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July 17, 2017

via Electronic Submission

Ms. Kavita Kale, Executive Secretary
Michigan Public Service Commission
7109 W. Saginaw Highway
P.O. Box 30221
Lansing MI 48909

**Re: In the matter, on the Commission's)
Own Motion, on the Certification of) Case No. U-18216
Eligible Telecommunications Carriers)**

Dear Ms. Kale:

Enclosed for filing please find the PDF attachment for Baraga Telephone Company's response to a MPSC Staff request to address the following:

Line 920 Indicates that there is a pdf attachment (310675mi920.pdf). However there is no document included.

The document for Line 920 is hereby submitted.

Thank you,

/s/ Cassandra Heyne

Cassandra Heyne, authorized representative for:
Baraga Telephone Company

cheyne@jsitel.com

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204 State St. P. O. Box 9
Baraga, Mi. 49908

(906) 353 – 6644 Fax (906) 353 - 7550

Baraga Telephone Co.

May 31, 2017

Tribal Lands Engagement Letter
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Baraga, MI 49908

Re: Form 481 Line 900 – Tribal Reporting

Dear Sirs:

Line 900 – Tribal Land Offerings: Yes.

Line 910 – Tribal Land: The Baraga Telephone Company, BTC, serves the portion of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, KBIC, located within Baraga County, Michigan. The KBIC Marquette Casino is served by BTC’s affiliate Peninsula Fiber Network’s fiber optic cable. The telephone switching functions and the data services originate in our Baraga office.

Line 920. Tribal Engagement: It should be noted that I am a member of this Indian Community, enrollment number 5179. Although I do not involve myself in Tribal politics, I do vote in all Tribal elections.

The Baraga Telephone Company also has an ongoing contract with the Keweenaw Bay Community College for I.T. support.

Line 921. Needs Assessment and Deployment Planning: The Baraga Telephone Company worked closely with Mr. Bruce LaPoint, the Tribal Director of Public Works and Mr. Dave Friedrichs, a consultant, to complete a bore under a Michigan Highway, M-38 to facilitate the connection of solar panels on the North side of the highway to the Tribal Health Center on the South side.

Numerous BTC employees met with Tribal communications personnel and Mr. Michael Schrader the General Manager of the Ojibwa Casinos in Baraga and Marquette to improve data links between the casinos. A fiber optic cable drop was installed into the Marquette casino by BTC’s affiliate Peninsula Fiber Network.

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Line 922. Feasibility and Sustainability Planning: Yes, personnel from the Baraga Telephone Company communicate regularly (almost daily) with Tribal personnel to discuss network changes or upgrades to Tribal services. I met with the Tribal Council on Nov. 10, 2016 to discuss Tribal needs and deployment planning. In 2017 and 2018 both casinos in Baraga and Marquette will be renovated.

Line 923. Marketing Services in a Culturally Sensitive Manner: Yes, The Baraga Telephone Company does most of its marketing by direct personal contact. The Baraga Telephone Company employs two Tribal members besides myself. Our primary Customer Service Representative Julie Petosky is a Tribal member. She consults often with Tribal accounting concerning billing questions. Another of our Tribal member employees is Tim Gerard. Tim is our main contact person with the Tribe concerning their internal telephone system and telephone service in general. Another BTC employee, our Network Manager consults often with the Tribal IT manager to resolve both internal Tribal network issues and bandwidth upgrades.

Line 924 – Compliance with Right of Way Processes:

Line 925 – Compliance with Land Use Permitting Requirements:

Line 926 – Compliance with Facility Siting Rules:

Line 927 – Compliance with Environmental Review Processes:

Line 928 – Compliance with Cultural Preservation Review Processes: Yes, the Baraga Telephone Company consults with Tribal representatives anytime construction takes place on or near Tribal land.

Line 929 – Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing Requirements: On November 3, 2016, the Baraga Telephone Company applied for a Tribal Business license for 2017. On November 17, 2016 BTC was granted a license for the calendar year 2017.

The following Tribal anchor institutions are connected with Baraga Telephone Company fiber optic cable for connection to the outside world and also for an internal Tribal network:

- The Tribal Industrial Park, including Tribal Housekeeping / Tribal Maintenance, Tribal Public Works, Ojibwa Plumbing & Heating and the Tribal Transfer Station.
- KBIC Social Services
- KBIC Casino & Motel
- KBIC Marquette Casino
- KBIC Tribal Center
- Keweenaw Bay Community College campuses in Baraga and in L'Anse
- KBIC Pre Primary Education Program
- Office of Domestic Violence against Women
- The KBIC Health & Education Center

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- The Tribal Radio Station
- The Tribal Office of Planning & Development
- The Tribal Police Office
- The Pines Convenience Center (Service Station)
- Tribal Court & the KBIC Office of Child Support
- The Tribal Cultural Center (Located in the Ojibwa Park)
- KBIC Senior Citizens Building
- The Tribal Housing Commission Building
- The Tribal Fish Hatchery
- The old Tribal Construction building (not used at present)
- The Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Housing & Community Development Corporation office in L'Anse, MI
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Sincerely,

Paul W. Stark

pwstark@up.net

President and General Manager, Baraga Telephone Company