



## Filing Receipt

**Received - 2021-11-10 03:09:23 PM**  
**Control Number - 52827**  
**ItemNumber - 1**

DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

<b>APPLICATION OF WEST PLAINS</b>	<b>§</b>	
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. TO</b>	<b>§</b>	<b>PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION</b>
<b>RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE TEXAS</b>	<b>§</b>	
<b>UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PURSUANT</b>	<b>§</b>	<b>OF TEXAS</b>
<b>TO 16 TAC § 26.406</b>	<b>§</b>	

**WEST PLAINS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S  
APPLICATION TO RECOVER FUNDS FROM THE TUSF**

West Plains Telecommunications, Inc. ("West Plains"), pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 26.406 ("TAC") and Public Utility Regulatory Act ("PURA") Section § 56.025, submits this Application ("Application") to Recover Funds from the Texas Universal Service Fund ("TUSF") as a result of a reduction in high-cost assistance revenue caused by a commission order, rule, or policy. In support of this Application, West Plains would show as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On June 5, 2020, Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC") recommended that the TUSF assessment rate be raised from 3.3% to 6.4% to keep TUSF solvent and allow the PUC to continue to meet all obligations.<sup>1</sup> The Commissioners chose not to raise the assessment, thus allowing disbursements to exceed receipts. Rather than (1) address the issue, (2) take actions which would generate enough revenues to cover obligations, or (3) properly initiate proceedings to adjust distributions under law or rule, by independent action of the PUC the fund was allowed to become insolvent.

On January 7, 2021, small and rural carriers such as West Plains were notified by Solix, who is the PUC's contracted administrator of the TUSF, that the projected payout for the November 2020 reimbursements would be in the 30-40% range.<sup>2</sup> This was calculated in accordance with a December 2020 contract amendment<sup>3</sup> between the PUC and Solix which would prioritize programs within the TUSF, paying out prorated distributions calculated based only on TUSF receipts and funds available, but without consideration to the PUC's legal obligation. Slightly more than a week after receiving this notice, small and rural carriers such as West Plains actually received only 35.6% of the TUSF revenue which they were entitled to receive by prior

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<sup>1</sup> *Review of USF Rate*, Project 50796, Memorandum -- Draft Order, June 5, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> See attached January 7, 2021, Solix Letter, Exhibit A.

<sup>3</sup> See attached Amendment to Contract, Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 473-19-00006 Between the Public Utility Commission of Texas and Solix, Inc., Exhibit B.

PUC final orders. This proration of support has continued on a monthly basis with now 10 payments made to small and rural carriers such as West Plains at an amount grossly short of the amount they are entitled, as a matter of law, to receive.

Over this time period the PUC has taken no action to address this shortfall, and in fact, despite the urging of numerous legislators to take action,<sup>4</sup> TUSF has not been on any open meeting agenda since June of 2020. This Application will be the first of a series of filings to be made by West Plains in order to recover the shorted amount of TUSF funds, on a month-by-month basis, until such time as the company is made whole on legally obligated TUSF payments and adequate funding of the TUSF is restored. West Plains recognizes the fact that the TUSF is not collecting enough revenue to pay all current obligations, much less make even one company whole on the entire shortfall placed upon them, thus the filing for one month of recovery at this time. As an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (“ILEC”) that is eligible under the provisions of § 56.025 and based on the priority given under the contract amendment with Solix, West Plains is entitled to recover the requested funds from the TUSF as available with priority before other prorated distributions are made.

The decision to make this filing was not made lightly as West Plains recognizes that it may place other recipients of TUSF that are not eligible for this process at a disadvantage by making even less TUSF funding available for prorated distribution. However, as a rate-of-return company whose financials are reviewed annually by the PUC and whose rates, expenses, and revenues, including TUSF revenues, have been found reasonable,<sup>5</sup> West Plains can no longer sustain operating at a severe revenue deficit based on a unilateral policy change made by the PUC. Continued operation at a deficit will not continue to allow ILECs such as West Plains to maintain reasonable rates for local exchange service and places the entirety of their network at risk, and placing all rural communications, including broadband services at risk.

## **II. JURISDICTION**

The Commission has jurisdiction and authority to grant the relief requested by West Plains pursuant to PURA § 56.025(a) and (b). PURA § 56.025 sets forth the following:

- (a) In addition to the authority provided by Section 56.021;

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<sup>4</sup> *Review of USF Rate*, Project 50796, Item nos. 17-30, 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, 46, 47, 50 55.

<sup>5</sup> *Commission Staff's Final Recommendation*, Project 50492, 2019 Annual Report of West Plains Telecommunications, Inc. Under 16 TAC § 26.407(e), (December 14, 2020).

- (1) for each local exchange company that serves fewer than 31,000 access lines and each cooperative, the commission may adopt a mechanism necessary to maintain reasonable rates for local exchange telephone service; and
  - (2) for each local exchange company and each cooperative that serves 31,000 or fewer access lines and that on June 1, 2013, is not an electing company under Chapter 58 or 59, the commission shall adopt rules to expand the universal service fund in the circumstances prescribed by this section.
- (b) The commission shall implement a mechanism through the universal service fund to replace the reasonably projected reduction in high-cost assistance revenue caused by a commission order, rule, or policy. This subsection does not apply to an order entered in a proceeding related to an individual company's revenue requirements.

As high-cost assistance revenue is, by its very definition, meant to assist providers in providing basic local telecommunications service at reasonable rates in high-cost rural areas, this Application is properly brought under both PURA 56.025 section (a) and (b).

Rules implementing PURA § 56.025, 16 TAC § 26.406, state, in part, that an ILEC serving under 31,000 lines may recover funds from the TUSF under this section. West Plains is a small, rural ILEC serving fewer than 31,000 access lines in Texas and is eligible to seek replacement of funds from the TUSF for reasonably projected reduction in high-cost assistance revenue caused by order rule or policy of the PUC. According to rule, the commission shall, through the universal service fund, allow an ILEC to replace the reasonably projected reduction in revenues caused by that regulatory action.

### **III. NOTICE AND AFFECTED PARTIES**

West Plains requests that notice of this proceeding be published in the Texas Register as required by 16 TAC § 26.406(c)(3). This notice should state that West Plains seeks funds from the TUSF under 16 TAC § 26.406 and PURA § 56.025 in the amount of \$63,934.93 to replace reductions in high-cost assistance revenue caused by commission order, rule, or policy to make whole the January 2021 payment which was payment for the November 2020 time period. West Plains will provide any additional notice that is required by the presiding officer pursuant to the Commission's Procedural Rules, 16 TAC § 22.55. Known parties affected by this proceeding are West Plains and the TUSF administrator.

### **IV. FACTS AND RELIEF SOUGHT**

As set forth in PURA § 56.025 (a) and (b), and in accordance with TAC § 26.406, the commission shall implement a mechanism through the universal service fund to replace the

reasonably projected reduction in high-cost assistance revenue caused by a commission order, rule, or policy and an eligible ILEC can seek to recover such funds under this section. West Plains is an ILEC serving fewer than 31,000 access lines and is not an electing company under PURA Chapter 58 or 59. West Plains is eligible to seek recovery under PURA § 56.025.

High-cost assistance is provided to eligible carriers under two plans by statute, the High-Cost Universal Service Plan and the Small and Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Company Universal Service Plan (“SRILEC Plan”).<sup>6</sup> This is confirmed by the PUC in its Self-Evaluation Report to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission provided to the legislature by the PUC and its Commissioners September 1, 2021.<sup>7</sup> In its report as a part of its discussion on high-cost assistance, the PUC recognizes that statute places small and rural carriers in a different footing than other carriers, specifically:

“The PUCT recognized that state and federal statutes place small and rural carriers on a different competitive footing than other carriers, and therefore established the SRILEC USP, a separate mechanism for the small and rural carriers. In 2011, the 82nd Legislature passed HB 2603 which changed the per-line support to a fixed monthly support amount for small companies that met the established criteria.”<sup>8</sup>

The PUC goes on to discuss the history of the High-cost Assistance Programs, including the changes to the SRILEC Plan which were adopted and implemented through SB 586 (2017). The statute enacted by SB 586 and the rule implementing it, PURA § 56.032 and TAC § 26.407, have some key provisions relevant to this Application. First, statute sets forth that a small provider who makes a request under the SB 586 program shall continue to receive the same level of support it was receiving on the date of the written request regarding this section until the commission makes a determination or adjustment through the mechanism described therein. This disbursement is to be made in fixed monthly amounts based on a reasonable return.<sup>9</sup> Next, the process for this determination is set forth in commission rules and exhaustive annual reports are filed. According to rule, the commission staff uses these reports to determine whether a small ILEC’s support, when combined with regulated revenues, provides opportunity to earn a reasonable return, and whether this rate of return is based on expenses that the commission staff determines are reasonable and

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<sup>6</sup> Public Utility Regulatory Act, TEX. UTIL. CODE ANN. § 56.021 (1)(A)-(B) (PURA).

<sup>7</sup> *Public Utility Commission of Texas Self-Evaluation Report*, A REPORT TO THE TEXAS SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION, September 2021, [http://www.sunset.texas.gov/public/uploads/files/reports/PUC%20SER\\_9-01-21.pdf](http://www.sunset.texas.gov/public/uploads/files/reports/PUC%20SER_9-01-21.pdf) p. 203.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> PURA § 56.032.

necessary.<sup>10</sup> Finally, the process for any adjustment of support revenues is also specifically addressed in both statute and rule. While PURA sets out the guidelines, the PUC's rules specifically categorize small ILECs to determine eligibility for adjustments, set out specific contested case procedures, describe how revenue requirements are revised through the procedures and address specially payments to small providers.<sup>11</sup>

There is nothing, either in statute or rule, that would imply that these payments to small providers are optional or that they are subject to "fund availability". In fact, statute suggests the opposite. In addition to the mandatory language in PURA § 56.032, according to PURA § 56.031 (a)(1) the commission **shall**, in a manner that assures reasonable rates for basic local telecommunications service, adopt eligibility criteria and review procedures, including a method for administrative review, the commission finds necessary **to fund** the universal service fund **and make distributions** from that fund (emphasis added). In PURA § 56.026, statute goes on to say that the commission **shall** make each disbursement from the universal service fund promptly and efficiently so that a telecommunications provider **does not experience an unnecessary cash-flow change** as a result of a change in governmental policy (emphasis added). According to the PUC's own rules, the amount needed to fund the TUSF shall be composed of certain elements including the costs of TUSF programs, specifically listing the SRILEC plan as one of those programs.<sup>12</sup> It goes on to state that when the TUSF administrator determines the amount needed to fund the TUSF, the determined amount **shall** be approved by the commission.<sup>13</sup>

Here, the revenue sought from the TUSF is to replace a PUC initiated reduction in high-cost assistance revenue from the amount determined appropriate under PURA § 56.032 and TAC § 26.407. West Plains' set monthly distribution of \$101,231.16 was set, or adjusted, in Docket No. 50492, and determined reasonable most recently in Project No. 51297. For January, West Plains received only \$35,347.75 of the net amount of the SRILEC high-cost assistance revenue due, \$99,282.68.<sup>14</sup> This resulted in a reduction of \$63,934.93 in SRILEC high-cost assistance revenue which is the amount sought for recovery from the TUSF.

Under § 56.025 and § 26.406, an ILEC is eligible to seek recovery for a reduction in revenues if the reductions are caused by commission order, rule, or policy. In this case, there is

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<sup>10</sup> 16 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 26.407(f).

<sup>11</sup> 16 TAC § 26.407 (g)-(j).

<sup>12</sup> 16 TAC § 26.420(e)(1)(A)(ii).

<sup>13</sup> 16 TAC § 26.420(e)(2).

<sup>14</sup> This amount nets out contributions to the TUSF as shown in the Summary Sheet attached.

currently no alternate explanation for the reductions other than a change in PUC policy. The amount of high-cost assistance revenue is set by PURA § 56.032, TAC § 26.404 and §26.407 and the rules thereunder. The PUC has an explicit duty to fund the TUSF, including the SRILEC Plan. The PUC has the explicit duty to make prompt disbursements to avoid changes in cash flow. According to rule, the PUC has the explicit obligation to approve funding the amount needed to fund the TUSF.

Here, the amount to be distributed to West Plains was legally ordered and determined according to law and rule. On June 5, 2020, PUC Staff recommended that an assessment increase be implemented to keep the TUSF solvent. The commissioners chose to not implement an increase thus causing a self-created insolvency. No actions since that time have been taken to address the issue. There have been no rulemakings instituted and no further public discussions regarding the ongoing and ever growing TUSF shortfall. While there has been no contested case initiated to adjust West Plains's high-cost assistance in accordance with rule, TUSF has not been distributed in a prompt or efficient manner and West Plains has experienced an unnecessary negative cash flow change of approximately \$697,221.60 as of the date of this filing. A contract amendment with Solix, by which the PUC prioritized TUSF programs, thus subjecting West Plains to prorated TUSF distributions, is what is relied on by Solix, the administrator of the fund, to justify the reductions in high-cost assistance revenue. As no authority exists in law, or rule, to underfund the TUSF, to prioritize programs within the TUSF, and no rulemakings or contested cases related to the funding due West Plains have been commenced, there can be no argument that the reduction in high-cost assistance experienced by West Plains is the result of anything other than a commission order, rule, or policy.

The projected impact to West Plains' high-cost assistance revenues for the payment received in January 2021 is \$63,934.93. This amount is supported by the attached affidavit of Mark Washington of West Plains and the documentation and accompanying calculations contained in Exhibit C.

West Plains is not seeking to offset the recovery of reduced revenues through increases in local rates as statute specifies that reductions to high-cost assistance are to be recovered through the TUSF. However, West Plains provides that its residential local rates, including mandatory charges are in excess of \$27.88 and its business rates for local service, including mandatory charges, are in excess of \$40.88. West Plains contends that any further increase in rates would adversely impact West Plains' customers, and universal service; and that any further delay in

distributions of high-cost assistance funds under the SRILEC Plan would place the ability of West Plains to provide local services at reasonable rates in jeopardy.

#### **V. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES**

West Plains designates the following authorized representatives of West Plains in this proceeding and requests that all information and pleadings be served on the following:

D. Daniel Gibson  
Richard, Elder & Gibson, PLLC  
12223 Quaker Avenue (79424)  
P.O. Box 64657  
Lubbock, Texas 79464-4657  
Email: dgibson@regllp.com  
Telephone: 806-798-8868  
Facsimile: 806-798-8878

#### **VI. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, as supported by the attached exhibits and the affidavit of Mark Washington, West Plains respectfully requests recovery of funds from the TUSF to replace the reduction in high-cost assistance revenue for the January 2021 payment in the net amount of \$63,934.93 caused by a commission order, rule, or policy, and any other relief to which it may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

**RICHARD, ELDER & GIBSON, PLLC**  
12223 Quaker Avenue (79424)  
P.O. Box 64657  
Lubbock, Texas 79464-4657  
Email: dgibson@regllp.com  
Telephone: (806) 798-8868  
Facsimile: (806) 798-8878

By /s/ D. Daniel Gibson  
D. Daniel Gibson  
State Bar No. 24045939

*Attorneys for West Plains Telecommunications, Inc.*



STATE OF TEXAS

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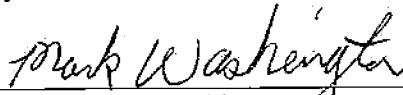
COUNTY OF BAILEY

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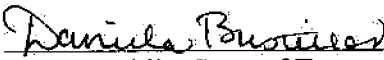
**BEFORE ME**, the undersigned authority, personally appeared MARK WASHINGTON, who swore on oath that the following facts were true:

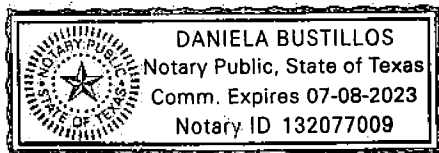
1. My name is MARK WASHINGTON. My position with WEST PLAINS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., is CEO/GENERAL MANAGER. In my position, I am aware of the operations, regulatory requirements, TUSF calculations and disbursements as they relate to WEST PLAINS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
2. I am over 18 years of age and authorized to make the statements herein.
3. I have overseen a review of the amount of SRILEC high-cost assistance revenue which is to be paid to WEST PLAINS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. on a monthly basis, the monthly TUSF distributions which have been made by Solix, and reviewed the calculation of the reductions in high-cost assistance SRILEC TUSF revenue distributed to WEST PLAINS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. as a result of changes in commission order, rule, or policy.
4. I have reviewed this filing and the attached documentation to verify the truth and accuracy of the information provided.
5. In my personal knowledge, information, and belief, the facts as stated in the above, and in the attached documentation, are true and correct.

**FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK WASHINGTON

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME** on this the 8th day of November 2021, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Texas



January 7, 2021

**Re: Notice of Changes to your Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF) Support Disbursement**

The deadline for providing funds to eligible telecommunications providers (ETPs) has been extended from the 10th of the month to the 15th of the month following the ETP's submission of remittance and support worksheet for TUSF recipients (RMT) forms to allow the Public Utility Commission of Texas and Solix time to calculate the percentage of funds to be utilized for the high cost reimbursement distribution. ETPs must still submit RMT forms by the 25th to be eligible.

If the PUCT determines that the TUSF is at risk of insolvency, the PUCT Contract Administrator will inform the TUSF Administrator who must then adjust the process of providing funds to ETPs accordingly:

- a. Each month, lifeline programs including tel-assistance, Texas relay service, specialized telecommunications assistance program, audio newspaper program, intralata and administrative costs will be deemed "first priority" disbursements and must be made before all other disbursements.
- b. If funds remain in the TUSF after paying the month's first priority disbursements, the TUSF Administrator will disburse support awarded under Public Utility Regulatory Act §56.025(a), created to maintain revenue neutrality when the TUSF was established.
- c. If funds remain in the TUSF after paying §56.025(a) support for the month, the TUSF Administrator will disburse support awarded under Public Utility Regulatory Act §56.025(c) related to Federal USF loss recovery.
- d. If funds remain in the TUSF after paying §56.025(c) support for the month, the TUSF Administrator will ensure a minimum fund balance as contracted with the PUCT.
- e. If the TUSF balance exceeds the contracted fund balance after the first priority disbursements and payment of §56.025(a)&(c) support, excess funds will be applied to

the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan monthly support payments, Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan for Uncertificated Areas monthly support payments, and Small and Local Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Company Universal Service Plan monthly support payments. The TUSF Administrator will make whatever percentage of support payments the fund will support, up to 100%, while maintaining the contracted minimum fund balance. If the payments will be less than 100% of the amount that the ETPs are eligible, the TUSF Administrator will pay each ETP the same percentage of the amount for which that ETP is eligible. For example, if the fund will support making 75% of the total eligible monthly support payments for the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan, Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan for Uncertificated Areas, and the Small and Local Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Company Universal Service Plan, each ETP eligible for one of these programs will receive 75% of the support to which they would be eligible. At present, the projected January payout for the November 2020 reimbursements percentage is in the 30% - 40% range.

If you have any questions, please contact:



**Jay Stone CTCM, CTDM**

***Program Administrator***

Public Utility Commission of Texas

W: (512)936-7425 | [jay.stone@puc.texas.gov](mailto:jay.stone@puc.texas.gov)

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO  
CONTRACT NO. 473-19-00006  
BETWEEN  
THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
AND  
SOLIX, INC.**

The parties to Contract No. 473-19-00006, namely the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and Solix, Inc., agree to amend Contract No. 473-19-00006, as specified herein, to provide for prioritization of Texas Universal Service Fund expenditures, in the event that the fund is at risk of insolvency.

**Article 1. DUTIES OF THE PARTIES, SERVICES, COMPENSATION, and TERM**

The parties' duties and the requirements of Contract No. 473-19-00006, the services provided under Contract No. 473-19-00006, the compensation terms of Contract No. 473-19-00006, and the term of the agreement under Contract No. 473-19-00006, will remain the same, except as specifically modified by this document.

**Article 2. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This amendment is effective as of the date the last signatory signs.

**Article 3. AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF WORK**

The existing agreement in Contract No. 473-19-00006, is modified to add the following subsections viii. and ix. to Section I.b. of Attachment A, Statement of Work:

"I.b.viii. In the event that the PUCT determines that the Texas Universal Service Fund is at risk of becoming insolvent, the PUCT Contract Administrator will inform the TUSF Administrator in writing and the TUSF Administrator must prioritize the administration of the funds as follows:

- a. Each month, the following "first priority" disbursements must be made before all other disbursements: Lifeline Service Program (including Tel-assistance), Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program, Telecommunications Relay Service (Relay Texas), Audio Newspaper Assistance Program, administrative costs of the TUSF fund, administrative costs of the Low Income Discount Administrator, Universal Service Fund Reimbursement for IntraLATA Service, audit of the TUSF administrator reimbursement to HHSC for expenses incurred in administering the STAP program, and reimbursement to PUCT for expenses incurred working on telephone issues.
- b. If there is money in the TUSF after paying the first priority disbursements for the month, the TUSF Administrator must disburse support awarded under Public Utility Regulatory Act §56.025(a).



- c. If there is money in the TUSF after paying §56.025(a) support for the month, the TUSF Administrator must disburse support awarded under Public Utility Regulatory Act §56.025(c).
- d. If there is money in the TUSF after paying §56.025(c) support for the month, the TUSF Administrator must ensure the fund maintains a minimum balance of \$4,000,000.00.
- e. If there is more than \$4,000,000.00 in the fund after the first priority disbursements, and §56.025(a)&(c) support are paid, any amount over \$4,000,000.00 must be used towards the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan monthly support payments, Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan for Uncertificated Areas monthly support payments, and Small and Local Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Company Universal Service Plan monthly support payments. The TUSF Administrator must make whatever percentage of the support payments the fund will support, up to 100%, while maintaining a minimum \$4,000,000.00 fund balance. If the payments will be less than 100% of the amount which the ETPs are eligible, the TUSF Administrator must pay the each ETP the same percentage of the amount to which that ETP is eligible. For example, if the fund will support making 75% of the total eligible monthly support payments for the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan, Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan for Uncertificated Areas, and the Small and Local Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Company Universal Service Plan, each ETP eligible for one of these programs will receive 75% of the support to which they would be eligible.

"I.b.x. If the PUCT contract administrator directs the TUSF Administrator to prioritize the administration of the funds under Section I.b.viii. of this Statement of Work, all deadlines remain the same, except that the deadline for providing funds to ETPs under Section V.b. of this Statement of Work will be extended to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the ETP's submission of RMT forms. ETPs must still submit RMT forms by the 25<sup>th</sup> to be eligible."

#### **Article 4. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

The original contract, including this Amendment No. 1, and the Attachments referenced in the contract, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties with regard to its subject matter.

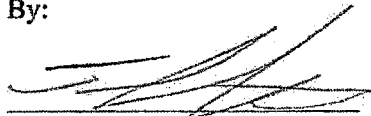
**[The remainder of the page is intentionally left blank. Signatures follow on the next page.]**

Contract No. 473-19-00006  
Amendment No. 1  
Page 3 of 3

In WITNESS WHEREOF, both parties by their duly authorized representatives have executed this contract effective as of the last date signed.

**The Public Utility Commission of Texas**

By:

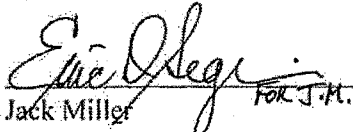


Thomas Gleeson  
Executive Director

Date: 12/17/20

**Solix, Inc.**

By:

  
Jack Miller FOR J.M.

President and CEO

Date: 12/22/20

**TUSF REVENUE REDUCTION SUMMARY PAGE  
WEST PLAINS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**Revenue Period:** November 2020

**TUSF Receipt Date (Payment from Solix):** January 15, 2021

**RMT-1 Total TUSF Support Due** \$ 104,844.36

Less

Assessments \$ 1,948.48

Lifeline Support \$ 542.50

IntraLATA Support \$ 3,070.70

**RMT-1 Net SRILEC Support Due** \$ 99,282.68

**Total Amount Received from Solix** \$ 38,960.95

Less

Lifeline Reimbursement (Paid @ 100%) \$ 542.50

IntraLATA Support (Paid @ 100%) \$ 3,070.70

**SRILEC High Cost Assistance Revenue Received** \$ 35,347.75

**Percentage of High Cost Support Received** 35.6 %

**SRILEC High Cost Assistance Reduction Requested** \$ 63,934.93  
(November Revenue Period/January Payment)



**Texas USF (TXUSF)**  
**Remittance and Support Worksheet for TUSF Recipients (RMT1)**

A. Company Code: TX002345      B. Submission Date: 12/15/2020 3:34:35 PM  
 C. Revenue Period: Nov 20      D. Submission Type: ORIGINAL

**SECTION 1 - CARRIER IDENTIFICATION**

Company Name : West Plains Telecommunications Inc.      Contact Name: Melinda Locke  
 Mailing Address : P.O. Box 1012, Muleshoe, TX 79347, US      Contact Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1012, Muleshoe, TX 79347  
 Telephone : (806) 272-5533      Contact Telephone: (806) 272-5533  
 Email: melindal@fivearea.com

**SECTION 2 - GROSS TUSF ASSESSMENT**

11. Total Taxable Telecommunications Receipts (Reported under Chapter 151 of the Texas Tax Code)	11.	\$79,444.38
12a) Interstate Receipts calculated on an actual basis	12a.	\$20,399.44
b) Interstate Receipts calculated using a safe harbor percentage	12b.	
c) Total Interstate receipts (12a + 12b)	12c.	\$20,399.44
13a) Intrastate Receipts calculated on an actual basis	13a.	\$59,044.94
b) Receipts to which safe harbor percentage is applied	13b.	
c) Safe Harbor percentage as approved by PUCT in Docket No	13c.	0.0000%
d) Intrastate Receipts calculated using safe harbor percentage	13d.	\$0.00
e) Total Intrastate receipts (13a + 13d)	13e.	\$59,044.94
14. TUSF Assessment Rate	14.	0.0330
15. Gross TUSF Assessment (Line 13e x Line 14)	15.	\$1,948.48

**SECTION 3 - NET REMITTANCE CALCULATION**

16a) Base High Cost Support Amt per 26.403 (THCUSP)	16a.	
b) Less: UNE USF Support Adjustment	16b.	
c) Less: FUSF High Cost Support Adjustment per 26.403	16c.	
d) Net High Cost Support (16a-16b-16c = 16d)	16d.	\$0.00
17. Total Small & Rural ILEC Support per 26.404 - # Eligible Lines Served	17.	\$101,231.16

18. NON-TSR Companies - Total Lifeline Support per 26.412: (Maximum support per customer is \$3.50)

a) Total current month Lifeline Customers # of Lifeline Customers 155 Total Monthly Lifeline Support	18a.	\$542.50
b) Total adjusted Lifeline Support or true ups and adjustments this data month	18b.	
c) Total lifeline for this data period (18a+18b = 18c)	18c.	\$542.50
d) ETP's Purchasing Wholesale Lifeline Discounts from ILEC's	# of Lifeline Discounted Lines Purchased Amount Purchased	No Discounts Purchased <input type="checkbox"/>
e) ILEC's Selling Wholesale Lifeline Discount to ETP's		Discounts Sold <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

19. TSR Companies ONLY - Total Lifeline Support per 26.412:  
 (Resale ETP's attach supporting documentation listing number of non-wholesale Lifeline Customers per ILEC)

**EXHIBIT C**



- a) Total current month Lifeline Customers  
# of Lifeline Customers \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Monthly Lifeline Support \_\_\_\_\_ 19a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Total adjusted Lifeline Support or true ups and adjustments this data month \_\_\_\_\_ 19b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Total lifeline for this data period (19a + 19b = 19c) \_\_\_\_\_ 19c. \_\_\_\_\_ \$0.00
- d) ILEC's Selling Wholesale Lifeline Discounts to R-ETP's (e-mail supporting documentation including Company, Number of Lines and amount of those discounts sold) \_\_\_\_\_ Discounts Sold ☐ Yes ☒ No
20. Lifeline Settlement Agreement (Order 34723 Subt.R.\$26.412(f)(1)(c))

Posted Rate			
Territories	#Cust	Rate	Amt
20a) AT&T Territory		0.00	
20b) Century Tel Central Territory		0.00	
20c) Century Tel United Territory		0.00	
20d) Verizon Territory		0.00	
20e) Windstream SW Territory		0.00	
20f) Total Lifeline Customers 0			
Total Agreement Credit (Sum 20a - 20e) )			\$0.00
21. Total Tel-Assistance Support: # of Tel-Assistance Customers (e-mail supporting documentation listing support per customer)		21.	
22. Total PURA (Chapter 56.025) Support Payments per 26.406		22.	\$0.00
23. Total IntraLATA Services Support(Pura 56-028) per 26.410		23.	\$3,070.70
24. Total High Cost Suport per 26.421 and/or 26.423 (Service to Uncertified areas)		24.	
25. Total Additional Financial Assistance (AFA) per 26.408		25.	\$0.00
26. 56.025 FUSF Loss Recovery		26.	\$0.00
27. Total TUSF Support (16d +17+ 18c + 19c + 20f + 21+ 22+ 23 + 24 + 25 + 26)		27.	\$104,844.36
28. Net TUSF Assessment (Line 15 – Line 27)		28.	(\$102,895.88)

#### SECTION 4 - ADDITIONAL REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR HIGH COST PROGRAM SUPPORT PER 26.403 (THCUSP)

29. Total Number of Lines which the ETP seeks TUSF Support \_\_\_\_\_ 29. \_\_\_\_\_ 0
30. Total Number of Access Lines on ETP's Network \_\_\_\_\_ 30. \_\_\_\_\_

#### CERTIFICATION

Officer Name:

Melinda Locke

Officer Title:

Controller

Submission Contact Name:

Melinda Locke

Submission Contact Phone:

(806) 272-5533

Submission Contact Title:

Controller

Under penalties as provided by law, I certify that I have examined the report and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete. I further acknowledge Solix's authority to request additional supporting information as may be necessary.

For Checks by Regular Mail	For Overnight Payments by Check	For Electronic Funds Transfer
Texas USF Solix Texas USF Department 1033 P.O. Box 121033 Dallas, TX 75312-1033 Please make checks payable to "TXUSF"	Texas USF Lockbox 891033 Dallas Regional Lockbox 891033 1501 North Plano Rd Richardson, TX 75081 Telephone: (412) 234-4381 Note inside overnight package: Deposit in Lockbox 891033	Identify the transmittal as: "Texas USF Payment" "Customer Code: TX002345" ABA #: 043000261 Account #: 0769311 BNY Mellon 500 Ross Street Pittsburgh, PA 15262-0001 Please include the TXUSF Company Code, assigned by Solix, to ensure that payments are posted correctly.
<b>Questions:</b> Contact TXUSF Fund Manager	Phone: (800) 899-6078 Fax: (973) 599-6504	stateusf@solixsolutions.com Website: www.solixinc.com

## EXHIBIT C



PO BOX 565 MULESHOE, TX 79347

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

MULESHOE

202 S 1ST ST, MULESHOE, TX 79347

(806) 272-4515

BOVINA

PO BOX 100, BOVINA, TX 79009

(806) 251-1442

DIMMITT

PO BOX 1099, DIMMITT, TX 79027

(806) 647-2265

WEST PLAINS TELECOMMUNICATIONS I  
PO BOX 1012  
MULESHOE TX 79347-1012

INTEREST RECEIVED TO DATE		CUSTOMER NUMBER fbmnt	
INTEREST TO DATE		FROM DATE	TO DATE
		12/31	01/29/2021
SSN		PAGE	16

MEMBER FDIC

Please examine your statement at once and report any discrepancy within ten days. See reverse side for important information.  
Electronic Transactions

\* 01/15/21 TEXAS USF TRADE PAY TX002345 38,960.95 Credit✓

ACCOUNT	PREVIOUS BALANCE	TOTAL DEBITS		TOTAL CREDITS		FEE	CLOSING BALANCE	ENCL
		NUM	AMOUNT	NUM	AMOUNT			
			EXHIBIT C					