executive, legal, accounting,  
20           personnel, billing and collections, administrative and operations  
21           functions necessary for carrying on the business of Communications.

2. Building space, office furniture and equipment for the conduct of Communications activities.

The Company recorded test year transactions for the following goods or services received from its affiliate, also pursuant to the Management Agreement.

1. Vehicles and work equipment owned by Communications were leased to the Company.
2. Office space owned by Communications in Ness City and Ellis, and warehouse space owned by Communications in Rush Center were leased to the Company.

The Management Agreement further addresses the reimbursement of costs to the Company for providing the above shared goods and services.

**B. Applicable affiliate transaction and cost allocation rules and requirements**

**1. FCC Affiliate Transaction and Cost Allocation Rules**

**Q: Are the transactions for goods and services between the Company and its affiliates subject to the FCC's affiliate transaction rules?**

**A:** Yes. Transactions between the entities are subject to the FCC's affiliate transaction rules as required in 47 C.F.R. §64.902 and set out in 47 C.F.R. §32.27(c). Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §32.9000, "affiliated companies" means:

[C]ompanies [the accounting entity] that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, control or are controlled by, or are under common control with, the accounting company. [Referencing "Control"] . . . Control . . . means the possession directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a company . . . whether such

1 power is established through a majority or minority ownership or  
2 voting of securities, common directors, officers . . .or any other  
3 direct or indirect means.  
4

5 In addition, pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1401(2), affiliated interests include “[e]very  
6 corporation which has one or more officers or one or more directors in common  
7 with such utility corporation” and include “[e]very person who is an officer or  
8 director of such utility corporation ...”

9 **Q: Please describe the above-referenced FCC rules regarding affiliate**  
10 **transactions.**

11 A: Since transactions between affiliated entities are not negotiated at arms’ length,  
12 there is an inherent risk that a company’s regulated operations may subsidize its  
13 non-regulated operations. The FCC has addressed this risk in its affiliate  
14 transaction rules, requiring goods and services provided to or received from  
15 affiliates to be recorded in the following manner:

16 1. Services sold or transferred from the Company to its affiliates. Unless  
17 provided at a tariff rate or qualify for prevailing price valuation, the FCC requires  
18 these services to be recorded at no less than the higher of fair market value (FMV)  
19 and fully distributed cost (FDC). This requirement applies to the Company’s  
20 provision of labor and other resources to Communications. Billing and collection  
21 services the Company provides to customers for non-regulated internet and Cable  
22 TV are also examples of services subject to this FCC requirement.

23 2. Services sold or transferred to the Company from its affiliates. Unless  
24 provided at a tariff rate or qualify for prevailing price valuation, these services are

1 required to be recorded at no greater than the lower of FMV and FDC. This  
2 requirement applies to buildings and vehicles leased to the Company by  
3 Communications.

4 **Q: Please describe the FCC's rules regarding the allocation of costs between**  
5 **regulated and non-regulated services.**

6 A: The FCC has established the following hierarchy, set out in 47 C.F.R. §64.901,  
7 for the assignment or allocation of costs to regulated and non-regulated activities:

8 (b)(2) Costs shall be directly assigned to either regulated or non-regulated  
9 activities whenever possible. (Emphasis added.)

10  
11 (b)(3) Costs which cannot be directly assigned to either regulated or non-  
12 regulated activities will be described as common costs. Common costs  
13 shall be grouped into homogeneous cost categories designed to facilitate  
14 the proper allocation of costs between a carrier's regulated and non-  
15 regulated activities. Each cost category shall be allocated between  
16 regulated and non-regulated activities in accordance with the following  
17 hierarchy:

18  
19 (i) Whenever possible, common cost categories are to be allocated  
20 based upon direct analysis of the origin of the cost themselves.

21  
22 (ii) When direct analysis is not possible, common cost categories  
23 shall be allocated based upon an indirect, cost causative linkage to  
24 another cost category (or group of cost categories) for which a  
25 direct assignment or allocation is available.

26  
27 (iii) When neither direct nor indirect measures of cost allocation  
28 can be found, the cost category shall be allocated based upon a  
29 general allocator computed by using the ratio of all expenses  
30 directly assigned or attributed to regulated and non-regulated  
31 activities.

32  
33  
34 The Company is required to follow the FCC's cost allocation procedures to  
35 directly assign labor costs to non-regulated accounts when possible. Other non-

1 labor costs which benefit Communications non-regulated operations should also  
2 be directly assigned to non-regulated accounts when possible.

3 2. GBTA Cost Allocation Manual and Management Agreement

4 **Q: Please identify the cost allocation procedures set out in the Company's CAM**  
5 **and Management Agreement that require direct assignment to non-regulated**  
6 **accounts.**

7 A: The Company's CAM sets out allocation procedures on page 6, and states, "Each  
8 general ledger account for the company is classified as being regulated, non-  
9 regulated, or common based on the nature and composition of the particular  
10 account. Accounts deemed to be either solely regulated or non-regulated are  
11 assigned under the direct assignment principle." Direct Assignment is then  
12 defined by the Company as "Costs that are attributable exclusively to either  
13 regulated or non-regulated operations and can be directly assigned. In Section 8  
14 of the CAM, the Company describes its approach to allocations and states, "All  
15 allowable direct costs are charged directly to the associated activity." The  
16 Company also requires that "All employees complete daily timesheets to account  
17 for their time spent on various work activities."

18 The Management Agreement between GBTA and Communications also  
19 sets out requirements for the direct assignment of non-regulated costs. In Section  
20 A of Exhibit A, regarding cost assignments for management/operational services,  
21 the Management Agreement requires "All GBTA employees maintain individual  
22 time sheets and shall record their time worked on GBTC activities... using the

1 account codes provided by GBTC. Executive labor shall be directly assigned as  
2 above.”

3 3. Commission Orders

4 **Q: Please provide information regarding past Commission Orders relevant to**  
5 **the Company’s affiliate transactions and cost allocations.**

6 A: The Commission’s Order in the Company’s prior KUSF docket, 10-GNBT-526-  
7 KSF, approved a Settlement Agreement with the parties agreeing to be bound by  
8 the following terms.

9 10. As recommended by Staff, Golden Belt agrees to the following:

10  
11  
12

a. Golden Belt will implement a cost-allocation manual within 6 months of the date  
of the Commission's order approving the Stipulated Settlement Agreement;

13  
14  
15  
16

b. Golden Belt will instruct management employees, who currently record all of their  
time to one account, to directly record time spent on regulated or non-regulated  
activities whenever possible and record the remainder of the time into a common cost  
account to be allocated between regulated and non-regulated operations; and

17  
18  
19

c. Golden Belt will execute signed agreements for services provided to and from its  
affiliate GB Communications.

20

In addition to these requirements specific to the Company’s affiliate

21

transactions and cost allocations, the Commission has stressed the importance of

22

properly accounting for affiliate transactions and allocating shared resources and

23

costs between regulated and non-regulated operations in numerous other dockets.

24

In Paragraph 31 of its Non-Confidential Order Setting Revenue Requirements in

25

Docket 01-SNKT-544-AUD, the Commission stated, "In recent years, the

26

Commission has seen a marked increase in the number of regulated utilities

1 combining regulated and unregulated operations in the company or by using  
2 affiliates or subsidiaries. The difficulty in deciphering how these costs and  
3 revenue should be allocated between regulated and unregulated customers is a  
4 growing problem in dockets before this Commission." The Commission  
5 incorporated its findings in Western Resources Docket No. 01-WSRE-436-RTS,  
6 Order on Rate Applications, issued July 25, 2001, ¶117: "The Commission  
7 cannot stress too strongly the importance of properly allocating costs. The  
8 Applicants have the obligation to provide credible evidence to prove how time is  
9 spent before asking that ratepayers bear the expenses. Ratepayers should not be at  
10 risk for paying expenses for non-regulated activities." Continuing to emphasize  
11 the importance of properly allocating non-regulated costs, the Commission  
12 stated, in Paragraph 42 of Docket No. 01-SNKT-544-AUD, "Because this  
13 Commission wishes to make clear its expectation for future dockets, including  
14 pending audits of rural telephone companies, the Commission emphasizes that  
15 regulated utilities have the burden to affirmatively prove expenditures were  
16 reasonable and necessary for regulated operations. Utilities cannot rely upon an  
17 assumption that all expenditures are deemed reasonable unless Staff proves  
18 otherwise. This is particularly true when allocation issues are present."

19 The Company is required to fully comply with each of the above affiliate  
20 transaction and cost allocation procedures. In order for costs to be recovered  
21 through the KUSF, the Company has the burden of providing credible evidence  
22 that costs are properly assigned and allocated to non-regulated operations.



1           **C. Overview of Company's Allocation procedures**

2   **Q:   Please explain how the Company records affiliate transactions for the goods**  
3       **and services it provides to Communications.**

4   **A:**   The Company records costs through the assignment and allocation of costs using  
5       various procedures including:

6               (1) directly assigning certain costs to Communications,

7               (2) allocating labor costs related to the provision of these services to  
8       Communications through the payroll distribution process,

9               (3) allocating certain common costs through monthly journal entries to  
10      shift costs to non-regulated operations,

11              (4) charging Communications a per-customer charge for certain common  
12      costs associated with billing and collection (B&C) services and also allocating  
13      common B&C costs using a subscriber count factor in the Company's annual cost  
14      study.

15              (5) allocating shared assets and other common expenses to  
16      Communications using a non-regulated payroll factor and other factors in the  
17      annual cost study.

18   **Q:   Please explain how the Company records affiliate transactions for the goods**  
19       **and services it receives from Communications.**

20   **A:**   Communication owns and leases buildings, vehicles, and work equipment to the  
21       Company. Building and vehicles leases are calculated based on a regulated usage

1 factor. Vehicle lease expense is recorded in an account that is further allocated  
2 through the payroll distribution process.

3  
4 **D. Staff's Findings Regarding Affiliate Transactions and Cost Allocations**

5 **Q: Please discuss Staff's findings regarding the Company's affiliate transactions**  
6 **and cost allocation procedures.**

7 **A:** The proper assignment and allocation of shared resources and costs is essential to  
8 ensure KUSF funding of regulated telephone operations is not subsidizing  
9 competitive services of non-regulated affiliates. Staff's review of the Company's  
10 affiliate transaction and cost allocation procedures and processes resulted in the  
11 following findings:

12 1. Management employees failed to directly report time to non-regulated  
13 operations in direct violation of the Commission's Order in the Company's prior  
14 KUSF docket, FCC cost allocation rules, as well as the Company's CAM and  
15 Management Agreement.

16 2. The Company understated a calculated non-regulated labor factor  
17 which is widely used to allocate common costs to non-regulated operations.

18 3. The Company failed to allocate common costs such as General and  
19 Administrative and Human Resources, and understated the non-regulated  
20 allocation of various GSF, Executive, and Board of Directors costs. The  
21 Company also overstated non-regulated cost allocations of billing and collection  
22 costs.

1        1. Management employees failed to directly report time to non-regulated  
2        operations

3        **Q: Please discuss Staff's finding that management employees failed to directly**  
4        **report time to non-regulated operations.**

5        A: During the test year, certain management employees did not directly report time  
6        spent on non-regulated activities, but instead reported all time to common  
7        accounts which were allocated to non-regulated operations using a labor factor  
8        based on other employees' direct reported time. Management time cannot be  
9        reasonably allocated to non-regulated activities based solely on a proxy of other  
10       employees' directly recorded time. Management employees by the very nature of  
11       their jobs have responsibilities that reach far outside the realm of work performed  
12       by non-management employees such as outside plant techs and customer service  
13       representatives who are responsible for day-to-day activities. Managers must also  
14       address strategic planning, forecasts and budgeting, as well as analyze and  
15       prioritize decisions regarding the expansion of non-regulated services and areas  
16       outside the ILEC service territory. Management employees must also devote time  
17       keeping up to date with emerging technologies in the non-regulated arena in order  
18       to survive and grow in the competitive marketplace. Due to these unique  
19       responsibilities of management employees, as well as their higher salaries, it is  
20       particularly important for managers to directly report time spent on non-regulated  
21       operations to properly reflect the company-wide level of costs benefitting non-  
22       regulated operations, and for the development of non-regulated labor factors

1        which are widely used to allocate other labor and non-labor costs. In addition, by  
2        failing to directly report time to non-regulated activities, the Company has not  
3        met its burden to affirmatively prove expenditures were reasonable and necessary  
4        for regulated operations.

5        2. GBTA violated FCC cost allocation rules, the Company's CAM, and the  
6        Management Agreement

7        **Q: Please discuss why the failure of management employees to directly record**  
8        **time to non-regulated operations is a violation of FCC cost allocation rules,**  
9        **as well as the Company's CAM and Management Agreement.**

10      A: FCC cost principles clearly set out in §64.901(b)(2) require that carriers shall  
11      directly assign costs to either regulated or nonregulated activities whenever  
12      possible. (Emphasis added) The Company's Cost Allocation Manual (CAM)<sup>2</sup>  
13      states in Section 8(A), "All allowable direct costs are charged directly to the  
14      associated activity." Page 3 of the CAM defines direct costs as "those that can be  
15      identified specifically with a particular final cost objective or activity". Exhibit A  
16      of the Management Agreement between GBTA and Communications states in  
17      Section A, "All GBTA employees...shall record their time worked on GBTC  
18      activities daily, weekly, or per GBTA practice using the account codes provided  
19      by GBTC. Executive labor shall be directly assigned as above." The  
20      Management Agreement is signed for both parties by the General Manager.

---

<sup>2</sup> Golden Belt Telephone Association Cost Allocation Manual submitted in Section 14 of Company's Application in this docket.

1            3. GBTA violated prior Commission Order

2        **Q:    Please discuss why the failure of management employees to directly record**  
3            **time to non-regulated operations is a direct violation of the Commission's**  
4            **Order in the Company's prior KUSF docket.**

5        **A:**    Staff raised concerns regarding the failure of management employees to directly  
6            record time to non-regulated operations in the Company's prior 2010 KUSF  
7            docket<sup>3</sup>. Based on Staff's recommendation, the Company agreed to the following  
8            terms in the Stipulation and Agreement, which was approved by Commission  
9            Order:

10          "Golden Belt will instruct management employees, who currently record all of  
11          their time to one account, to directly record time spent on regulated or non-  
12          regulated activities whenever possible and record the remainder of the time into a  
13          common cost account to be allocated between regulated and non-regulated  
14          operations;" (Emphasis added)  
15

16                Staff's recommendation in the prior docket was directed to four  
17                management employees, the General Manager, the Assistant General Manager,  
18                the Office Manager, and the Plant Manager. In the current docket, there is no  
19                longer an Assistant General Manager position, and Staff's review of the reported  
20                time distributions showed the Plant Manager directly recorded time to non-

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<sup>3</sup> Order dated October 27, 2010, Docket 10-GNBT-526-KSF, In the Matter of the Application of Golden Belt Telephone Association for Additional Kansas Universal Service Fund Support Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-2008.

1 regulated accounts during the test year. However, Staff found the current General  
2 Manager and the Office Manager continue to record time only into common  
3 accounts which are allocated to non-regulated operations using labor factors based  
4 on other employees' directly reported time. This methodology is in direct  
5 violation of the Commission's Order in the prior KUSF docket. Staff Workpaper  
6 IS-2.5 summarizes the accounts the managers used to record their time from 2008  
7 through May 2019. In the nine years following the Commission's 2010 Order,  
8 only the Plant Manager directly recorded time to non-regulated accounts in one  
9 year - 2018.

10 **Q: What was the Company's response regarding the failure of management**  
11 **employees to directly report time to non-regulated operations?**

12 A: Staff issued DR 63 and follow-up DR 86 (included in AD-4) requesting the  
13 Company to explain why the general manager's time was not directly recorded to  
14 non-regulated operations as ordered in the Company's prior KUSF docket. The  
15 Company's response in DR 63 stated that the "rigorous" allocation method used  
16 "ensures the general manager's time is appropriately allocated between regulated  
17 and non-regulated activities. This allocation is derived from direct reporting. If  
18 he were to code time to other accounts, it would cause "double dipping" of his  
19 time towards regulated and non-regulated activities." The Company responded in  
20 follow up DR 86 that the general manager's labor costs are allocated "using the  
21 total employee labor activities to most accurately reflect the total company  
22 oversight duties of this position. In addition, there are limitations with the

1           company's software that do not readily allow exceptions to time reporting  
2           allocations to be made."

3   **Q:   Does Staff agree with the Company's response that allocating management**  
4       **salaries to non-regulated operations based on total employee labor activities**  
5       **ensures the general manager's time is appropriately allocated between**  
6       **regulated and non-regulated activities?**

7   A:   No. Most importantly, the Company's explicit agreement with Staff in the Order  
8       approved by the Commission to require management employees to directly report  
9       their time to non-regulated activities whenever possible established that as the  
10      standard for providing sufficient credible evidence for the recovery of managers'  
11      payroll costs from the KUSF. Allocating management using total employee labor  
12      activities does not meet the previously agreed-to standard.

13   **Q:   Please continue with your discussion regarding the Company's method of**  
14       **allocating the manager's time.**

15   A:   The "rigorous" allocation method claimed by the Company involves annually  
16       calculating a non-regulated labor factor using total labor directly reported to non-  
17       regulated accounts divided by total labor directly reported to all accounts.  
18       Further, as Staff discusses in its Non-Regulated Allocation of Shared Expenses  
19       Adjustment IS-1, this calculation is flawed and results in an understated non-  
20       regulated labor factor. Although the Company is correct that the allocation is  
21       derived from direct reporting, it is derived from the direct reporting of other non-  
22       management employees who record time to non-regulated activities. An example

1 of the Company's allocation method provided in Staff DR 56 (attached) for  
2 January 2018 shows the calculation of the Company's non-regulated allocation of  
3 the manager's wages recorded in account 6711.01 (10).

4 The Company's claims that (1) double-dipping would occur if  
5 management employees recorded time to common accounts and direct accounts  
6 and (2) that there are limitations with the company's software that do not readily  
7 allow exceptions to time reporting allocations to be made are both without merit.  
8 Many employees record time to regulated account, non-regulated accounts and  
9 common accounts. In fact, Staff's Workpaper IS-2.5 shows that the management  
10 employees actually did directly report time to non-regulated accounts in 2008. It  
11 also appears reasonable that new accounts could readily be set up in the  
12 Company's chart of accounts to accommodate any reporting changes if needed.

13 Further, if the Company believed it was not possible to implement direct  
14 time reporting for management employees, the time to make these objections was  
15 during settlement discussions and negotiations in the prior docket, not after they  
16 agreed to the direct time reporting requirement, failed to implement the  
17 requirement, and failed to provide Staff with sufficient evidence to determine the  
18 proper allocation of management's time to non-regulated operations in this  
19 docket. If the company did discover post-order they couldn't do the correct time  
20 reporting due to system limitations, the proper course of action would be to make  
21 a filing with the Commission notifying it and seeking relief.



1     **Q:     Does Staff have additional concerns and recommendations regarding this**  
2           **issue?**

3     A:     Yes. The Company has offered no reasonable explanation why the Commission's  
4           Order requiring management's direct reporting of time to non-regulated  
5           operations was ignored. Due to the lack of sufficient competent evidence  
6           supporting the allocation of management employees' time, Staff has been left  
7           with no choice but to recommend disallowance for the recovery of labor costs of  
8           the General Manager and Office Manager in the Company's regulated operations.  
9           Due to the unique, forward-looking responsibilities of management employees,  
10          including strategic planning, forecasting, investigating emerging technologies,  
11          and analyzing expansion opportunities for non-regulated services and territories,  
12          the use of an allocation factor based on the direct reported time of employees  
13          responsible for performing day-to-day activities is an unacceptable substitute.  
14          Not only is the use of an all-employee substitute factor for management  
15          employees unacceptable for determining the Company's cost of service in this  
16          docket, for Staff to simply ignore the Company's disregard and violation of the  
17          Commission's prior Order in this case could be seen as an invitation for other  
18          ILEC's to abandon direct time reporting and offer only estimates of management  
19          employees' time, regardless of their past policies, Stipulations, and/or  
20          Commission Orders. This consequence could directly hinder Staff and the  
21          Commission's oversight capabilities and open the door to widespread

1 opportunities for the subsidization of ILEC's non-regulated operations through  
2 the KUSF.

3 4. GBTA understated its calculated non-regulated labor factor

4 The Company understated an important non-regulated labor allocation  
5 factor which is used to allocate a variety of common costs, resulting in the over-  
6 allocation of shared costs to regulated operations. The Company calculated its  
7 non-regulated labor allocation factor as the ratio of directly reported non-  
8 regulated costs to total labor costs, which include not only directly reported  
9 regulated and non-regulated labor costs but also labor recorded in common cost  
10 accounts. This methodology treats common costs, which benefit both regulated  
11 and non-regulated operations, as 100% regulated for purposes of the calculation,  
12 thereby overstating the regulated labor factor and understating the non-regulated  
13 labor factor.

14 Staff provides and discusses its calculation of allocation factors based on  
15 employees' time in its Payroll Adjustment IS-2.

16 5. GBTA did not fully allocate shared costs

17 The Company failed to allocate common costs such as General and  
18 Administrative and Human Resources and did not fully allocate various GSF,  
19 Executive, and Board of Directors costs. Staff presents its allocation of these  
20 shared costs in its Non-Regulated Allocation of GSF, Corporate, and G&A  
21 Expense Adjustment IS-1.

1           6. GBTA over-allocated certain costs to non-regulated operations

2           In certain instances, the Company over-allocated costs to non-regulated  
3           operations during the test year. For example, certain shared billing and collection  
4           costs were allocated in the annual cost study adjustment and also recovered from  
5           Communications monthly based on the number of billings processed for non-  
6           regulated services. Staff made corrections for the over-allocation of costs to non-  
7           regulated operations in its billing and collection expense adjustment. Also,  
8           certain vehicle lease expenses were calculated using the regulated time of an  
9           employee although vehicle lease expenses charged to the Company by  
10          Communications are further allocated based on payroll clearing distributions.  
11          Staff made corrections to remove the regulated allocation in the lease expense  
12          calculations.

13           E. Staff's Recommendations

14   **Q:   Please summarize Staff's recommendations regarding the Company's**  
15   **affiliate transactions and cost allocations.**

16   **A:**   In addition to the adjustments Staff is proposing in its adjustments, Staff offers the  
17   following recommendations:

18           1. Staff recommends the Commission require the Company to fully  
19           implement the FCC cost principle set out in §64.901(b)(2) which states that  
20           carriers shall directly assign costs to either regulated or nonregulated activities  
21           whenever possible.

1                   2. Staff recommends the Commission require the Company to require all  
2                   employees, including management, administrative, and accounting to directly  
3                   record time to regulated and non-regulated operations whenever possible in  
4                   accordance with FCC cost allocation principles.

5                   3. Staff recommends the Commission require the Company to revise its  
6                   Cost Allocation Manual as necessary to reflect the requirement that labor and  
7                   non-labor costs shall be directly assigned to non-regulated operations whenever  
8                   possible.

9                   4. Staff recommends the Commission consider imposing a penalty on the  
10                  Company for each year the Company has been in violation of the 2010 Order in  
11                  Docket 10-GNBT-526-KSF.

12   **Q:   Please explain why Staff believes the Commission should consider imposing a**  
13   **penalty in this case.**

14   **A:**   The Company's actions were wrong. In the above discussion, Staff has plainly  
15           demonstrated that the Company violated the Commission's 2010 Order requiring  
16           management employees to directly record time to regulated and non-regulated  
17           accounts whenever possible. The Company made no effort over nine years to  
18           comply with the requirement. The Company did not notify the Commission that  
19           the Company was unable to comply with the requirement and seek relief. The  
20           Company's explanations in this docket to Staff's direct questions regarding its  
21           non-compliance were without merit. Whether by intention or oversight, the  
22           consequences of the Company's failure to comply with this requirement are the

1 same. The Company has failed to meet its burden to present sufficient, competent  
2 evidence as agreed upon in its prior KUSF docket in order to determine the  
3 amount of management labor expense related to the Company's regulated  
4 operations. This failure has given rise to an increased risk of the Company's  
5 regulated operations and KUSF support subsidizing its non-regulated operations.  
6 A penalty should be considered to give additional weight to future Commission's  
7 Orders.

8 **Q: Does Staff recommend a penalty amount?**

9 A: Staff is recommending the Commission consider a penalty in the amount of  
10 \$1,000 per year for each of the nine years the Company has been in violation of  
11 the Commission's Order, or a total of \$9,000. Staff considers this to be  
12 reasonable taking into consideration the size of the Company, and the severity and  
13 potential consequences of the violation. Authority for the Commission's  
14 assessment of a penalty for violation of an Order is found in K.S.A. §66-138.  
15 K.S.A. §66-1,143c and K.S.A. §66-1,152 address authority to compromise a civil  
16 penalty based on various factors relating to the actual violation.

17 **V. RATE BASE ADJUSTMENT**

18 **A. RB-1 – Non-Regulated Allocation of GSF Assets**

19 **Q: Please discuss Staff's Adjustment RB-1 to allocate non-regulated GSF assets**  
20 **and accumulated depreciation.**

1     A:     The Company owns General Service Facility (GSF) assets which are shared by its  
2           non-regulated operations pursuant to the Management Agreement. Shared GSF  
3           assets include land, buildings, vehicles, work equipment, furniture, office and  
4           communications equipment, and general purpose computers. The Company  
5           allocates GSF rate base to non-regulated operations in its annual cost study  
6           adjustments. Staff calculated the allocation factors for these GSF assets and the  
7           associated accumulated depreciation based on Staff's updated pro forma wages  
8           and distribution data. Staff's allocation factors are presented and summarized in  
9           Attachment AD-2 and supporting workpapers. Staff then applied its allocation  
10          factors to test year end GSF asset and accumulated depreciation balances to  
11          calculate the amount of GSF assets to allocate to non-regulated operations.  
12          Staff's adjustment is the difference between regulated GSF assets calculated by  
13          the Company in its annual cost study and Staff's calculation of regulated GSF  
14          assets.

15    **Q:     Please summarize the effects of Staff's Adjustment RB-1 to allocate non-**  
16       **regulated GSF assets and accumulated depreciation.**

17    A:     Staff's total adjustment to GSF assets, net of accumulated depreciation, is  
18           minimal because most of the Company's GSF assets were fully depreciated in the  
19           test year. Staff's adjustment decreases Rate Base by \$8,132 on a total-company  
20           basis, and by \$10,436 on an intrastate basis.



- 1                   • depreciation expense on buildings,
- 2                   • non-labor vehicle expense,
- 3                   • plant operations labor and non-labor expenses,
- 4                   • corporate labor and non-labor expenses, and
- 5                   • G&A labor and non-labor expenses.

6                   The Company allocated these shared expenses each month from January  
7                   to November 2018 using factors based on end-of-year 2017 data. The allocation  
8                   factors applied in December 2018 were updated using 2018 data. Staff's  
9                   workpaper IS-1.1 shows the effective non-regulated factors used by the Company  
10                  to allocate these shared expenses during the test year.

11   **Q:   Please describe how the Company allocated shared expenses to non-**  
12   **regulated in its annual cost study adjustments.**

13   **A:**   The Company's cost study adjustments are not recorded in the Company's books  
14           but are included as adjustments to test year book balances in the Company's  
15           application schedules. The Company allocated the following shared expenses to  
16           non-regulated operations in its annual cost study adjustments:

- 17                   • Depreciation expense on furniture, office equipment, work  
18                   equipment, computer equipment, and vehicles
- 19                   • Land and building labor and non-labor costs
- 20                   • Office equipment expense
- 21                   • General purpose computer labor and non-labor expense
- 22                   • Billing and collection labor and non-labor expense



1           The Company used a non-regulated subscriber count factor to allocate  
2           Billing and Collection expenses. The remaining shared costs were allocated using  
3           the Company's non-regulated labor factor.

4   **Q:   Please describe Staff's adjustment for Board of Directors expenses that were**  
5           **directly assigned by the Company to non-regulated accounts.**

6   A:   The Company directly assigned fees paid to Board members for attending Board  
7           meetings. GBTA and Communications each has its own Board of Directors and  
8           conducts separate Board meetings. However, the same Board members are on  
9           each Board, and Board meetings for Communications are typically held directly  
10          after Board meetings for GBTA. All other Board expenses, such as travel and  
11          training are directly recorded to regulated operations. Staff calculated its non-  
12          regulated allocation of Board of Director costs by applying its allocation factor  
13          summarized in Attachment AD-2 to the combined total test year Board expenses  
14          of GBTA and Communications, which resulted in all Board-related expenses to  
15          be allocated between regulated and non-regulated operations.

16   **Q:   Please describe the Company's use of non-regulated allocation factors in**  
17          **vehicle lease calculations**

18   A:   Communications owns various vehicles and work equipment, which it leases to  
19          GBTA. The monthly lease amounts for some of the vehicles were calculated  
20          using an allocation factor to reflect the use of the vehicle for regulated operations.  
21          However, vehicle lease expenses charged to the Company are recorded into a  
22          vehicle clearing account that is allocated to non-regulated operations through the

1 payroll distribution process. Therefore, it does not appear necessary to apply a  
2 regulated usage factor in the individual lease payment calculations. Staff  
3 accounted for this issue by removing the non-regulated allocations in vehicle  
4 lease calculations in its Building and Vehicle Lease Expense Adjustment IS-5.

5 **Q: Did the Company allocate all shared expenses to non-regulated operations?**

6 A: No. The Company did not allocate shared Human Resources (HR) expenses or  
7 Other General/Administrative expenses. Staff allocated these shared expenses in  
8 this adjustment.

9 **Q: Does Staff have other findings regarding the Company's allocation of shared**  
10 **costs to non-regulated operations?**

11 A: Yes. Staff found that the Company allocated \$28,534 in depreciation expense for  
12 buildings in its monthly journal entries to shift costs to non-regulated operations.  
13 However, during the test year all buildings were fully depreciated, so there was no  
14 test year depreciation expense related to buildings. Staff added back \$28,534 to  
15 regulated depreciation expense in this adjustment.

16 Staff would also like to address its findings regarding the Company's  
17 calculation of its non-regulated labor factor. This factor is widely used as a basis  
18 for allocating shared expenses to non-regulated operations throughout the  
19 allocation process including its monthly journal entries to allocate costs and its  
20 annual cost studies.

21 **Q: What are Staff's findings regarding the Company's calculation of its non-**  
22 **regulated labor factor.**

1 A: Staff found that the method the Company uses to calculate its non-regulated labor  
2 factor understates the non-regulated factor. The Company calculates the non-  
3 regulated labor factor using the following payroll distribution data:

4 *Wages Recorded to Non-Reg Acts / Wages Recorded to All Acts*

5 The problem with this formula is that Wages Recorded to All Acts includes non-  
6 regulated wages plus regulated wages plus common wages (wages in accounts  
7 that are used to accumulate common labor costs which are later allocated to non-  
8 regulated accounts through the Company's monthly journal entries or cost study  
9 adjustments<sup>4</sup>). In the Company's formula, those common wage accounts are  
10 erroneously treated as 100% regulated, thereby overstating regulated wages and  
11 understating the non-regulated labor factor. Wages accumulated into these  
12 common accounts must be removed from total wages in the above formula in  
13 order to achieve the correct non-regulated payroll factor:

14  
15  
16 *Non-regulated Wages / (Total Wages – Common Act Wages)*

17 Or

18 *Non-regulated Wages / (Non-regulated Wages + Regulated Wages)*

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<sup>4</sup> The common wage accounts later allocated between regulated and non-regulated accounts but treated as 100% regulated in the calculation of the Company's non-regulated labor factor include Plant Operations Administration, Corporate, G&A, Land & Building, General Purpose Computer, Customer Service – Bill Rendering, and Human Resources.

1    **Q:     Did Staff use this corrected formula to calculate its non-regulated payroll**  
2           **factor?**

3    A:     Yes, using actual 2018 test year payroll distribution data.

4    **Q:     Please summarize Staff's adjustment for the non-regulated allocation of GSF**  
5           **expenses.**

6    A:     Staff's adjustment decreases the Company's regulated expenses by \$206,706 on a  
7           total company basis and decreases the Company's intrastate expenses by  
8           \$126,617.

9           ***B.   IS-2 – Payroll Expense and Distribution Adjustment***

10   **Q:     Please discuss Staff's adjustment IS-2 to normalize and distribute the**  
11       **Company's test year salary expense.**

12       ***1.   Adjustment to Normalize Payroll Expense***

13   A:     To calculate a normalized, or on-going, level of salary expense, Staff made the  
14       following adjustments to test year salary expense:

15           1. Additional new and terminated positions. Staff made adjustments for  
16       employees who were hired and/or terminated subsequent to the test year.

17           2. Changes to current wage rates. Staff adjusted salary rates using the  
18       most currently available 2019 data.

19           3. Adjusted test year bonuses. Staff reviewed bonuses awarded to  
20       employees for 2017 and 2018. Since bonuses are discretionary, Staff allowed the  
21       lower of actual bonuses awarded in 2017 or 2018.

1                   4. Normalized salaries of employees who began employment or changed  
2                   job positions at the Company during the 2018 test year.

3                   2. Payroll Expense Distribution

4       **Q:     Please discuss Staff's distribution of pro forma payroll expense between**  
5       **regulated and non-regulated operations.**

6       A:     Generally, Staff used employees' 2018 test year payroll distribution to distribute  
7             its pro forma payroll expense between various payroll accounts. Exceptions are  
8             noted on Staff's Payroll Adjustment Workpapers, IS-2.2. For example, there was  
9             a Customer Service Representative whose non-regulated distribution increased  
10            over 15% from 2018 to the most currently available 2019 data, and Staff  
11            determined it was reasonable to update her salary distribution to reflect increased  
12            time reported to non-regulated activities in 2019. Another, more significant,  
13            adjustment was made to distribute salaries of the general manager and office  
14            manager 100% to non-regulated operations.

15       **Q:     Please discuss Staff's adjustment to disallow the salaries of the general**  
16       **manager and office manager from regulated operations.**

17       A:     Staff disallowed the salaries of the general manager and office manager from  
18             regulated operations for the reasons extensively discussed earlier in my testimony  
19             in Section IV (D), Staff's Findings Regarding Affiliate Transactions and Cost  
20             Allocations, subsections (1) through (3). In summary, the Company failed to  
21             provide Staff with sufficient evidence to determine the proper allocation of  
22             management's time to non-regulated operations and has not met its burden to

1           affirmatively prove expenditures were reasonable and necessary for regulated  
2           operations.

3       **Q:    Please summarize the total effects of Staff's adjustment to normalize and**  
4       **distribute payroll expense.**

5       A:   Staff's total salary normalization and distribution adjustment was calculated by  
6           taking the difference between its distributed pro forma wages and actual  
7           distributed 2018 test year wages. Staff's adjustment decreases the Company's  
8           total regulated expenses by \$325,669 and decreases the Company's intrastate  
9           expenses by \$205,455.

10       3. Employee Compensation Comparison Analysis

11       **Q:    Does Staff have additional information to present to the Commission**  
12       **regarding the reasonableness of the Company's labor expenses?**

13       A:   Yes. Staff performed a comparison of management employee compensation with  
14           compensation for similar positions reported in the NTCA's 2018 Survey of  
15           Compensation and Benefits in the Independent Telecommunications Industry  
16           (NTCA Survey). Staff has presented this confidential analysis in Staff Workpaper  
17           IS-2.

18       **Q:    Explain why Staff selected the NTCA Survey for its compensation**  
19       **comparison analysis.**

20       A:   Staff selected the NTCA Survey to determine prevailing rates of pay for  
21           comparison with the Company's employees for the following reasons:

1           1. The Survey is an independent and reliable source of actual and current  
2           compensation data. The NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association has  
3           conducted compensation and benefits studies for more than 40 years.

4           2. The NTCA Study is the largest and most comprehensive source of  
5           information covering salaries and benefits in the independent telecommunications  
6           industry, and results of annual surveys allow comparisons of the industry's  
7           prevailing salaries. The annual Surveys have a consistent high rate of repeat  
8           participation which ensures users of the survey a credible and reliable source of  
9           salary and benefits data.

10          3. Survey participants reported rates of pay that were in effect January 1,  
11          2018, which is a comparable time period with the Company's payroll data  
12          submitted in this filing.

13          4. The Survey profiles compensation data by geographic location, and  
14          numerous measures of size including operating revenues, number of access lines,  
15          number of employees, so the Company's compensation can be compared with  
16          companies with similar geographic and size characteristics.

17          5. The Company responded in DR 58 that the Company relied on the  
18          2018 NTCA Survey to establish salaried, benefits, and other employee  
19          compensation in effect during the test year to current.

20      **Q: Describe Staff's methodology in selecting comparable company**  
21      **compensation data.**

1 A: The NTCA Survey profiles employee compensation data submitted by over 300  
2 Telco's by region, and by various measures of size including operating revenue,  
3 number of access lines, and number of employees. For each management  
4 position, Staff used the above criteria to calculate an average salary comparable  
5 with those positions at other Telco's of similar size and location.

6 **Q: How did Staff determine prevailing compensation?**

7 A: The NTCA Survey breaks down reported salary data by position by various  
8 percentiles. Staff selected the NTCA Survey's reported 75<sup>th</sup> percentile as the top  
9 of the range representing the prevailing rate of pay. The NTCA Survey states,  
10 "Together, the 25th percentile and the 75th percentile define the middle 50% of  
11 all salaries paid for the job. This midrange, based on the reported rates for the  
12 position, generally is considered the most reliable indicator of prevailing salaries."

13 **Q: Is Staff proposing an adjustment to the Company's payroll expense related**  
14 **to the comparative analysis?**

15 A: No, the Company's management salaries fell within the NTCA Survey's ranges of  
16 prevailing salaries. Staff has prepared the analysis for informational purposes to  
17 aid the Commission in its determination of the reasonableness of the level of labor  
18 costs the Company is seeking to be recovered from the KUSF. The Commission  
19 previously emphasized in comments submitted to the FCC<sup>5</sup> that the level of

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<sup>5</sup> Comments of the Kansas Corporation Commission Supporting the FCC's Initiatives Regarding Expenses, Cost Allocations and Affiliate Transactions. WC Docket No. 10-90, WC Docket No. 14-58, CC Docket No. 01-92.



1 employee compensation included in the regulated revenue requirement should not  
2 burden universal service mechanisms to the benefit of a few.

3 **C. IS-3 - Benefit and Payroll Tax Adjustment**

4 **Q: Please discuss Staff's Employee Benefit Adjustment IS-3.**

5 **A:** In general, the following employee benefits and payroll taxes were updated from  
6 test year levels:

- 7 • Medical and dental insurance, disability insurance, and group life  
8 insurance - updated to July 2019,
- 9 • NTCA Retirement – updated per NTCA's 8-1-19 invoice,
- 10 • Workers' compensation insurance – updated to most current invoice,
- 11 • Employer's share of FICA and Medicare taxes – adjusted to Staff's pro  
12 forma salary expense.

13 In addition, Staff disallowed employee concessions paid to Communications  
14 for Cable TV and internet service on behalf of employees, Board members, and  
15 retirees. Employee perks of non-regulated services are excessive concessions for  
16 the Company's regulated operations, not necessary for the provision of regulated  
17 telephone service, and should not be recovered through the KUSF.

18 After making the above adjustments, Staff distributed its resulting total pro  
19 forma employee benefits among all accounts using Staff's pro forma salary  
20 distribution percentages.

21 **Q: Please summarize the effects of Staff's Employee Benefit and Payroll Tax**  
22 **Adjustment IS-3.**

1 A: After distribution of the total benefit and payroll tax adjustments, Staff's  
2 adjustment decreases the Company's regulated expenses by \$167,297 on a total  
3 company basis and decreases the Company's intrastate expenses by \$109,055.

4 **D. IS-4 - Billing and Collection Expense Adjustment**

5 **Q: Please discuss Staff Adjustment IS-4, Billing and Collection (B&C) Expense.**

6 A: The Company provides B&C services for Communication's non-regulated  
7 services, and allocates shared B&C costs in its annual cost study. It also charges  
8 Communications a per/customer charge based on the number of customers  
9 receiving non-regulated services each month, which is recorded on the  
10 Company's books as Miscellaneous Revenue.

11 Staff calculated regulated B&C costs using a subscriber allocator based on  
12 the number of customers receiving regulated phone service and customers  
13 receiving non-regulated services. Staff's adjustment is the difference between  
14 Staff's calculated regulated B&C costs and the B&C costs charged and allocated  
15 to regulated operations by the Company.

16 **Q: Please summarize Staff's B&C Software Expense Adjustment, IS-4.**

17 A: By charging Communications a per/customer charge and allocating B&C charges  
18 in its annual cost study adjustment, the Company over-allocated B&C costs to  
19 non-regulated operations. Staff's adjustment increases the Company's regulated  
20 cost of service by \$8,314 on a total company basis and increases the Company's  
21 intrastate cost of service by \$18,090. Part of Staff's adjustment decreased the  
22 Company's Miscellaneous Revenue for the per/customer charges to

1           Communications. Note that since there is no interstate allocation for  
2           Miscellaneous Revenue, Staff's adjustment increases the Company's intrastate  
3           cost of service by a greater amount than it increases the Company's total company  
4           cost of service.

5           **E. IS-5 - Building and Vehicle Lease Adjustment**

6       **Q: Please discuss Staff Adjustment IS-5, Building and Vehicle Lease Expense.**

7       A: Communications owns buildings in Ellis, Ness City, and a warehouse in Rush  
8           Center that it leases to GBTA. Communications also owns various vehicles and  
9           work equipment that it leases to GBTA. Lease payments charged to GBTA  
10          monthly for these assets are calculated on an annual basis and referenced in the  
11          Management Agreement.

12       **Q: Please describe Staff's adjustment for building leases.**

13       A: The Company calculates lease payments on buildings using a return on the asset  
14          plus recovery of depreciation expense. The Company records the monthly lease  
15          payments it makes to Communications in its Building & Land Account, which is  
16          then allocated to non-regulated in the annual cost study adjustment. Staff  
17          calculated building leases in the same manner but replaced the rate of return  
18          (ROR) used by the Company with Staff's recommended ROR, sponsored by  
19          Adam Gatewood, in this docket of 7.22%.

20       **Q: Please describe Staff's adjustment for vehicles leases.**

21       A: The Company calculates lease payments on vehicles using a return on the asset  
22          plus recovery of depreciation expense and vehicle repairs. The Company also

1 includes an allocation to non-regulated for certain vehicles. The resulting cost is  
2 compared to a fair market valuation (FMV) for each vehicle, and the lease amount  
3 is the lesser of the Company's fully distributed cost or FMV.

4 Staff made the following adjustments to the Company's calculation of  
5 vehicle lease payments:

- 6 • Staff replaced the rate of return (ROR) used by the Company with  
7 Staff's recommended ROR, sponsored by Adam Gatewood, in this  
8 docket of 7.22%.
- 9 • Staff did not include depreciation expense on vehicles that would  
10 be fully depreciated in the test year if owned by the Company.
- 11 • Staff did not allow the high repair expenses to be included in the  
12 lease calculations to be recovered annually during the lease period.
- 13 • Staff did not include a non-regulated allocation within the lease  
14 since lease expense are recorded to a vehicle clearing account  
15 which is distributed to non-regulated accounts through the payroll  
16 distribution process.

17 Further information regarding Staff's building and vehicle lease  
18 adjustments are included in Staff's workpapers, IS-5.1 and IS-5.2.

19 **Q: Please summarize Staff's Building and Lease Expense Adjustment, IS-5.**

20 **A:** Staff's adjustment decreases the Company's regulated expenses by \$29,685 on a  
21 total company basis and decreases the Company's intrastate expenses by \$19,124.

22 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

Direct Testimony of Ann Diggs  
Docket No. 19-GBNT-505-KSF  
October 11, 2019

1     A:     Yes.

2

**ANN DIGGS**

**Regulatory Experience and Employment Summary**

2003 - Present

Ann Diggs, CPA

Owner of CPA firm offering utility regulation auditing and consulting, as well as general accounting and tax services.

2001 -2003

Accountant, BHI, Ltd., North Carolina

Corporate accounting responsibilities for resort, property management and development company.

1998 - 2000

Controller, Regulatory Action Division (RAD) Trust/

Financial Examiner, North Carolina Department of Insurance

Conducted financial examinations of insurance companies and continuing care facilities. Controller of RAD Trust, established under the supervision of the North Carolina Department of Insurance. Responsible for accounting functions, internal controls, financial reporting, allocation of costs to estates, budget preparation and tax return preparation.

1991 - 1998

Senior Utility Regulatory Auditor, Managing Auditor,

Chief of Accounting & Financial Analysis, Kansas Corporation Commission

Directed professional staff in the timely development, analysis and recommendations of accounting and financial issues in rate cases, mergers and acquisitions of jurisdictional electric, gas and telecommunications companies. Provided written and oral expert witness testimony in technical hearings. Participated in settlement negotiations.

1986 - 1991

Accountant, Topeka Public Schools

Performed accounting, reporting, grant and budget functions.

1984 - 1986

Senior Utility Regulatory Auditor,

Kansas Corporation Commission

Audited construction costs of the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station. Prepared written findings. Assisted in technical hearings before the Commission.

Direct Testimony of Ann Diggs  
Docket No. 10-HVDT-288-KSF  
June 24, 2010

ATTACHMENT AD-1

1983 - 1984

Central Accountant, Division of Accounts and Reports,  
State of Kansas

Audited vouchers and inventory records for accuracy and compliance.

1982 - 1983

Associate Auditor, Legislative Division of Post Audit, State of Kansas

Performed financial and compliance audits of State agencies. Prepared written findings and recommendations.

		ALLOCATION PER COMPANY (2018 CSA & MO JE'S)			ALLOCATION PER STAFF		
ACT #S	COMMON ASSETS & EXPENSES	BASIS	REG %	NONREG %	BASIS	REG %	NONREG %
<u>LAND</u>							
2111	LAND	TOT EMPL WAGES - 2018 CS ADJ	81.46%	18.54%	LAND & BLDG STUDY	72.81%	27.19%
<u>BUILDINGS</u>							
2121	BUILDINGS	TOT EMPL WAGES - 2018 CS ADJ	81.46%	18.54%	LAND & BLDG STUDY	72.81%	27.19%
3100	DEPRECIATION RESERVE - BUILDINGS	TOT EMPL WAGES - 2018 CS ADJ	81.46%	18.54%	LAND & BLDG STUDY	72.81%	27.19%
6561	DEPRECIATION EXP - BUILDINGS	TOT EMPL WAGES - MO JE	(1)	(1)	LAND & BLDG STUDY	72.81%	27.19%
<u>GSF ASSETS</u>							
2120/ 3100/ 6561	FURNITURE, OFFICE EQUIP, COMP & ASSOC DEPR RESERVE & DEPR EXP	TOT EMPL WAGES - 2018 CS ADJ	81.46%	18.54%	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
2112/ 3100/ 6561	VEHICLES & ASSOCIATED DEPR RESERVE & DEPR EXP	TOT EMPL WAGES - 2018 CS ADJ	81.46%	18.54%	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
2116/ 3100/ 6561	OTHER WORK EQUIP & ASSOCIATED DEPR RESERVE & DEPR EXP	TOT EMPL WAGES - 2018 CS ADJ	81.46%	18.54%	PRO FORMA WAGES - PLANT EMPL	76.73%	23.27%
<u>GSF EXPENSE</u>							
6120	LAND & BLDG,FURNITURE, OFFICE EQUIPMENT & GEN PURP COMP EXP	TOT EMPL WAGES - 2018 CS ADJ	81.46%	18.54%	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
6112.11.40	VEHICLE EXP	TOT EMPL WAGES - MO JE	(1)	(1)	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
<u>SERVICES EXPENSE</u>							
6623	BILLING & COLLECTION EXPENSE	CUST COUNT ALLOC - 2018 CSA + CHG PER NR CUST TO COMM	71.93%	28.07%	REG + NONREG CUST'S @ APRIL 2019	48.34%	51.66%
<u>EXECUTIVE, CORPORTE &amp; G&amp;A EXP</u>							
6711.01	CORP EXPENSE	TOT EMPL WAGES - MO JE	(1)	(1)	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
6711.6000	DIRECTORS EXP	BD MTG PMTS TO NON-REG	N/A	N/A	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
6721.11	G&A - ACCOUNTING	TOT EMPL WAGES - MO JE	(1)	(1)	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
6534.01	PLANT OP ADMIN	TOT EMPL WAGES - MO JE	(1)	(1)	PRO FORMA WAGES - PLANT EMPL	76.73%	23.27%
6723	HUMAN RESOURCES	NOT ALLOCATED - 2018 CS ADJ	100.00%	0.00%	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
6728.0100	G&A - OTHER	NOT ALLOCATED - 2018 CS ADJ	100.00%	0.00%	PRO FORMA WAGES - ALL EMPL	59.06%	40.94%
6728.7000	PROPERTY INSURANCE	TOT EMPL WAGES - MO JE	(1)	(1)	LAND & BLDG STUDY	72.81%	27.19%
7240.1000	PROPERTY TAX - HQ'S & WAREHOUSE	TOT EMPL WAGES - MO JE	(1)	(1)	LAND & BLDG STUDY	72.81%	27.19%
(1)	MONTHLY JE TO ALLOCATE NONREG - JAN - NOV 18		80.07%	19.93%			
	MONTHLY JE TO ALLOCATE NONREG - DEC 18		81.46%	18.54%			



Golden Belt Telephone Association  
Docket 19-GNBT-505-KSF  
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Cost Allocation Factors  
Payroll

Attachment AD-2

CALCULATE PR NONREG %

STAFF PRO FORMA WAGE EXPENSE									
	TOTAL EMPL		TOT O/SPLANT EMPL		TOT OFFICE EMPL		RUSH CENTER OFFICE EMPL		
REGULATED	\$	████████	59.06%	\$	████████	76.73%	\$	████████	46.13%
NONREG	\$	████████	40.94%	\$	████████	23.27%	\$	████████	53.87%
TOTAL	\$	████████	100.00%	\$	████████	100.00%	\$	████████	100.00%

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Test Year Ended 12/31/2018

Cost Allocation Factors  
Land & Building Study

Attachment AD-2

		Bal @	REG %	REG %	REG %	REG %	
		12-31-18	100.00%	59.06%	46.13%	76.73%	
	Location		ALLO	ALLO	ALLO	ALLO	TOTAL
			ALL EMPL	RC OFFICE EMPL	PLANT EMPL		REGULATED
Albert CDO Building	Albert	47,363.70	47,363.70				47,363.70
Albert CO HVAC	Albert	7,735.95	7,735.95				7,735.95
Albert CO AC Controller	Albert	1,160.47	1,160.47				1,160.47
Alexander CDO Building	Alexander	77,667.60	77,667.60				77,667.60
AC Units - Alexander	Alexander	8,158.82	8,158.82				8,158.82
Bazine CDO	Bazine	84,355.61	84,355.61				84,355.61
AC Units - Bazine	Bazine	8,158.82	8,158.82				8,158.82
Beeler CDO Building	Beeler	60,234.08	60,234.08				60,234.08
Bison CDO Building	Bison	82,636.97	82,636.97				82,636.97
Bison CO HVAC Unit	Bison	9,385.28	9,385.28				9,385.28
Bison CO AC Controller	Bison	1,168.38	1,168.38				1,168.38
Brownell CDO Building	Brownell	46,250.28	46,250.28				46,250.28
AC Units - Brownell	Brownell	8,733.00	8,733.00				8,733.00
Burdett CDO & Office Building	Burdett	44,279.73			33,974.20		33,974.20
Burdett CO HVAC	Burdett	7,257.66	7,257.66				7,257.66
Burdett CO AC Controller	Burdett	1,088.65	1,088.65				1,088.65
Burdett Warehouse Building	Burdett	6,665.81			5,114.43		5,114.43
Ellis CO	Ellis	44,664.00	44,664.00				44,664.00
Ellis CO HVAC	Ellis	8,154.87	8,154.87				8,154.87
Ellis CO AC Controller	Ellis	1,194.42	1,194.42				1,194.42
Ellis Warehouse	Ellis	25,270.54			19,389.15		19,389.15
Garfield CDO Building	Garfield	45,914.27	45,914.27				45,914.27
AC Units - Garfield	Garfield	8,158.82	8,158.82				8,158.82
AC Units - Larned	Larned	7,729.41	0				-
Lewis CDO Building	Lewis	59,461.79	59,461.79				59,461.79
Lewis CO HVAC	Lewis	7,736.29	7,736.29				7,736.29
Lewis CO AC Controller	Lewis	1,160.47	1,160.47				1,160.47
McCracken CDO Building	McCracken	38,612.46	38,612.46				38,612.46
McCracken CO HVAC	McCracken	8,014.97	8,014.97				8,014.97
McCracken CO AC Controller	McCracken	1,187.01	1,187.01				1,187.01
Nekoma CDO Building	Nekoma	46,860.29	46,860.29				46,860.29
Ness City CO Building	Ness City	93,225.00	93,225.00				93,225.00
Otis CDO Building	Otis	35,004.43	35,004.43				35,004.43
Otis CO HVAC Unit	Otis	9,385.29	9,385.29				9,385.29
Otis CO AC Controller	Otis	1,168.38	1,168.38				1,168.38
Ransom CO Building	Ransom	41,321.28	41,321.28				41,321.28

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Cost Allocation Factors  
Land & Building Study

Attachment AD-2

		Bal @	REG %	REG %	REG %	REG %	TOTAL
		12-31-18	100.00%	59.06%	46.13%	76.73%	
	Location		ALL EMPL	RC OFFICE EMPL	PLANT EMPL	REGULATED	
HVAC Unit	Ransom	1,010.34	1,010.34				1,010.34
Ransom Building	Ransom	22,713.68			17,427.37		17,427.37
AC Units - Ransom	Ransom	8,846.96			6,787.95		6,787.95
Rozel CDO Building	Rozel	70,408.16	70,408.16				70,408.16
Rozel CO HVAC	Rozel	7,736.29	7,736.29				7,736.29
Rozel CO AC Controller	Rozel	1,160.47	1,160.47				1,160.47
Ground Bars and fields for upgrade	Rush Center	14,257.41			10,939.18		10,939.18
Fire Equipment at Rush Center	Rush Center	1,084.63			832.20		832.20
Building A/C Sleeves	Rush Center	1,204.45			924.13		924.13
PVD ?	Rush Center	757.64			581.31		581.31
Rush Center CDO Building OLD	Rush Center - CO	7,273.66	7,273.66				7,273.66
Rush Center CDO Building NEW	Rush Center - CO	21,902.71	21,902.71				21,902.71
Rush Center CDO fire ext bldg.	Rush Center - CO	5,769.00	5,769.00				5,769.00
Rush Center CDO Building NEW Modifications	Rush Center - CO	31,623.68	31,623.68				31,623.68
Fire extinguisher equip RC CO	Rush Center - CO	274.02	274.02				274.02
Canope for Air Cond CO Bldg	Rush Center - CO	4,696.83	4,696.83				4,696.83
Rush Center CO Building Addition (the the North)	Rush Center - CO	71,400.91	71,400.91				71,400.91
AC Units at Rush Center CO	Rush Center - CO	8,867.45	8,867.45				8,867.45
Rush Center Headquarters Building	Rush Center - HQ	147,308.36		67,947.76			67,947.76
Rush Center Office Building Addition	Rush Center - HQ	233,963.62		107,918.54			107,918.54
Addition Rush Center Headquarters Bldg	Rush Center - HQ	21,787.19		10,049.60			10,049.60
West addition to Main Office	Rush Center - HQ	575,891.42		265,636.87			265,636.87
Parking garage in Rush Center	Rush Center - HQ	56,926.30		26,257.94			26,257.94
Rudd High Efficiency A/C for RC Main Office	Rush Center - HQ	2,995.00		1,381.48			1,381.48
New unit RC basement	Rush Center - HQ	7,429.93		3,427.14			3,427.14
AC at Plant Room and Basement Office	Rush Center - HQ	7,137.00		3,292.03			3,292.03
Cabinetry	Rush Center - HQ	20,534.00		9,471.56			9,471.56
New Cell Desk Rush Center	Rush Center - HQ	1,697.29		782.90			782.90
Rush Center Remodel Cabinets	Rush Center - HQ	7,143.00		3,294.79			3,294.79
Rush Center Remodel/Addition	Rush Center - HQ	33,762.09		15,573.17			15,573.17
Rush Center Addition	Rush Center - HQ	187,012.72		86,261.87			86,261.87
Rush Center Pole Shed	Rush Center - Pole Shed	19,526.23			14,981.75		14,981.75
Rush Center pole shed with drive thru 20x120x10	Rush Center - Pole Shed	20,745.04			15,916.90		15,916.90
Rush Center Mower/Generator Storage	Rush Center - Storage	14,652.37			11,242.22		11,242.22
Rush Center Warehouse Building	Rush Center - Warehouse	17,841.47			13,689.10		13,689.10
New Warehouse Building WO #2937	Rush Center - Warehouse	32,645.83			25,047.94		25,047.94

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Cost Allocation Factors  
Land & Building Study

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		Bal @ 12-31-18	REG % 100.00%	REG % 59.06% ALLOC ALL EMPL	REG % 46.13% ALLOC RC OFFICE EMPL	REG % 76.73% ALLOC PLANT EMPL	TOTAL REGULATED
New Warehouse Building heater WO #2952	Rush Center - Warehouse	2,988.25				2,292.77	2,292.77
Down payment on warehouse	Rush Center - Warehouse	3,000.00				2,301.79	2,301.79
Rush Center Warehouse	Rush Center - Warehouse	512.50				393.22	393.22
Chain Link Fence on hill	Rush Center - Warehouse	5,768.15				4,425.69	4,425.69
Rush Center Warehouse on the hill	Rush Center - Warehouse	49,107.73				37,678.55	37,678.55
Garage door openers and wiring	Rush Center - Warehouse	9,175.42				7,039.96	7,039.96
New door RC hill building	Rush Center - Warehouse	4,549.96				3,491.02	3,491.02
4 Liftmaster Garage Door Openers	Rush Center - Warehouse	4,717.95				3,619.91	3,619.91
Timken New CDO Building	Timken	72,132.87	72,132.87				72,132.87
Timken CO HVAC	Timken	7,257.66	7,257.66				7,257.66
Timken CO AC Controller	Timken	1,088.69	1,088.69				1,088.69
Utica CDO Building	Utica	37,661.26	37,661.26				37,661.26
Utica CO HVAC	Utica	7,257.66	7,257.66				7,257.66
Utica CO AC Controller	Utica	1,088.65	1,088.65				1,088.65
Unidentified Diff to Balance to GL		(6,076.69)	(6,076.69)				(6,076.69)
Balance - GL 12/31/18		2,876,742.01	1,255,112.93	-	601,295.67	238,090.74	2,094,499.34
Calculate Total Regulated %							72.81%
Calculate Total Nonregulated %							27.19%

Source: Buildings List per CPR List provided on site

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Cost Allocation Factors  
Subscriber Counts

Attachment AD-2

MONTH	REG TEL SVC		NON-REG SVCS (2)				TOTAL REG & NR	TOTAL \$	
	(1)	%	CATV ONLY	INTERNET ONLY	BOTH CATV/INT	TOTAL NONREG		BILLED TO GBTC	
1/31/2018									
2/28/2018									
3/31/2018									
4/30/2018									
5/31/2018									
6/30/2018									
7/31/2018									
8/31/2018									
9/30/2018									
10/31/2018									
11/30/2018									
12/31/2018									
1/31/2019								\$	-
2/28/2019									
3/31/2019									
4/30/2019		48.34%					51.66%		

(1) Source: DR 15

(2) Source: Monthly GTA Billings to GT Communications @ \$

Staff Workpaper RB-1  
GSF Plant and Depreciation Reserve Adjustment

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	STAFF ADJ	INTRAST FACTOR	INTRAST ADJ
	<u>Increase (Decrease) to GSF Plant</u>			
2111	Land	\$ (2,900)	0.659593	\$ (1,913)
2112	Vehicles	\$ (24,293)	0.659593	\$ (16,023)
2116	Other Work Equipment	\$ (46,274)	0.659593	\$ (30,522)
2121	Buildings	\$ (248,927)	0.659593	\$ (164,190)
2122	Furniture	\$ (13,812)	0.659593	\$ (9,110)
2123	Office Equipment	\$ (32,805)	0.659593	\$ (21,638)
2123.2	Communication Equipment	\$ (434)	0.659593	\$ (286)
2123.3	Office Equipment - Mailroom	\$ (1,103)	0.659593	\$ (728)
2124.14	General Purpose Computers	\$ (266,218)	0.659593	\$ (175,595)
2124.15	General Purpose Computers	\$ (74,376)	0.659593	\$ (49,058)
	Total General Support Facilities	<u>\$ (711,142)</u>		<u>\$ (469,064)</u>
	<u>(Increase) Decrease to GSF A/D</u>			
3100	Acc Dep - Vehicles	\$ 24,293	0.652378	\$ 15,848
3100	Acc Dep - Other Work Equipment	\$ 46,274	0.652378	\$ 30,188
3100	Acc Dep - Buildings	\$ 248,927	0.652378	\$ 162,394
3100	Acc Dep - Furniture	\$ 13,812	0.652378	\$ 9,011
3100	Acc Dep - Office Equipment	\$ 27,573	0.652378	\$ 17,988
3100	Acc Dep - Communication Equipment	\$ 434	0.652378	\$ 283
3100	Acc Dep - Office Equipment - Mailroom	\$ 1,103	0.652378	\$ 720
3100	Acc Dep - General Purpose Computers	\$ 266,218	0.652378	\$ 173,675
3100	Acc Dep - General Purpose Computers	\$ 74,376	0.652378	\$ 48,521
	Total A/D - General Support Facilities	<u>\$ 703,010</u>		<u>\$ 458,628</u>
	TOTAL STAFF ADJ	<u>\$ (8,132)</u>		<u>\$ (10,436)</u>

ACT	DESC	ACTUAL GL BAL	(1) CO'S NONREG%	CO'S ALLOC TO NONREG	STAFF NONREG %	BASIS OF STAFF'S NONREG %	STAFF'S ALLOC TO NONREG	STAFF ADJ INC (DEC) REG RB
2111	LAND	33,519	18.54%	6,214	27.19%	AVG NONREG - ALL BUILDINGS	9,114	(2,900)
2112	VEHICLES	108,432	18.54%	20,102	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	44,395	(24,293)
2116	OTHER WORK EQUIP	977,311	18.54%	181,183	23.27%	PRO FORMA WAGES-PLANT EMPL	227,456	(46,274)
2121	BUILDINGS	2,876,742	18.54%	533,316	27.19%	AVG NONREG - ALL BUILDINGS	782,243	(248,927)
2122	FURNITURE	61,651	18.54%	11,429	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	25,242	(13,812)
2123	OFFICE EQUIP	146,425	18.54%	27,146	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	59,950	(32,805)
2123.2	COMM EQUIP	1,936	18.54%	359	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	793	(434)
2123.3	OFFICE EQUIP - MAILROOM	4,925	18.54%	913	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	2,016	(1,103)
2124.14	GEN PURPOSE COMP	1,188,270	18.54%	220,292	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	486,510	(266,218)
2124.15	GEN PURPOSE COMP	331,979	18.54%	61,545	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	135,921	(74,376)
	TOTAL GSF ASSETS	<u>5,731,190</u>		<u>1,062,499</u>			<u>1,773,641</u>	<u>(711,142)</u>
3112	ACCUM DEPR-VEHICLE	(108,432)	18.54%	(20,102)	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	(44,395)	24,293
3116	ACCUM DEPR-OTHER WORK EQUIP	(977,311)	18.54%	(181,183)	23.27%	PRO FORMA WAGES-PLANT EMPL	(227,456)	46,274
3121	ACCUM DEPR-BUILDINGS	(2,876,742)	18.54%	(533,316)	27.19%	AVG NONREG - ALL BUILDINGS	(782,243)	248,927
3122	ACCUM DEPR-FURNITURE	(61,651)	18.54%	(11,429)	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	(25,242)	13,812
3123.1	ACCUM DEPR-OFFICE EQUIP	(123,074)	18.54%	(22,817)	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	(50,390)	27,573
3123.2	ACCUM DEPR-CO COMM EQUIP	(1,936)	18.54%	(359)	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	(793)	434
3123.3	ACCUM DEPR - OFFICE EQUIP MAILROOM	(4,925)	18.54%	(913)	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	(2,016)	1,103
3124.14	ACCUM DEPR-GEN PURPOSE COMP	(1,188,270)	18.54%	(220,292)	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	(486,510)	266,218
3124.15	ACCUM DEPR-GEN PURPOSE COMP	(331,979)	18.54%	(61,545)	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	(135,921)	74,376
	TOTAL GSF ACCUM DEPR	<u>(5,674,320)</u>		<u>(1,051,956)</u>			<u>(1,754,966)</u>	<u>703,010</u>
	TOTAL	<u>56,870</u>		<u>10,543</u>			<u>18,675</u>	<u>(8,132)</u>

(1) Basis of Co's non-regulated allocation factor is Total Non-Reg Labor / Total Labor To Date at 12-31-18  
(387,980.14 / 2,092,790.69) per 2018 CSA

Staff Workpaper IS-1  
Nonregulated Expense Allocation Adjustment

Description	Act	Staff Adjustment	Intrastate Factor	Intrastate Adjustment
Plant Specific Operations Expense				
Network Support Expense	6110	\$ (2,001)	0.659593	\$ (1,320)
General Support Expense	6120	\$ (93,427)	0.659593	\$ (61,624)
Central Office Switching Expense	6210		0.549271	\$ -
Central Office Transmission Expense	6230		0.549271	\$ -
Cable and Wire Facilities Expense	6410		0.721998	\$ -
Total Plant Specific Operations Expense		<u>\$ (95,429)</u>		<u>\$ (62,944)</u>
Plant Non-Specific Operations Expenses				
Network Operations Expense	6530	\$ 11,149	0.659593	\$ 7,354
Access Expense	6540		-	\$ -
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	6560	\$ 16,749	0.637236	\$ 10,673
Total Plant Non-Specific Operations Expense		<u>\$ 27,899</u>		<u>\$ 18,027</u>
Customer Operations Expense				
Marketing Expense	6610		0.612150	\$ -
Directory Expense	6620		0.612150	
Services Expense	6620	\$ -	0.612150	\$ -
Total Customer Operations Expense		<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ -</u>
Corporate Operations Expense				
Executive and Planning Expense	6710	\$ (11,056)	0.646369	\$ (7,146)
General and Administrative Expense	6720	\$ (128,092)	0.581891	\$ (74,536)
Total Corporate Operations Expense		<u>\$ (139,148)</u>		<u>\$ (81,682)</u>
Operating Taxes & Other Operating Expenses				
Other Operating Taxes	7240	\$ (29)	0.659593	\$ (19)
Total Adjustment		<u>\$ (206,706)</u>		<u>\$ (126,617)</u>



REDACTED

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Staff Workpaper IS-1.1  
Nonregulated Expense Allocation Calculation

ACT	DESC	ACTUAL EXP PRIOR TO CO'S ALLOC	CALC CO'S EFFECTIVE NONREG%	CO'S NONREG ALLOC	STAFF NONREG %	BASIS OF STAFF'S NONREG %	STAFF'S NONREG ALLOC	STAFF ADJ EXPENSE INC (DEC) REG EXP	Note
<b>Accounts allocated by Monthly Journal Entries</b>									
7240.1000	PROPERTY TAX - HDQTRS & WAREHOUSE		19.85%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6561.0000	DEPR EXP - ALL BUILDINGS		19.81%		0.00%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	-		(B)
6728.7000	PROPERTY INS		19.81%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6112.1100.40	VEHICLE EXP - OTHER	1	19.88%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6534.0100.10	PLANT OP ADMIN - SAL		20.59%		23.27%	PRO FORMA WAGES-PLANT EMPL			(A)
6534.0100.20	PLANT OP ADMIN - BEN		19.83%		23.27%	PRO FORMA WAGES-PLANT EMPL			
6534.0100.40	PLANT OP ADMIN - OTHER		19.85%		23.27%	PRO FORMA WAGES-PLANT EMPL			
6711.0100.10	CORP - SAL		19.71%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			(A)
6711.0100.20	CORP - BEN		19.82%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6711.0100.40	CORP - OTHER		19.66%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6721.1100.10	G&A- ACT - SAL		19.69%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			(A)
6721.1100.20	G&A- ACT - BEN		19.82%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6721.1100.40	G&A- ACT - OTHER		19.81%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
	TOTAL NONREG ADJS PER CO'S MO JES	1,572,703		311,529			304,702	6,827	

Note - Monthly JE's - Co allocated to nonreg:  
19.93% Jan-Nov 18  
18.54% Dec 18  
19.81% Weighted average for TY

**Accounts allocated by Company's 2018 Cost Study Adjustments**

ACT	DESC	ACTUAL GL BAL	CO'S NONREG%	CO'S ALLOC TO NONREG				
6561	DEPR EXP - FURN & OFFICE EQUIP		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
6561	DEPR EXP - VEHICLES & WORK EQUIP		18.54%		23.27%	PRO FORMA WAGES-PLANT EMPL		
6561	DEPR EXP - COMPUTER EQUIP		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
	TOTAL DEPR EXP	54,568		10,116			21,901	(11,785)
6121.0100.10	LAND & BLDG - SAL		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
6121.0100.20	LAND & BLDG - BEN		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
6121.0100.40	LAND & BLDG - OTHER		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
6121.0300.40	LAND & BLDG - RENTAL		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
6122.0400.40	FURNITURE	-	18.54%	-	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	-	-
6123.0400.00	OFFICE EQ EXP - OFFC SUPP	-	18.54%	-	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL	-	-
6123.0400.4	OFFICE EQ EXP - OFFC SUPP-OTHER		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
6123.3400.40	OFFICE EQUIP - MAILROOM		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
6124.0100.10	GEN PURPOSE COMPUTER EXP - SAL		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		
6124.0100.20	GEN PURPOSE COMPUTER EXP - BEN		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL		

REDACTED

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Staff Workpaper IS-1.1  
Nonregulated Expense Allocation Calculation

ACT	DESC	ACTUAL EXP PRIOR TO CO'S ALLOC	CALC CO'S EFFECTIVE NONREG%	CO'S NONREG ALLOC	STAFF NONREG %	BASIS OF STAFF'S NONREG %	STAFF'S NONREG ALLOC	STAFF ADJ EXPENSE INC (DEC) REG EXP	Note
6124.0100.40	GEN PURPOSE COMPUTER EXP - OTHER		18.54%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
	TOTAL GSF EXP	417,015		77,310			170,737	(93,427)	
6623.4100.10	CUST SVC - BILL REND - SAL		28.0677%		51.66%	SUBSCRIBER COUNT	(C)	(C)	
6623.4100.20	CUST SVC - BILL REND - BEN		28.0677%		51.66%	SUBSCRIBER COUNT	(C)	(C)	
6623.4100.4	CUST SVC - BILL REND - OTHER		28.0677%		51.66%	SUBSCRIBER COUNT	(C)	(C)	
	TOTAL ALLOCATED TO NR IN CSA'S	106,805		29,978			-	-	
				117,404					
Other non-regulated allocations									
6711.6000.40	DIRECTORS - TOTAL EXP - GBTA			-					
6711.6000.00	ADD DIRECTORS FEES PD - GB COMM								
6711.6000.40	LESS AMT REMOVED IN CSA EXP8 (DR 114)								
	TOTAL DIRECTORS FEES - GBTA + COMM		11.7815%		40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6723.0100.10	HR - SAL		0.0000%	-	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6723.0100.20	HR - BEN		0.0000%	-	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6723.0100.40	HR - OTHER		0.0000%						
	TOTAL HR			-					
6728.0100.20	OTHER GEN/ADMIN - BEN		0.0000%	-	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6728.0100.40	OTHER GEN/ADMIN - OTHER		0.0000%	-	40.94%	PRO FORMA WAGES-ALL EMPL			
6728.0100.40	LESS AMT REMOVED IN CSA EXP8 (DR 114)								
	TOTAL OTHER GEN/ADMIN			-					
	TOTAL STAFF ADJ - NONREG EXPENSE ALLOCATION							(206,706)	

(A) N/A - Adj to Nonreg included in Staff's PR Adj

(B) Buildings are fully depreciated in 2018 test year. No depreciation expense should be allocated to Non-Reg.

(C) N/A - Adj to Nonreg included in Staff's B&C Adj - Bill Rend-Other exp were billed monthly to Comm.

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Attachment AD-3

Staff Workpaper IS-1.2  
Company's Monthly Journal Entry to Shift Exp to Non-Reg

ACT	DESC	TOTAL 2018		PR ACTS
		TOT EXP	ACTUAL NON-REG CREDIT	
7240.1000	Prop. Tax - GSF Assets			
6561.0000	Depr Exp - Bldgs			
6728.7000	Prop. Ins - GSF Assets			
6112.11 (40)	Vehicle Exp			
6534.01 (10)	Plant Op			
6534.01 (20)	Plant Op			
6534.01 (40)	Plant Op			
6711.01 (10)	Exec			
6711.01 (20)	Exec			
6711.01 (40)	Exec			
6721.11 (10)	Accounting			
6721.11 (20)	Accounting			
6721.11 (40)	Accounting			
		1,572,703	311,529	124,422

Effective Non-Reg Rate 19.81%

Source: DR 56 - Non-Reg Exp Shift 2018

Staff Workpaper IS-2  
Payroll Expense Normalization & Distribution Adjustment

Description	Act	Staff Adjustment	Intrastate Factor	Intrastate Adjustment
Plant Specific Operations Expense				
Network Support Expense	6110	\$ -	0.659593	\$ -
General Support Expense	6120	\$ 1,138	0.659593	\$ 751
Central Office Switching Expense	6210	\$ (2,976)	0.549271	\$ (1,635)
Central Office Transmission Expense	6230	\$ 5,596	0.549271	\$ 3,074
Cable and Wire Facilities Expense	6410	\$ (16,221)	0.721998	\$ (11,711)
Total Plant Specific Operations Expense		<u>\$ (12,463)</u>		<u>\$ (9,522)</u>
Plant Non-Specific Operations Expenses				
Network Operations Expense	6530	\$ (31,276)	0.659593	\$ (20,630)
Access Expense	6540	\$ -	-	\$ -
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	6560	\$ -	0.637236	\$ -
Total Plant Non-Specific Operations Expense		<u>\$ (31,276)</u>		<u>\$ (20,630)</u>
Customer Operations Expense				
Marketing Expense	6610	\$ (16,880)	0.612150	\$ (10,333)
Directory Expense	6620		0.612150	
Services Expense	6620	\$ (12,902)	0.612150	\$ (7,898)
Total Customer Operations Expense		<u>\$ (29,782)</u>		<u>\$ (18,231)</u>
Corporate Operations Expense				
Executive and Planning Expense	6710	\$ (160,529)	0.646369	\$ (103,761)
General and Administrative Expense	6720	\$ (91,618)	0.581891	\$ (53,312)
Total Corporate Operations Expense		<u>\$ (252,147)</u>		<u>\$ (157,073)</u>
Total Adjustment		<u>\$ (325,669)</u>		<u>\$ (205,455)</u>

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Attachment AD-3

Staff Workpaper IS-2.1  
Payroll Expense Adjustment

Description	Act	Payroll Exp		Staff Adj Inc (Dec) Regulated Exp	% Staff Pro Forma
		Actual TY 2018	Staff Pro Forma		
TPUC - Work Orders	2003				2.73%
Depreciation Reserve	3110				0.02%
ADJS TO REGULATED EXPENSE					
Plant Specific Operations Expense					
Network Support Expense	6110	-	-	-	
General Support Expense	6120				4.39%
Central Office Switching Expense	6210				1.38%
Central Office Transmission Expense	6230				7.25%
Cable and Wire Facilities Expense	6410				16.61%
Total Plant Specific Operations Expense					29.62%
Plant Non-Specific Operations Expenses					
Network Operations Expense	6530				17.42%
Access Expense	6540			-	0.00%
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	6560			-	0.00%
Total Plant Non-Specific Operations Expense					17.42%
Customer Operations Expense					
Marketing Expense	6610				4.06%
Directory Expense	6620			-	0.00%
Services Expense	6620				4.88%
Total Customer Operations Expense					8.94%
Corporate Operations Expense					
Executive and Planning Expense	6710				1.62%
General and Administrative Expense	6720				6.38%
Total Corporate Operations Expense					8.00%
TOTAL ADJS TO REGULATED EXPENSE		1,775,760	1,450,091	(325,669)	63.98%
Non-Regulated Expense	7990				33.28%
Total Payroll Expenses					100.00%

Staff Pro Forma Normalized Wage Expense  
Source: DR 60

[illegible]

Source: DR 60

Spread PR Clearing  
Spread Vehicle Exp  
Allocate Monthly JE NR %'s

Category	Percentage
Very satisfied	59.06%
Satisfied	40.94%
Not satisfied	0%
Very dissatisfied	0%
Don't know	0%

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

Staff Workpaper IS-2.3  
Actual Test Year Payroll Expense

The figure displays a large number of horizontal bars, likely representing individual data points or scores, across several categories. The categories are labeled at the top: 'Actual Sal + Bonus', 'TPUC', 'Regulated', 'Non-Reg', 'Vehicle Clearing', and 'PR Clearing'. The bars are grouped by these categories, with 'Actual Sal + Bonus' and 'TPUC' having the most bars, followed by 'Regulated', 'Non-Reg', 'Vehicle Clearing', and 'PR Clearing'. The bars are colored in a light blue/teal shade.





Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Staff Workpaper IS-2.4  
Salary and Bonus Compensation Analysis

Attachment AD-3

Source: NTCA 2018 Survey reports Compensation and Benefits as of January 1, 2018

Employee	Title	Gross Wages	Survey Code	Operating Revenues		Access Lines		FTE - 40		Region - Plains		Base Salary		TY Wage	
				\$ 8,987,975								Avg All Criteria		Greater / (Less Than)	
				First Quartile	Third Quartile	First Quartile	Third Quartile	First Quartile	Third Quartile	First Quartile	Third Quartile	First Quartile	Third Quartile	Avg All Criteria	Third Quartile

The NTCA Survey states: Together, the 25th percentile and the 75th percentile define the middle 50% of all salaries paid for the job. This midrange, based on the reported rates for the position, generally is considered the most reliable indicator of prevailing rates of pay.

Staff Workpaper IS-2.5  
PR Distribution of Managers' Hours

	Common Accounts			Other Reg Acts	Non-Reg Acts	Total
	6534	6711	6721	Tot Other Reg Acts	7990	All Accts
<b>General Manager</b>						
Washburn (Left Employment in 2011)						
2008		1,210.00		-	6.00	1,216.00
2009		1,815.00		-		1,815.00
2010		1,790.00		-		1,790.00
2011		1,118.00		-	-	1,118.00
Rebel						
2008		78.00		761.34	440.00	1,279.34
2009		255.50	114.00	936.00	556.00	1,861.50
2010		1,513.00	346.00	3.00	1.00	1,863.00
2011		1,879.00		-	-	1,879.00
2012		1,874.00		-	-	1,874.00
2013		1,879.00		-	-	1,879.00
2014		1,901.00		-	-	1,901.00
2015		1,910.00		-	-	1,910.00
2016		1,877.00		-	-	1,877.00
2017		1,894.00		-	-	1,894.00
2018		1,894.00		-	-	1,894.00
2019 Jan-May		766.50		-	-	766.50
<b>Office Manager</b>						
Tuzicka						
2008			576.00	625.25	132.00	1,333.25
2009			1,838.00	18.00	6.00	1,862.00
2010			1,825.00	-		1,825.00
2011			1,816.00	-	-	1,816.00
2012			1,830.00	-	-	1,830.00
2013			1,823.00	-	-	1,823.00
2014			1,812.00	-	-	1,812.00
2015			1,785.00	4.00	-	1,789.00
2016			1,751.00	16.00	-	1,767.00
2017			1,786.00	-	-	1,786.00
2018			1,601.00	-	-	1,601.00
2019 Jan-May			700.50	3.00	-	703.50
<b>Plant Manager</b>						
Hagan						
2008	997.84			144.00	139.00	1,280.84
2009	1,862.00			-		1,862.00
2010	1,885.00			-		1,885.00
2011	1,845.00			-	-	1,845.00
2012	1,880.00			-	-	1,880.00
2013	1,849.00			-	-	1,849.00
2014	1,847.00			8.50	-	1,855.50
2015	1,810.00			-	-	1,810.00
2016	1,854.00			-	-	1,854.00
2017	1,829.00			-	-	1,829.00
2018	1,199.00			469.00	102.50	1,770.50
2019 Jan-May	170.50			-	-	170.50

Staff Workpaper IS-3  
Employee Benefit and PR Tax Adjustment

Description	Act	Staff Adjustment	Intrastate Factor	Intrastate Adjustment
Plant Specific Operations Expense				
Network Support Expense	6110	\$ -	0.659593	\$ -
General Support Expense	6120	\$ (2,569)	0.659593	\$ (1,694)
Central Office Switching Expense	6210	\$ (13,279)	0.549271	\$ (7,294)
Central Office Transmission Expense	6230	\$ (1,257)	0.549271	\$ (691)
Cable and Wire Facilities Expense	6410	\$ (71,095)	0.721998	\$ (51,331)
Total Plant Specific Operations Expense		<u>\$ (88,200)</u>		<u>\$ (61,009)</u>
Plant Non-Specific Operations Expenses				
Network Operations Expense	6530	\$ (12,038)	0.659593	\$ (7,940)
Access Expense	6540		-	\$ -
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	6560		0.637236	\$ -
Total Plant Non-Specific Operations Expense		<u>\$ (12,038)</u>		<u>\$ (7,940)</u>
Customer Operations Expense				
Marketing Expense	6610	\$ (3,342)	0.612150	\$ (2,046)
Directory Expense	6620		0.612150	
Services Expense	6620	\$ (31,901)	0.612150	\$ (19,528)
Total Customer Operations Expense		<u>\$ (35,242)</u>		<u>\$ (21,574)</u>
Corporate Operations Expense				
Executive and Planning Expense	6710	\$ (281)	0.646369	\$ (181)
General and Administrative Expense	6720	\$ (31,536)	0.581891	\$ (18,351)
Total Corporate Operations Expense		<u>\$ (31,817)</u>		<u>\$ (18,532)</u>
Total Adjustment		<u>\$ (167,297)</u>		<u>\$ (109,055)</u>

Staff Workpaper IS-3.1  
Employee Benefit & PR Tax Expense Adjustment - PR Clearing Distribution

DESCRIPTION	ACT	BEN ADJ DISTRIBUTION				STAFF'S TOTAL REG BEN ADJS
		STAFF'S PR DIST %	DIST OF STAFF'S BEN ADJ \$	ADD STAFF'S BEN ADJS NOT INCL IN PR CLEARING		
TPUC	2300	2.7%	\$ (477)	\$ -		\$ (477)
PLANT SPECIFIC OPERATIONS EXPENSE						
Network Support Expense	6110					
General Support Expense	6120	4.4%	\$ (761)	\$ (1,808)		\$ (2,569)
Central Office Switching Expense	6210	1.4%	\$ (239)	\$ (13,039)		\$ (13,279)
Central Office Transmission Expense	6230	7.2%	\$ (1,257)			\$ (1,257)
Cable and Wire Facilities Expense	6410	16.6%	\$ (2,881)	\$ (68,214)		\$ (71,095)
Total Plant Specific Operations Expense			\$ (5,139)	\$ (83,061)		\$ (88,200)
PLANT NON-SPECIFIC OPERATIONS EXPENSE						
Network Operations Expense	6530	17.4%	\$ (3,021)	\$ (9,017)		\$ (12,038)
Access Expense	6540					
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	6560					
Total Plant Non-Specific Operations Expense			\$ (3,021)	\$ (9,017)		\$ (12,038)
CUSTOMER OPERATIONS EXPENSE						
Marketing Expense	6610	4.1%	\$ (704)	\$ (2,637)		\$ (3,342)
Services Expense	6620	4.9%	\$ (846)	\$ (31,055)		\$ (31,901)
Total Customer Operations Expense			\$ (1,550)	\$ (33,692)		\$ (35,242)
CORPORATE OPERATIONS EXPENSE						
Executive and Planning Expense	6710	1.6%	\$ (281)	\$ -		\$ (281)
General and Administrative Expense	6720	6.4%	\$ (1,107)	\$ (30,429)		\$ (31,536)
Total Corporate Operations Expense			\$ (1,388)	\$ (30,429)		\$ (31,817)
NON-REGULATED PR EXPENSE		33.3%	\$ (5,773)	\$ -		\$ (5,773)
TOTAL ALL ACCTS		100.0%	\$ (17,348)	\$ (156,199)		\$ (173,547)
TOTAL STAFF ADJUSTMENT - REGULATED EXPENSE ACTS			\$ (11,098)	\$ (156,199)		\$ (167,297)

Source: Staff Workpaper - IS-21.2-Pro Forma PR-Staff

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
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Test Year Ended 12/31/2018

Staff Workpaper IS-3.2  
Employee Benefit and Payroll Tax Expense Adjustment Calculation

Attachment AD-3

		+	+	+	+	+	=				
		1310.0000.00	1310.0700.00	1330.1400.00	1330.1500.00	1330.1600.00	TOTAL SUBJECT	6711.6000.40	6728.0100.40		
		EMPL MED & DENTAL	WORKERS COMP	NTCA RETIREMENT	EMPL DISABIL	GROUP/DEP LIFE	TO PR DIST	DIRECTORS	HI LIMIT EMPL		TOTAL
1	Adjustment to NTCA Employee Insurance Expense:										
	Per Company - TY Employee Insurance Exp	\$									
	Per Staff - Annualized Expense:										
	Actual per GL - Dist July 2019 (DR 99)	\$									
	Annualize Pro Forma Exp	\$									
	Staff Adjustment - NTCA Employee Ins Exp	\$									
2	Adjustment to FICA & Medicare Taxes										
	Company's TY Wages										
	Staff's Pro Forma Wages										
	Decrease in Wages subject to PR Tax	(89,197.96)									
	X Employer's Share of FICA + Medicare Taxes	7.65%									
	Staff Adjustment-Increase in FICA + Medicare Taxes	(6,823.64)	\$	-			\$ (6,823.64)			\$ (6,823.64)	
3	Adjustment to Retirement/Security Prog										
	Per Company - TY R&S Exp										
	Per Staff - Annualized Expense:										
	Actual per 8-1-19 NTCA Inv - Empl'r Cont										
	Annualize Pro Forma Exp										
	Staff Adjustment - NTCA Employee Ins Exp										
4	Adjustment to Workers Comp Ins:										
	Per Company - TY Workers Comp Exp										
	Per Staff - Annualized Expense:										
	Latest Annual Bill-Travelers Ins - 12-19-18										
	Staff Adjustment - NTCA Employee Ins Exp										
	Total Staff Adjustments - Employee Benefit & PR Tax	\$					\$ (17,347.83)	\$ -	\$ (3,631.92)	\$ (20,979.75)	
	Staff's Regulated %								59.06%		
	Staff's Regulated Adj								\$ (2,144.91)		

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
Docket 19-GNBT-505-KSF  
Test Year Ended 12/31/2018

Staff Workpaper IS-3.3  
Disallow TY Concessions for CATV & Internet Pd to GBTC

Attachment AD-3

	6721.1100.40	6728.0100.40	6212.0100.40	6124.0100.40	6623.0100.40	6711.0100.40	6613.0100.40	6423.0100.40	6534.0100.40	Total
Jan 2018										
Feb 2018										
Mar 2018										
Apr 2018										
May 2018										
Jun 2018										
Jul 2018										
Aug 2018										
Sep 2018										
Oct 2018										
Nov 2018										
Dec 2018										
Total	15,279	23,936	13,039	3,061	31,055	8,678	2,637	68,214	11,752	177,652
REG %	59.06%	59%	100%	59%	100%	59%	100%	100%	77%	
Mo JE		Staff Bd Alloc		Staff Alloc		Staff Alloc			Mo JE	
Adj to Reg Exp	9,023	14,136	13,039	1,808	31,055	5,125	2,637	68,214	9,017	154,054

Source: DR 62

Staff Workpaper IS-4  
Billing & Collection Expense Adjustment

Description	Act	Staff Adjustment	Intrastate Factor	Intrastate Adjustment
Miscellaneous Revenue - Staff Adj to Dec Rev	5270	\$ (33,521)		\$ (33,521)
Plant Specific Operations Expense				
Network Support Expense	6110		0.659593	\$ -
General Support Expense	6120		0.659593	\$ -
Central Office Switching Expense	6210		0.549271	\$ -
Central Office Transmission Expense	6230		0.549271	\$ -
Cable and Wire Facilities Expense	6410		0.721998	\$ -
Total Plant Specific Operations Expense		<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ -</u>
Plant Non-Specific Operations Expenses				
Network Operations Expense	6530		0.659593	\$ -
Access Expense	6540		-	\$ -
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	6560		0.637236	\$ -
Total Plant Non-Specific Operations Expense		<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ -</u>
Customer Operations Expense				
Marketing Expense	6610		0.612150	\$ -
Directory Expense	6620		0.612150	
Services Expense	6620	\$ (25,207)	0.612150	\$ (15,431)
Total Customer Operations Expense		<u>\$ (25,207)</u>		<u>\$ (15,431)</u>
Corporate Operations Expense				
Executive and Planning Expense	6710		0.646369	\$ -
General and Administrative Expense	6720		0.581891	\$ -
Total Corporate Operations Expense		<u>\$ -</u>		<u>\$ -</u>
Net Adjustment - Increase to COS		<u>\$ 8,314</u>		<u>\$ 18,090</u>



Golden Belt Telephone Association  
Docket 19-GNBT-505-KSF  
Test Year Ended 12/31/2018

Staff Workpaper IS-4.1  
Billing & Collection Expense Adjustment Calculation

Attachment AD-3

ACT	DESCRIPTION	TY CHGS	ALLOC TO NONREG PER STAFF			ALLOCATE TO NONREG PER CO				REG EXP PER CO	STAFF ADJ INC (DEC) TO REG
			NONREG ALLOC %	TOT ALLOC TO NONREG	REG EXP PER STAFF	NONREG ALLOC %	ALLOC CSA RB\$	MO CUST BILLINGS	NONREG TOTAL		
5260.0000.00	MISC REV (NR CUST)			\$ -	\$ -						
6623.4100.10	CUST SVC - BILL REND - SAL		51.66%	\$		28.06%					
6623.4100.20	CUST SVC - BILL REND - BEN		51.66%	\$		28.06%					
6623.4100.40	CUST SVC - BILL REND - OTHER		51.66%	\$		28.06%					
6623.4100	TOTAL NET			\$	\$ 51,630.98					\$ 43,317.31	\$ 8,313.67

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
Docket 19-GNBT-505-KSF  
Test Year Ended 12/31/2018

Attachment AD-3

Staff Workpaper IS-4.2  
Calculate Test Year B&C Charges to GBTC

Calculated based on # non-regulated customers @ [REDACTED]/cust

	Act
	5260.000
Jan	\$ [REDACTED]
Feb	\$ [REDACTED]
Mar	\$ [REDACTED]
Apr	\$ [REDACTED]
May	\$ [REDACTED]
Jun	\$ [REDACTED]
Jul	\$ [REDACTED]
Aug	\$ [REDACTED]
Sep	\$ [REDACTED]
Oct	\$ [REDACTED]
Nov	\$ [REDACTED]
Dec	\$ [REDACTED]
Total	\$ [REDACTED]

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
Docket 19-GNBT-505-KSF  
Test Year Ended 12/31/2018

Staff Workpaper IS-5  
Building & Vehicle Lease Expense Adjustment

Attachment AD-3

Description	Act	Staff Pro Forma PR Dist %	Staff Adj Vehicle Lease	Staff Adj Land & Bldg Lease	Total Staff Adjustment Regulated Acts	Intrastate Factor	Intrastate Adjustment
TPUC and Non-Regulated Accounts		36.02%	\$ (19,175)				
Regulated Accounts:							
Plant Specific Operations Expense							
Network Support Expense	6110				\$ -	0.659593	\$ -
General Support Expense	6120	4.39%	\$ (2,335)	4,367	\$ 2,032	0.659593	\$ 1,340
Central Office Switching Expense	6210	1.38%	\$ (735)		\$ (735)	0.549271	\$ (404)
Central Office Transmission Expense	6230	7.25%	\$ (3,857)		\$ (3,857)	0.549271	\$ (2,119)
Cable and Wire Facilities Expense	6410	16.61%	\$ (8,841)		\$ (8,841)	0.721998	\$ (6,383)
Total Plant Specific Operations Expense					\$ (11,401)		\$ (7,565)
Plant Non-Specific Operations Expenses							
Network Operations Expense	6530	17.42%	\$ (9,269)		\$ (9,269)	0.659593	\$ (6,114)
Access Expense	6540	0.00%	\$ -		\$ -	-	\$ -
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	6560	0.00%	\$ -		\$ -	0.637236	\$ -
Total Plant Non-Specific Operations Expense					\$ (9,269)		\$ (6,114)
Customer Operations Expense							
Marketing Expense	6610	4.06%	\$ (2,161)		\$ (2,161)	0.612150	\$ (1,323)
Directory Expense	6620	0.00%	\$ -		\$ -	0.612150	\$ -
Services Expense	6620	4.88%	\$ (2,596)		\$ (2,596)	0.612150	\$ (1,589)
Total Customer Operations Expense					\$ (4,757)		\$ (2,912)
Corporate Operations Expense							
Executive and Planning Expense	6710	1.62%	\$ (861)		\$ (861)	0.646369	\$ (557)
General and Administrative Expense	6720	6.38%	\$ (3,397)		\$ (3,397)	0.581891	\$ (1,976)
Total Corporate Operations Expense					\$ (4,258)		\$ (2,533)
Total Regulated Acts			\$ (34,052)	\$ 4,367	\$ (29,685)		\$ (19,124)
Total - All Accounts		100.00%	\$ (53,227)	\$ 4,367			

### Lease Adjustment - Vehicles

[illegible]

Source: GBT Communications Carrying Charge Lease Payment calculations provided on site.

Golden Belt Telephone Association  
Docket 19-GNBT-505-KSF  
Test Year Ended 12/31/2018

Staff Workpaper IS-5.2  
Building Lease Adjustment Calculation

Attachment AD-3

								Calculate Annual Lease Expense - Per Company							Calculate Annual Lease Expense - Per Staff						
Act	Desc	Started Lease	Cost - Land	Cost - Building	Cost - Total Investment	Avg Investment	Depr Rate	ROR on				Annual Tot Lease Amt	Annual Reg. Lease Amt	Actual Lease Exp in TY	ROR on			Staff's ROR	Staff's Reg %	Staff Adj - Reg	
								Co's ROR	Co's Reg %	Avg Invest	Depr Exp				Staff's ROR	Avg Net Invest	Depr Exp				Annual Tot Lease Amt
6121.0100.40																					
6121.0100.40																					
6121.0100.40																					
6121.0100.40	Total																				
																			\$ 7,395	59.06%	\$ 4,367

**Kansas Corporation Commission  
Information Request**

Request No: 56

Company Name GOLDEN BELT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION.

GNBT

Docket Number 19-GNBT-505-KSF

Request Date July 22, 2019

Date Information Needed July 31, 2019

RE: Monthly Expense Shift to Non-Reg

**Please Provide the Following:**

Provide all calculations and documentation supporting each of the monthly journal entries during the test year described as "monthly expense shift to non-reg". If set allocations factors are used to allocate the monthly expenses, provide calculations and documentation supporting the derivation of the allocation factors, state how often the allocation factors are updated, and provide the allocation factors that were in effect during the 12 months prior to the test year, during the test year, and subsequent to the test year.

Submitted By Ann Diggs

Submitted To Stacey Brigham

Response:

See Attached

If for some reason, the above information cannot be provided by the date requested, please provide a written explanation of those reasons.

**Verification of Response**

I have read the foregoing Information Request and answer(s) thereto and find answer(s) to be true, accurate, full and complete and contain no material misrepresentations or omissions to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I will disclose to the Commission Staff any matter subsequently discovered which affects the accuracy or completeness of the answer(s) to this Information Request.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 7/31/19

GOLDEN BELT TELEPHONE  
XFER TO NONREG EXPENSES  
1/31/2018

PERCENT OF UNREGULATED LABOR TO TOTAL LABOR

2003.0000.00	42,687.46	
7990.0100.10	-	
7990.0500.10	-	
7990.0800.10	-	
7990.0850.10	2,971.12	
7990.1100.10	5,578.60	
7990.2100.10	1,777.01	
7990.3100.10	1,169.37	
7990.4100.10	5,004.82	LEAVE THIS NUMBER FOR THE PERCENTAGE THE SAME (came from 12/31/17)
7990.5100.10	56.33	CHANGE IN DEC 2018 (GET NEW FIGURES FROM DEBBIE)
7990.5400.00	-	
7990.6000.10	50.87	
7990.6010.10	77,681.84	
7990.6050.10	10,667.82	
7990.6060.10	57,300.71	
7990.6100.10	122,639.63	
7990.6500.10	3,771.54	
7990.7100.10	-	
7990.7500.10	33,212.41	
7990.8100.10	-	
7990.9100.10	49,173.76	

413,743.29

TOTAL WAGES TO DATE 2,076,087.36  
TOTAL NONREG LABOR AT 12/31/17 413,743.29

THIS ALSO COMES FROM

0.1992899229 NON REG WAGES TO  
TOTAL WAGES AT 12/31/17

PROPERTY TAX  
311735.72/72897181.53

0.0042763755 PROPERTY TAX EXP TO leave and change in 12/18  
TOTAL PLANT

ASSESSED VALUE:

HDQUTRS	28,506	121.90	leave and change in 12/18
WRHSE	4,112	17.58	leave and change in 12/18
A/C 7240.1		11.62	

DEPR RATE	0.0502	
ACCUM DEPR	2,859,048.09	11,960.35
BLDGS		
A/C 6561		11,960.35

GBTA ENTRY RJ200 MANUAL ENTRY #012317

			CREDIT
7240.1000	11.62		2.32
6561.0000	11,960.35		2,383.58
6728.7000	6,194.00		1,234.40
6112.11 (40)	749.67		149.40
6534.01 (10)	10,354.78		2,063.60
6534.01 (20)	8,188.98		1,631.98
6534.01 (40)	3,287.56		655.18
6711.01 (10)	33,143.13		6,605.09
6711.01 (20)	13,768.37		2,743.90
6711.01 (40)	2,356.47		469.62
6721.11 (10)	22,884.73		4,560.70
6721.11 (20)	17,713.90		3,530.20
6721.11 (40)	12,270.57		2,445.40
	142,884.14	0.1992899229	28,475.37

GBTCOM ENTRY RJ200 MANUAL ENTRY #000238

TOTAL OF A/C			DEBIT
0.0610			
7990.0100 (00)	-	-	
7990.0500 (00)	4,029.99	246.00	
7990.0600 (00)	11,650.50	711.19	
7990.0800 (00)	1,375.75	83.98	
7990.0850 (00)	690.58	42.16	
7990.1100 (00)	651.85	39.79	
7990.2100 (00)	4,954.02	302.41	
7990.3100 (00)	363.38	22.18	
7990.4100 (00)	896.19	54.71	
7990.5100 (00)	5,268.17	321.59	
7990.6000 (00)	28,374.21	1,732.06	
7990.6010 (00)	102,314.30	6,245.62	
7990.6050 (00)	9,646.08	588.83	
7990.6060 (00)	16,278.31	993.68	
7990.6100 (10)	215,753.55	13,170.34	
7990.6500 (10)	6,988.43	426.60	
7990.7500 (10)	12,119.11	739.79	
7990.9100 (10)	45,122.62	2,754.44	
	466,477.04	28,475.37	

**Kansas Corporation Commission  
Information Request**

Request No: 63

Company Name            GOLDEN BELT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION.            GNBT  
Docket Number        19-GNBT-505-KSF  
Request Date           July 22, 2019  
Date Information Needed   July 31, 2019  
  
RE: General Manager

**Please Provide the Following:**

In the company's prior KUSF Docket 10-GNBT-526-KSF, the company agreed in the Stipulated Settlement Agreement (Paragraph 10), to "instruct management employees, who currently record all of their time to one account, to directly record time spent on regulated or non-regulated activities whenever possible and record the remainder of the time into a common cost account to be allocated between regulated and non-regulated operations". Please explain why all of the general manager's hours worked were recorded to only one account 6711.0100 in the test year, and no effort was taken to record any time directly to non-regulated activities.

Submitted By Ann Diggs

Submitted To Stacey Brigham

**Response:**

Account 6711 is subject to a rigorous allocation method, demonstrated in DR56 that ensures the general manager's time is appropriately allocated between regulated and non-regulated activities. This allocation is derived from direct reporting. If he were to code time to other accounts, it would cause "double dipping" of his time towards regulated and non-regulated activities.

If for some reason, the above information cannot be provided by the date requested, please provide a written explanation of those reasons.

**Verification of Response**

I have read the foregoing Information Request and answer(s) thereto and find answer(s) to be true, accurate, full and complete and contain no material misrepresentations or omissions to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I will disclose to the Commission Staff any matter subsequently discovered which affects the accuracy or completeness of the answer(s) to this Information Request.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*  
7/31/19



**Kansas Corporation Commission  
Information Request**

Request No: 86

Company Name                GOLDEN BELT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION.                                GNBT  
Docket Number             19-GNBT-505-KSF  
Request Date                August 6, 2019  
Date Information Needed    August 15, 2019  
  
RE: General Manager Payroll Costs

**Please Provide the Following:**

Regarding the response to DR 63:

- (a) State how labor costs for the general manager were charged and allocated during the most recent prior docket.
- (b) State the changes the company made to the way labor costs for the general manager were charged and/or allocated subsequent to the prior docket, and state the date(s) the changes were implemented and were in effect.
- (c) If no changes were implemented subsequent to the prior docket, state why the company stipulated under the Settlement Agreement to directly record management time spent on regulated or non-regulated activities whenever possible, and record the remainder to a common cost account to be allocated.
- (d) Explain how allocating all of the general manager's payroll costs between regulated and non-regulated operations using a proxy allocation factor derived from other employee's time "ensures the general manager's time is appropriately allocated".

Submitted By   Ann Diggs  
Submitted To   Stacey Brigham

**Response:**

GM labor costs are allocated using the total employee labor activities to most accurately reflect the total company oversight duties of this position. In addition, there are limitations with the company's software that do not readily allow exceptions to time reporting allocations to be made.

If for some reason, the above information cannot be provided by the date requested, please provide a written explanation of those reasons.

**Verification of Response**

I have read the foregoing Information Request and answer(s) thereto and find answer(s) to be true, accurate, full and complete and contain no material misrepresentations or omissions to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I will disclose to the Commission Staff any matter subsequently discovered which affects the accuracy or completeness of the answer(s) to this Information Request.

Signed: 

Date: 8/15/19

## Request No: 87

GNBT

Date Information Needed August 15, 2019

**Please Provide the Following:**

Submitted To Stacey Brigham

See Attached

I have read the foregoing Information Request and answer(s) thereto and find answer(s) to be true, accurate, full and complete and contain no material misrepresentations or omissions to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I will disclose to the Commission Staff any matter subsequently discovered which affects the accuracy or completeness of the answer(s) to this Information Request.

Signed:

Date:

# **GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

## **MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of January 1, 2018, by and between GBTC Communications, Inc., a Kansas company (hereinafter "GBTC"), having its principal place of business at Rush Center, Kansas, and Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc., a Kansas corporation (hereinafter "GBTA"), having its principal place of business at Rush Center, Kansas.

### **RECITALS**

A. GBTC is organized to provide Internet, video, and other "non-regulated" services and is certified by the State Corporate Commission of the State of Kansas to provide local and long distance telecommunications services, as well as certain information services, such as Internet access, as determined by the Federal Communications Commission.

B. GBTA is a KCC regulated and certified Telephone Company with the capability to provide management, administrative and operating services to third party telecommunications companies.

C. GBTC desires to obtain and GBTA desires to provide management, administrative, operating services and to lease joint-use assets as necessary to support its business activities.

### **AGREEMENTS**

FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual covenants herein, the parties agree:

1. Management and Operational Services. GBTA shall provide services to GBTC for the management and operations of GBTC's business, which shall include but not be limited to the following scope of work:

A. Assist GBTC in establishing budgets, financial analyses, pro forma estimates or projections, future investment plans and any other financial services or advisory service as requested by GBTC, including necessary documentation and analyses in support of independent financing sought by GBTC;

B. Assist GBTC in collecting, storing and disseminating data and information necessary for the administration and operation of the activities of GBTC;

C. Carry out the general management, executive functions and coordinating activities related to all business activities of GBTC, including providing executive personnel for GBTC and securing insurance policies;

**GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

D. Maintain all financial books and records of GBTC and obtain external accounting support as needed, such as an annual audit of GBTC's financial statements and records;

E. Compute and prepare statements of charges due to GBTC for services rendered by GBTC to its end user customers promptly when billing information is available to GBTA, which such statements may be included in billing statements issued by GBTA for its business purposes and with appropriate designations of GBTC services for which the latter provides;

F. Demand, collect, receive payments from GBTC customers, and negotiate payment plans, and if necessary take all appropriate legal actions to collect outstanding charges issued by GBTA pursuant to subsection E. All collections by GBTA of charges due GBTC shall be held by GBTA for the account of GBTC, remitted to GBTC or deposited in a joint account of GBTA and GBTC for GBTC's credit.

G. At GBTC's request, establish and maintain one or more bank accounts for the handling of funds of GBTC, which bank accounts may be joint accounts with GBTA provided that the funds of GBTA and GBTC shall be capable of being determined from the books and records of GBTC maintained by GBTA;

H. Prepare and file, or cause to be prepared and filed, all legal documents/forms, applications, information requests and other reports to regulatory agencies which are required of GBTC, and which may to the extent required or permitted by applicable law or in the best judgment of GBTA and GBTC be consolidated with those of GBTA, such as tax returns, authorization of service, tariffs, annual reports, etc.;

I. Provide administrative and operations personnel necessary for carrying on the business of GBTC;

J. Provide building space, office furniture and equipment adequate to conduct the activities of GBTC;

K. Any other duties reasonably requested by GBTC to which GBTA has agreed, including any duties specifically set forth in an Exhibit A to this Agreement, which Exhibit A may be modified from time to time by the parties.

Exhibit A provides the charges for services offered in this Section 1. It shall also contain any additional provisions, limitations or instructions under which the services identified in Section 1 are provided.

## **GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

### **2. Office Management, Financial, Secretarial and Operating Personnel.**

GBTA shall provide office management, financial, secretarial and operating personnel to GBTC as are necessary to carry out the scope of work in a reasonable manner, as required by the laws of the State of Kansas applicable to GBTC and the policies and directions established by GBTC.

### **3. General Personnel Matters.**

GBTC recognizes that the GBTA management team and other GBTA personnel will also perform duties to carry out their responsibilities to GBTA and possibly to other organizations with which GBTA may have agreements similar to this Agreement, but GBTA shall be responsible for ensuring that the GBTA General Manager and other GBTA personnel who perform duties for GBTC under this Agreement will carry out the terms of this Agreement to the best of their abilities and that sufficient time will be devoted to carry out the scope of work. GBTA and GBTC shall discuss from time to time the amount of full-time equivalent personnel and skill levels that may be necessary to perform services for GBTC.

### **4. Joint-Use Facilities.**

GBTA, at its discretion, may make available to GBTC access and use of GBTA facilities in support of GBTC's business activities. Terms and conditions of such joint-use shall be included in a separate Exhibit to be incorporated into this Agreement. Charges for joint-use assets shall be set at market rates to the extent possible. If market rates are not readily available, then GBTA shall determine its fully distributed cost for the access and use by GBTC of the joint-use asset and make that cost the basis for its charges. Because GBTA is a regulated telephone company it is obligated to charge GBTC the higher of its fully distributed cost or reasonably determined market rates. Tariff services to which GBTC avails itself are not included in this agreement.

Exhibit B provides the charges for services offered in this Section 4. It shall also contain any additional provisions, limitations or instructions under which the services identified in Section 4 are provided.

### **5. Vehicle Use.**

GBTC, at its discretion, may make available to GBTA access and use of GBTC vehicles in support of GBTA's business activities. Terms and conditions of such use shall be included in a separate Exhibit to be incorporated into this Agreement.

Exhibit A provides the charges for services offered in this Section 5. It shall also contain any additional provisions, limitations or instructions under which the services identified in Section 5 are provided.

### **6. Duties of GBTC.**

GBTC shall provide GBTA with sufficient directions and policies for GBTA to carry out the scope of work required of it under this Agreement. The management of GBTA and GBTC shall periodically review the services to be provided by GBTA pursuant to this Agreement.

## GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

7. Records. The books, records, financial accounts and documents of GBTC shall be maintained separately and shall be the sole and private property of GBTC and shall not be commingled with the books, records, financial accounts and documents of GBTA, except for the production of consolidated financial statements and tax returns required to be filed by GBTA with various taxing jurisdictions and regulatory agencies or to be utilized by GBTA in reporting the results of its operations and financial condition to its members. The books, records and financial accounts of GBTC shall be maintained in a confidential manner subject to the provisions of this Section and applicable law.

8. Payments. For the services and facilities provided to each entity under this Agreement, each entity shall pay the amounts agreed to and presented in Exhibit A, and other Exhibits as may be incorporated herein. Payments for services rendered shall be paid at such times and manner as specified in the currently applicable Exhibit A and other Exhibits or as the parties may otherwise agree in writing. At any time the parties agree to different payment terms they shall endeavor to prepare a revised Exhibit which shall replace the Exhibit previously in effect and shall be binding on the parties after its adoption and execution by the appropriate official of each entity until replaced by a subsequent Exhibit. Each entity shall be entitled to receive charges for all costs of services and facilities provided at rates which are reasonable within the communication industry.

9. Term. This Agreement shall take effect on the effective date specified above for a one year term and shall automatically renew year to year thereafter until one GBTC notifies the GBTA in writing that this Agreement shall terminate on a date which is at least ninety (90) days after the date of the notice.

10. Independent Contractors. The parties to this Agreement are independent contractors. The personnel of GBTA who perform services under the scope of work defined herein remain, at all times, the employees of GBTA. GBTA shall be responsible for payment of all compensation of the employees, together with all applicable employee taxes, social security, FICA taxes, other payroll taxes, workers' compensation insurance, and all fringe benefits, including, without limitation, medical and other insurance and retirement programs.

11. Insurance; Bonding. The parties recognize and acknowledge that it is imperative that GBTC have adequate insurance coverage for its business operations. The parties shall mutually undertake to determine the most effective and least costly means of providing all of the customary insurance for a company engaged in the business(es) of GBTC, including casualty and liability insurance and fidelity bonds covering GBTA, its employees and agents. The amounts of insurance shall be approved by GBTC's Board. If it can be properly arranged, GBTC may be covered under policies of insurance carried by GBTA.

12. Notices. All notices to be given by one party to the other pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered in person or mailed to the other party, postage prepaid, by certified mail at 103 Lincoln Rush Center, KS 67575, subject to

**GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

written notice of change of address to the other party. Notices shall be effective when delivered or mailed.

13. Limitation of Liability. No party shall be liable to the other for any loss, defect, or equipment failure due to the conduct of the first party, its agents, contractors or other representatives acting in the aid or concert with the latter party, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct. No party shall be liable to the other for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including but not limited to the loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder, even if the other party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

14. WARRANTIES. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OF IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICE OR ASSETS PROVIDED HEREIN. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD-PARTY.

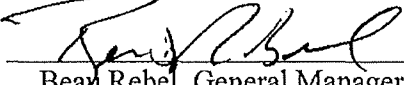
15. Headings. The headings used in this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and constitute neither a portion of this Agreement nor in any manner affect the provisions or interpretations of this Agreement.

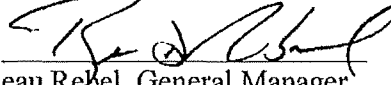
16. Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

17. Applicable Law. This Agreement is being executed and will be performed in the State of Kansas and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of that State.

18. Severability. If any provisions of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Agreement shall nevertheless remain fully enforceable as if the invalid provisions were not a part of the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Management Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representative as of the date first above written.

GBT Communications, Inc.  
By:   
Beau Rebel, General Manager

Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc.  
By:   
Beau Rebel, General Manager

Date: 1-1-18

Date: 1-1-18

**GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

**EXHIBIT A**  
**to**  
**MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**  
**Between**  
**GBT Communications, Inc. (GBTC) and**  
**Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc. (GBTA)**

For services in the Management Agreement between GBTA and GBTC as specified in Sections 1, 2 and 3, GBTC shall pay the following monthly amount:

**A. Management/operational services assessed as monthly cost assignments:**

All GBTA employees maintain individual time sheets and shall record their time worked on GBTC activities daily, weekly, or per GBTA practice using the account codes provided by GBTC. Any and all customary overhead expenses shall be assigned to GBTC in accordance with the labor expenses associated with the time expended on GBTC activities.

Executive labor shall be directly assigned as above. An additional allocation of indirect Executive labor costs may also be allocated to GBTC based on the direct assignment of Executive labor expenses and overheads or on a periodic time analysis and review study of such direct costs.

**1) GBTA Shall Provide:**

- a) GBTA will receive and process service requests into their billing system.
- b) GBTA will receive, bill, collect, and provide inquiry for GBTC customers.
- c) There is full recourse by GBTA for all uncollectible GBTC subscriber accounts.
- d) GBTA will provide a monthly billing summary to GBTC.
- e) GBTA will compute, bill, collect, and remit all applicable taxes in accordance with its existing procedures.
- f) Each party hereby agrees that it will make no disclosure of confidential information provided under this agreement without the prior written consent of the other party.
- g) All data associated with the performance of services hereunder shall be maintained by GBTA for the longer of the following periods: the retention of time required by law or regulation for maintaining tax information or the retention time currently used by GBTA for its own billing information in compliance with legal or regulatory rulings.
- h) GBTC and GBTA agree that upon 30 days written notice GBTC or external auditors will be allowed to conduct an audit of GBTC's specific data subject to this agreement.
- i) Both parties agree that this agreement may not be modified without the written consent of both parties.



**GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

2) GBTC is responsible for:

- a) Compensating GBTA on a monthly basis, as invoiced by GBTA at a rate of \$0.70 per account.
- b) Compensations to GBTA for GBTC toll billing:
  - i) GBTA will receive \$0.05 per Intrastate message.
  - ii) GBTA will receive \$0.02 per Interstate message.

**B. Vehicles.**

- a. Plant Operations. In support of Plant Maintenance and operations, the amount assigned to its related company will be based on its related vehicles costs in accordance with the labor identified in paragraph A above.


- 1. Other vehicle and work equipment expenses incurred by GBTC will be charged to GBTA at a fixed monthly rate.
  - a. 2011 Ford 350 4x4 VIN: 1FD8X3HT8BEB76875  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$669.00
  - b. 2012 GMC 1500 4x4 VIN: 1GTR2TE7CZ171234  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$495.00
  - c. 2014 Chevy Impala VIN: 1G11X5SL8EU130198  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$385.00
  - d. Reserved  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$0.00
  - e. 2011 GMC 2500 VIN: 1GT22ZCGXBZ180081  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$399.00
  - f. 2007 Chevy One Ton Truck VIN: 1GBJK39D97E104624  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$354.00
  - g. 2012 GMC 1500 4x4 VIN: 1GTR2TE75CZ170508  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$454.00
  - h. 2015 Chevy Silverado VIN: 1GB4KYC83FF107260  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$749.00
  - i. 2009 Chevy 1 ton PU VIN: 1GBJK79699E100990  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$227.00
  - j. 2012 GMC 1500 4x4 VIN: 1GTR2TE70CZ167323  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$371.00
  - k. Reserved  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$0.00
  - l. 2015 Chevy Silverado VIN: 1GCVKPECXFZ176425  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$501.50
  - m. 2011 Ford 350 4x4 VIN: 1FD8X3HT8BEB76876  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$440.00

**GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**


- n. Reserved  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$0.00
- o. 2012 Chevy Silverado 4wd VIN: 1GCRKPE75DZ185874  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$588.00
- p. 2015 Chevy Silverado VIN: 1GCVKPEC5FZ76736  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$53.00
- q. 2012 GMC 1500 4x4 VIN: 1GTR2TE79CZ155946  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$494.00
- r. 2015 Chevy Impala VIN: 2G11X5SLXF9141914  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$367.00
- s. 1984 Belshee Trailer VIN: T4014OLBKW8G00  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$53.00
- t. 2016 Chevy Silverado 1500 VIN: 1GCVKNEC1GZ179249  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$891.00
- u. 2016 Chevy Silverado 1500 VIN: 1GCVKNEC5GZ179514  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$891.00
- v. 2015 GMC Cargo Van VIN: 1GTW7FCF0F901123  
Monthly Lease Amount: \$519.00

The parties agree to review the charges established above in this Exhibit A annually and at any time when and if additional personnel and services are required to carry out the needs of GBTC.

GBT Communications, Inc.

By:   
Beau Rebel, General Manager

Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc.

By:   
Beau Rebel, General Manager

**GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

EXHIBIT B  
To  
MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT  
between  
GBT Communications, Inc. and  
Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc.

Joint-Use Facilities

Pursuant to the Management Agreement between GBT Communications, Inc. (GBTC) and Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc. (GBTA), and in accordance with Section 4 of the Agreement, the parties establish the following additional terms and conditions to be incorporated into the Agreement.

Whereas, GBTA operates and maintains any facility in its territory; and

Whereas GBTC desires to lease a portion of the GBTA facilities for its individual use and benefit;

Now, therefore, in consideration of the terms and conditions specified below, and by incorporation of them into the Management Agreement to which this Exhibit B is attached, the parties agree as follows:

A. GBTA shall provide for switching:

- 1) GBTC, and its representatives, the switching process of interconnecting circuits to form a transmission path between users. The process may be conducted using a wide range of technologies and may include a number of peripheral functions.

GBTC is responsible for:

- 1) Compensating GBTA on a monthly basis, as invoiced by GBTA at a rate of \$0.26 per access line.

B. GBTA shall provide for floor space, power and maintenance:

1. GBTA will furnish to GBTC the following services and facilities at the rate shown below in connection with the following equipment: Laser, Power Supplies, Amplifiers, Splitters, Inserters and Rack, owned by GBTC and installed in GBTA's Central Office quarters.
2. GBTA will furnish floor space and power for GBTC equipment. This floor space and power are for the operation of the above mentioned equipment.
3. This agreement shall not bind GBTA to furnishing additional space or power if, in GBTA opinion, such additions may be detrimental to GBTA's telephone operations, or in GBTA's opinion, there is a simple not additional space available for rent. Nor shall this agreement be modified or amended unless such

## GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

modification or amendment is in writing and executed with the same formality as this original agreement.

4. Neither GBTA nor GBTC shall have the right to assign its rights or obligations under this agreement without the express prior written consent of the other party.

GBTC shall utilize floor space, power, and maintenance:

- 1) GBTC shall have access at all reasonable times to the exchanges or offices of GBTA for the purpose of inspecting, repairing or removing its equipment described herein, and such access shall be controlled by GBTA. Access during GBTA's normal business hours may be obtained by entry of GBTC's personnel through GBTA's premises without advance notification. Access at hours during which GBTA does not normally staff its Central Office may be arranged only through advance notice to GBTA's management employees. Direct access without GBTA's employees being present shall not be permitted under this agreement unless GBTA gives such permission to GBTC in writing.
- 2) GBTC hereby agrees to indemnify and hold GBTA harmless from any damages, claims or causes of action which may arise during the term of this lease as a result of any action or negligence by GBTC, its agent, servants or employees, and to pay all reasonable costs and expenses, including but not limited to attorney's fees and court costs.
- 3) GBTC shall provide, on a form satisfactory to GBTA, evidence of insurance coverage in a minimum amount of \$2,000,000 per occurrence, for personal injury, property damage, and business disruption caused by GBTC's personnel.
- 4) GBTC shall be responsible for all insurance coverage on any equipment housed in GBTA's Central Office.
- 5) GBTC shall be responsible for the payment of all personal property taxes attributable to GBTC's property and shall hold GBTA harmless from the payment thereof.

C. GBTC shall provide office space at the two locations listed below:

1. GBTC leases office space located at 114 West Main Street Ness City, KS 67560.
2. GBTC leases office space located at 101 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street Ellis, KS 67637.
3. GBTC leases warehouse space located in Rush Center, KS 67575.

GBTA is responsible for:

- 1) Compensating GBTC on a monthly basis, \$688.67 for the Ness City location, \$931.58 for the Ellis location, and \$2,162.62 for the Rush Center location for the rent of the office and/or warehouse space provided.
- 2) GBTA hereby agrees to indemnify and hold GBTC harmless from any damages, claims or causes of action which may arise during the term of this lease as a result of any action or negligence by GBTA, its agent, servants or employees, and to

**GOLDENBELT TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.**

pay all reasonable costs and expenses, including but not limited to attorney's fees and court costs.

- 3) GBTA shall provide, on a form satisfactory to GBTC, evidence of insurance coverage in a minimum amount of \$2,000,000 per occurrence, for personal injury, property damage, and business disruption caused by GBTA's personnel.
- 4) GBTA shall be responsible for all insurance coverage on any equipment housed in GBTC's office space.

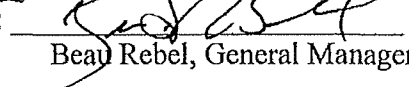
**D. GBTC to provide wind tower generated power:**

- 1) GBTC will shall maintain and provide KWH for power consumption for use.
- 2) The rate of \$.129827 per KWH will be utilized for monthly billing purposes.
- 3) Of the monthly bill, the cost will be allocated by 19.93% to GBTC and 80.07% to GBTA for monthly consumption.

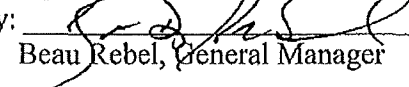
The term of this agreement shall run concurrent with the Management Agreement to which it is attached. Either party may terminate the specific agreement embodied in this Exhibit B upon 90 days written notice.

Either party shall have the right to assign its rights, duties and obligations herein to an affiliate company of either company without the consent of the other party, but only upon 90 days notice.

GBT Communications, Inc.

By:   
Beau Rebel, General Manager


Golden Belt Telephone Association, Inc.

By:   
Beau Rebel, General Manager

## VERIFICATION

[illegible]

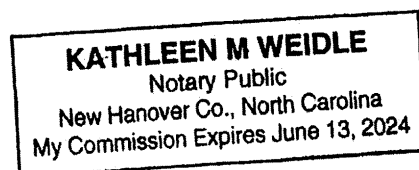
Ann Diggs, being duly sworn upon her oath deposes and states that she is a Consultant for the Kansas Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas; that she has read and is familiar with the foregoing *Direct Testimony*, and that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of her knowledge, information and belief.

  
Ann Diggs  
Consultant for Staff  
Kansas Corporation Commission  
of the State of Kansas

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 10 day of October, 2019.

Kathleen M. Welch  
Notary Public

My Appointment Expires: 6/13/2024



## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

19-GNBT-505-KSF

I, the undersigned, certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Direct Testimony was served via electronic service this 11th day of October, 2019, to the following:

BEAU REBEL, GENERAL MANAGER  
GOLDEN BELT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION.  
103 LINCOLN ST  
PO BOX 229  
RUSH CENTER, KS 67575  
Fax: 785-372-4210  
brebel@gbtlive.com

DENNIS C SMITH  
GVNW CONSULTING, INC.  
2930 MONTVALE DRIVE SUITE B  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704  
Fax: 719-594-5803  
dsmith@gvnw.com

COLLEEN JAMISON  
JAMISON LAW, LLC  
P O BOX 128  
TECUMSEH, KS 66542  
colleen.jamison@jamisonlaw.legal

PHOENIX ANSHUTZ, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604  
Fax: 785-271-3354  
p.anshutz@kcc.ks.gov

AHSAN LATIF, LITIGATION COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604  
Fax: 785-271-3354  
a.latif@kcc.ks.gov

MICHAEL NEELEY, LITIGATION COUNSEL  
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION  
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD  
TOPEKA, KS 66604  
Fax: 785-271-3167  
m.neeley@kcc.ks.gov

DANIEL MESZLER, SENIOR REGULATORY CONSULTANT  
TCA, Inc.  
526 Chapel Hills Drive  
Suite 100  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
dmeszler@tcatel.com

  
Ann Murphy