Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company

Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

BKD LLP
CPAs & Advisors

Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company

December 31, 2021 and 2020

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Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors
Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company
Nelson, Georgia

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company, which comprise the balance sheets as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statements of income and comprehensive income, changes in retained earnings, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are required to be independent of Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that these financial statements are available to be issued.

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

BKD, LLP

Madison, Wisconsin
April 25, 2022

Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company
Balance Sheets
December 31, 2021 and 2020

Assets

	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,246,033	$ 569,560
Accounts receivable		
Due from customers		
less allowance of $23,313 and $20,214 respectively	538,203	535,223
Due from affiliates	171,297	282,057
Other	411,459	463,454
Materials and supplies	125,233	98,916
Contract assets	379	379
Prepaid income taxes	10,501	86,610
	2,503,105	2,036,199
Other Noncurrent Assets	142	522
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Communications plant in service	37,723,672	37,906,183
Less accumulated depreciation	34,749,449	34,861,189
	2,974,223	3,044,994
Plant under construction	822,217	272,468
	3,796,440	3,317,462
Total assets	$ 6,299,687	$ 5,354,183

Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company
Balance Sheets (continued)
December 31, 2021 and 2020

Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity

	2021	2020
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable		
Due to affiliates	$ 843,781	$ 527,877
Advanced billings and customer deposits	265,608	267,196
Other	471,018	483,677
Accrued taxes	20,689	23,116
Accrued compensation	10,623	8,613
Other	450,643	347,286
	2,062,362	1,657,765
Other Noncurrent Liabilities and Deferred Credits		
Regulatory liability	-	21,506
Deferred income taxes	450,985	390,318
Other, including employee retirement benefits	517,122	651,182
	968,107	1,063,006
Stockholder's Equity		
Common stock, par value $1 per share: 10,000 shares authorized, 1,000 shares issued and outstanding	1,000	1,000
Additional paid-in capital	29,593	29,593
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		
Employee retirement benefits	(125,269)	(241,544)
Retained earnings	3,363,894	2,844,363
	3,269,218	2,633,412
Total liabilities and stockholder's equity	$ 6,299,687	$ 5,354,183

Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company

Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income

Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Operating Revenues		
Local network services	$ 1,038,115	$ 1,092,427
Network access services	2,917,848	2,940,579
Nonregulated revenues	2,808,437	2,785,570
Miscellaneous revenue	243,622	256,574
Uncollectible, net of recoveries	(3,080)	13,926
	7,004,942	7,089,076
Operating Expenses		
Plant specific operations	1,283,088	1,442,436
Plant nonspecific operations	809,156	752,326
Cost of nonregulated services	1,776,255	1,678,008
Depreciation and amortization	986,493	1,590,545
Customer operations	444,728	426,224
Corporate operations	955,887	951,256
Other taxes	36,960	42,363
	6,292,567	6,883,158
Operating Income	712,375	205,918
Other Income (Expense)		
Interest and dividend income	835	24,810
Other nonoperating deductions	(46,454)	(59,832)
	(45,619)	(35,022)
Income Before Income Taxes	666,756	170,896
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	147,225	(94,238)
Net Income	519,531	265,134
Other Comprehensive Income (Expense)		
Other defined benefit plan (net of tax $(40,303) and $4,264)	116,275	(9,916)
Total Comprehensive Income	$ 635,806	$ 255,218

Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company
Statements of Retained Earnings
Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Balance, Beginning of Year	$ 2,844,363	$ 5,974,229
Net income	519,531	265,134
Dividends on the common stock; 2020 - $3,395 per share	-	(3,395,000)
Balance, End of Year	$ 3,363,894	$ 2,844,363

Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company
Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
Operating Activities		
Net income	$ 519,531	$ 265,134
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	986,493	1,590,545
Deferred income taxes	(1,142)	(82,063)
Changes in		
Accounts receivable	169,253	(144,754)
Materials and supplies	(26,317)	(48,632)
Prepaid income taxes	76,109	5,243
Other assets	380	379
Accounts payable	232,095	217,650
Accrued taxes	(2,427)	5,835
Accrued compensation	2,010	(1,383)
Advanced billings and customer deposits	(1,588)	(1,878)
Other liabilities	125,875	(266,493)
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,080,272	1,539,583
Investing Activities		
Capital expenditures	(1,403,799)	(1,533,848)
Salvage, net of cost of removing plant	-	(19,752)
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,403,799)	(1,553,600)
Financing Activities		
Dividends paid	-	(3,395,000)
Net cash used in financing activities	-	(3,395,000)
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	676,473	(3,409,017)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	569,560	3,978,577
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	$ 1,246,033	$ 569,560
Supplemental Cash Flows Information		
Noncash investing and financing transactions:		
Plant in accounts payable	$ 78,981	$ 21,820
Intercompany transfer of property and equipment		
Property and Equipment	$ (4,511)	$ (11,471)
Change in accounts payable	13,989	11,471
Change in accounts receivable	(9,478)	-

Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2021 and 2020

Note 1: Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations and Basis of Presentation

Nelson-Ball Ground Telephone Company (herein referred to as "the Company") is a wholly owned subsidiary of TDS Telecommunications LLC (TDS Telecom). TDS Telecom is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. (TDS). The Company is a provider of local telephone service and access to long-distance service through its local exchange network. The principal market for these telecommunications services are local residential and business customers residing in the exchanges the Company serves, which are located in the state of Georgia.

The accounting policies of the Company conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Telephone operations reflect practices appropriate to the telephone industry. The accounting records of the telephone company are maintained in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts for Telephone Companies prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as modified by the state regulatory authority.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents

All highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase are considered cash equivalents. The carrying amount approximates fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments. At December 31, 2021 and 2020, cash equivalents consisted primarily of money market accounts.

At December 31, 2021, the Company's cash accounts exceeded federally insured limits by approximately $1,246,000.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are stated at the amount of consideration from customers of which the Company has an unconditional right to receive plus any accrued and unpaid interest. The Company provides an allowance for doubtful accounts, which is based upon review of outstanding receivables, historical collection information and existing economic conditions.

Contract Assets

Contract assets primarily relate to the Company's rights to consideration for work completed but not billed at the reporting date. Contract assets are transferred to receivables when the rights become unconditional.

Materials and Supplies

Materials and supplies are stated at the lower of cost or net realizable value and are determined using the average cost method. Materials and supplies consist primarily of items used to maintain and expand the Company's network.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment acquisitions are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Original cost includes the capitalized cost of salaries and wages, materials, certain payroll taxes, employee benefits and interest incurred during the construction period.

The Company provides for depreciation for financial reporting purposes on the straight-line method by the application of rates based on the estimated service lives of the various classes of depreciable property as approved by the state regulatory authority. These estimates are subject to change in the near term.

The estimated useful lives for each major depreciable classification of property and equipment are as follows:

General Support Assets	5-40 years
Central Office Switching	5-10 years
Software	5-10 years
Central Office Transmission	5-10 years
Outside Plant	12-20 years
Internet and Video Equipment	2-10 years

Renewals and betterments of units of telephone property are charged to telephone plant in service. When telephone plant is retired, its cost is removed from the asset account and charged against accumulated depreciation less any salvage realized. No gains or losses are recognized in connection with routine retirements of depreciable telephone property. Repairs and renewals of minor items of telephone property are included in plant specific operations expense.

Repairs of nonregulated assets included in telecommunications plant in service; as well as renewals of minor items, are charged to plant specific operations expense. A gain or loss is recognized when nonregulated assets are sold or retired.

Software

The Company capitalizes software costs (including right-to-use fees) associated with externally acquired software for internal use. Project costs associated with internally developed software are segregated into three project stages: preliminary project stage, application development stage and post-implementation stage. Costs associated with both the preliminary project stage and the post-implementation stage are expensed as incurred. Costs associated with the application development stage are capitalized. Software maintenance and training costs are expensed as incurred. Capitalized software is generally amortized on a straight-line basis over its useful life.

Long-Lived Asset Impairment

The Company evaluates the recoverability of the carrying value of long-lived assets whenever events or circumstances indicate the carrying amount may not be recoverable. If a long-lived asset is tested for recoverability and the undiscounted estimated future cash flows expected to result from the use and eventual disposition of the asset are less than the carrying amount of the asset, the asset cost is adjusted to fair value and an impairment loss is recognized as the amount by which the carrying amount of a long-lived asset exceeds its fair value.

No asset impairment was recognized during the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Asset Retirement Obligations

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that an asset retirement obligation (ARO) associated with the retirement of a tangible long-lived asset be recognized as a liability in the period in which it is incurred or becomes determinable (as defined by the standard) even when the timing and/or method of settlement may be conditional on a future event.

When the liability is initially recorded, the entity capitalizes the cost of the asset retirement obligation by increasing the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. Over time, the liability is accreted to its present value each period, and the capitalized cost is depreciated over the useful life of the related asset.

The Company has determined it does not have a material legal obligation to remove long-lived assets, and accordingly, there have been no liabilities recorded for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Revenue Recognition

Network access services are derived from charges for access to the Company's local exchange network. A portion of the Company's interstate access revenues is based on the Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) support funding which is regulated by the FCC. See Note 2 for additional information about the Company's support funding.

Revenue is recognized when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to the Company's customers, in an amount that reflects the consideration that it expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services.

The amount and timing of revenue recognition varies based on the nature of the goods or services provided and the terms and conditions of the customer contract. See Note 2 for additional information about the Company's revenue.

Taxes Collected from Customers and Remitted to Governmental Authorities

Taxes collected from customers and remitted to governmental authorities are presented in the accompanying balance sheets on a net basis, and in the accompanying statements of income and comprehensive income on a gross basis.

Income Taxes

For federal income taxes, the Company is included in the TDS consolidated federal income tax return. For state income taxes, the Company files a separate tax return. For financial reporting purposes, income taxes are presented as if the Company were a separate taxpayer.

Income taxes are accounted for using a liability method and provide for the tax effects of transactions reported in the financial statements including both taxes currently due and deferred. Deferred taxes are adjusted to reflect deferred tax consequences at current enacted tax rates. Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. Significant components of the Company's deferred taxes arise from plant and equipment and the defined benefit plan. The deferred tax assets and liabilities represent the future tax return consequences of those differences, which will either be taxable or deductible, when the assets and liabilities are recovered or settled.

Tax positions are recognized if it is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, the tax position will be realized or sustained upon examination. The term "more likely than not" means a likelihood of more than 50 percent; the terms examined and upon examination also include resolution of the related appeals or litigation processes, if any. A tax position that meets the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold is initially and subsequently measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon settlement with a taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. The determination of whether or not a tax position has met the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold considers the facts, circumstances and information available at the reporting date and is subject to management's judgment.

Advertising Costs

Advertising costs are expensed as incurred.

Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income consists of net income and other comprehensive income, net of applicable income taxes. Other comprehensive income includes changes in the funded status of defined benefit pension plans.

Revisions

Certain immaterial revisions have been made to the 2020 consolidated financial statements for noncash investing activities in the amount of $234,595 related to property and equipment in accounts payable at year end on the consolidated statements of cash flows. These revisions did not have a significant impact on the financial statement line items impacted.

Note 2: Revenue

Performance Obligations

Revenue is measured as the amount of consideration the Company expects to receive in exchange for transferring distinct goods or providing services to customers. The Company's revenue consists substantially of communications services and ancillary equipment offered to customers.

Local and nonregulated services

The Company offers voice including calling features, long distance, video, and internet services on a standalone basis or in bundled service packages. Each service is considered distinct and therefore are accounted for as separate performance obligations. Voice, long distance, video, and internet service revenue is recognized over time as the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided by the Company as the Company performs. Customary terms require payment within 30 days from the bill date. Billing is completed at the beginning of the month of service.

Network access

The Company recognizes network access revenues when performance obligations under the terms of contracts with its customers are satisfied, which occurs when the customer transfers voice and data traffic over the Company's network. Revenue is recognized over time as the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided by the Company as the Company performs. Customary terms are governed by interstate and intrastate tariffs and require payment within 30 days from the bill date that is in arrears from the performance of the service.

Miscellaneous services

The Company sells ancillary communications equipment directly to end user customers. Direct sales to end user customers include products and may include related services such as installation and home network management services. These products are distinct from the delivered communications services within the context of the contract, and therefore revenue is recognized for products, installation and management on a discrete basis. Revenue is recognized when the equipment is made available and the Company has an enforceable right to payment.

Government support revenues

Government support revenues consist of assistance from the Federal Universal Service Fund as described in Regulatory Matters, Note 11. Government support revenue is not considered a contract with a customer and is outside the scope of Topic 606, however, the Company has elected to account for government support revenues by analogy to Topic 606.

Disaggregation of Revenue

The following table presents the Company's revenues disaggregated by the timing of such revenue recognized during the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020:

	2021	2020
Timing of revenue and recognition		
At a point in time	$ 164,667	$ 166,865
Over a period of time	4,021,971	4,054,571
Total	$ 4,186,638	$ 4,221,436

The amounts do not include revenue outside the scope of Topic 606; therefore, revenue line items in this table will not agree to amounts presented in the statements of income and comprehensive income.

The Company has determined that the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows are not materially affected by any factors such as geography of service location, customer type, or service line.

Contract Balances

The following table provides information about the Company's receivables, contract assets and contract liabilities from contracts with customers:

	2021	2020
Accounts receivable, beginning of year	$ 570,170	$ 531,425
Accounts receivable, end of year	571,996	570,170
Contract assets, beginning of year	$ 901	$ 1,280
Contract assets, end of year	521	901
Contract liabilities, beginning of year	$ 267,196	$ 269,074
Contract liabilities, end of year	265,608	267,196

Significant Judgments

For contracts where access is made available over time, the Company recognizes revenue over the contract period for which the customer has subscribed to service. The Company measures a contract's progress based on days expired over the total contract period, a so-called output method.

Accounting Policies and Practical Expedients Elected

Accounting Policies

For sales and other similar taxes collected from customers on behalf of third parties, the Company is applying an accounting policy election, which permits an entity to exclude from revenue (transaction price) any amounts collected from customers on behalf of governmental authorities, such as sales taxes, use tax, and other similar taxes collected concurrent with revenue-producing activities. Therefore, the Company presents revenue net of sales taxes and similar revenue-based taxes.

Practical Expedients

For significant financing components, the Company elected a practical expedient, which allows an entity to recognize the promised amount of consideration without adjusting for the time value of money if the contract has a duration of one year or less, or if the reason the contract extended beyond one year is because the timing of delivery of the product is at the customer's discretion. As the Company's contracts are typically less than one year in length and do not have significant financing components, we have not presented revenue on a present value basis.

For sales and other similar taxes collected from customers on behalf of third parties, the Company elected a practical expedient, which permits entities to exclude from the transaction price all sales taxes that are assessed by a governmental authority and that are "imposed on, and concurrent with a specific revenue-producing transaction and collected by the entity from a customer."

For measuring progress for revenue recognized over time, the Company elected to use the right to invoice practical expedient. This practical expedient allows an entity to recognize revenue in the amount of consideration to which the entity has the right to invoice when the amount that the entity has the right to invoice corresponds directly to the value transferred to the customer. That is, the invoice practical expedient cannot be applied in all circumstances because the right to invoice a certain amount does not always correspond to the progress toward satisfying the performance obligation. Therefore, an entity should demonstrate its ability to apply the invoice practical expedient to performance obligations satisfied over time.

Note 3: Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment includes the following:

	2021	2020
Communications plant in service:		
General Support Assets	$ 1,686,994	$ 1,747,995
Central Office Switching	4,056,973	4,056,973
Software	1,839,859	1,839,859
Central Office Transmission	8,489,045	9,145,849
Outside Plant	21,257,508	20,763,359
Internet and Video Equipment	393,293	352,148
Total property, plant and equipment	$ 37,723,672	$ 37,906,183

Depreciation on depreciable property resulted in composite rates of 2.62 percent and 4.26 percent for 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Depreciation was $940,121 and $1,509,165 for the years ending December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively. Amortization of software was $46,372 and $81,380 for the years ending December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Note 4: Leases

Accounting Policies

The Company determines if an arrangement is a lease or contains a lease at inception. Leases result in the recognition of ROU assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheets. ROU assets represent the right to use an underlying asset for the lease term, and lease liabilities represent the obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease, measured on a discounted basis. The Company determines lease classification as operating or finance at the lease commencement date. If, at the commencement date, the Company is the lessee in a lease with a lease term of 12 months or less and does not include an option to purchase the underlying asset that they are reasonably certain to exercise, the Company is permitted to not recognize the lease.

The Company accounts for the lease and nonlease components separately. The Company does not consider payments for nonlease components to be lease payments. The nonlease payments are not recorded as lease expense.

At lease inception, the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments over the lease term. The ROU asset equals the lease liability adjusted for any initial direct costs, prepaid or deferred rent, and lease incentives. The Company uses the implicit rate when readily determinable. As most of the leases do not provide an implicit rate, the Company uses its incremental borrowing rate based on the information available at the commencement date to determine the present value of lease payments. Incremental borrowing rates used to determine the present value of lease payments were derived by reference to observable unsecured rates available from Bloomberg bond index from one credit rating family above the Company's actual credit rating as a proxy for a secured loan rate.

Nature of Leases

The Company has no material lease agreements as of December 31, 2021.

Note 5: Income Taxes

Income taxes reflected in the statements of income and comprehensive income consist of the following:

	2021	2020
Federal income taxes:		
Current tax expense (benefit)	$ 115,068	$ (20,218)
Deferred tax expense (benefit)	2,887	(73,162)
State income taxes:		
Current tax expense	33,299	8,043
Deferred tax benefit	(4,029)	(8,901)
Income tax expense (benefit)	$ 147,225	$ (94,238)

Deferred federal and state tax liabilities and assets reflected in the balance sheets are summarized as follows:

	2021	2020
Deferred tax liabilities		
Federal	$ 495,094	$ 471,682
State	43,262	43,751
Total deferred tax liabilities	538,356	515,433
Deferred tax assets		
Federal	47,648	79,538
State	39,723	45,577
Total deferred tax assets	87,371	125,115
Net deferred tax liability	$ 450,985	$ 390,318

A valuation allowance is required to reduce the deferred tax assets reported if, based on the weight of the evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. After consideration of the evidence, both positive and negative, management determined that no valuation allowance was required at December 31, 2021 and 2020 to reduce the deferred tax assets to the amount that will more likely than not be realized.

The tax provision differs from the expense that would result from applying the federal statutory rates to income before income taxes because of the effects of amortization of the regulatory liability and state income taxes.

In accordance with ASC 980, the Company established a regulatory liability of $279,434 at December 31, 2018. The regulatory liability represents the excess deferred taxes on depreciable assets resulting from the reductions in the statutory federal income tax rate under Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The regulatory liability is being amortized over the lives of the related depreciable assets. The regulatory liability was $0 and $21,506 at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

The Company has evaluated its income tax positions and has determined that there are no uncertain income tax positions that need to be recorded or reported in the financial statements at December 31, 2021 and 2020.

The Company's state and federal income tax returns for years 2018 to present remain subject to examination.

Accounts payable due to affiliates includes federal income taxes due to the parent of $306,539 at December 31, 2021. Accounts receivable due from affiliates includes federal income taxes due from the parent of $110,259 at December 31, 2020.

The Company received $42,810 in state income tax refunds in 2021. State income taxes of $2,800 were paid in 2020.

Transfers related to federal income tax payments totaled $0 and $186,167 in 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Prepaid income taxes of $10,501 and $86,610 appearing on the balance sheet at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively, reflect overpayments of estimated state taxes.

Note 6: Employee Benefit Plans

The Company is a member of the TDS Employees' Pension Trust I. This qualified, noncontributory defined contribution pension plan covers substantially all Company employees. Under this plan, pension benefits and costs are calculated separately for each participant and are funded currently. Pension expense for the plan was $1,438 and $890 in 2021 and 2020, respectively.

The Company participates in two defined benefit postretirement plans of TDS. One plan provides medical benefits and the other provides life insurance benefits. Under the plans, postretirement benefits and costs are calculated for the plans and allocated to each participant. Amounts allocated to the Company and charged to postretirement benefits expense were $21,618 and $31,199 in 2021 and 2020, respectively. The Company did not make any cash contributions to the plan 2021 and 2020, respectively. At December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Company's liability for postretirement benefit was $351,032 and $329,414, respectively. The liability is included in other noncurrent liabilities.

At December 31, 2021 and 2020 the Company recorded an additional asset (liability) for its share of the funded status of the postretirement benefits in the amount of $156,578 and $(14,180) respectively. The corresponding offset (net of its tax effect) was an increase (decrease) to accumulated other comprehensive income in stockholder's equity in the amount of $116,275 and $(9,916) at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Note 7: Related Parties

Services provided to the Company by TDS Telecom or any of its subsidiaries are charged to the Company primarily based on the Company's access lines relative to the total access lines of all affiliates receiving the benefit of the respective services. These services include centralized management, accounting, commercial, engineering and data processing services aggregating $3,333,769 and $3,218,744 in 2021 and 2020.

The Company participates in a cash management account with other affiliates. As of December 31, 2021 and 2020 the Company has a balance of $1,246,033 and $569,560 respectively, in such accounts, classified as cash and cash equivalents on the accompanying balance sheets.

Note 8: Concentrations of Credit Risk

The Company grants credit to customers, all of whom are located in the franchised service area, and telecommunications intrastate and interstate long distance carriers.

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents.

The Company maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Company has not experienced any losses in such accounts. The Company believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

Note 9: Asset Retirement Obligation

While the Company has determined it has no material asset retirement obligations, it has included in its depreciation rates estimated net removal costs associated with outside plant assets in which estimated cost of removal exceeds gross salvage. These costs have been reflected in the calculation of depreciation expense, which results in greater periodic depreciation expense and the recognition in accumulated depreciation of future removal costs for existing assets. When the assets are actually retired and removal costs are expended, the net removal costs are recorded as a reduction to accumulated depreciation. The Company has determined the accumulated removal cost included in accumulated depreciation is not material to the financial statements.

Note 10: Regulatory Accounting

For its telephone operations, the Company follows generally accepted accounting principles for regulated enterprises. Accordingly, the Company defers certain cost and obligations and depreciates plant and equipment over lives approved by regulators. While the Company continues to believe the current regulatory and competitive environment supports this accounting treatment, should conditions change the Company would be required to write off these deferred cost and obligations and evaluate the net carrying value of its plant and equipment for any impairment losses absent the future recovery currently permitted by the regulators.

Note 11: Regulatory Matters

The Company received 42 percent and 41 percent of its 2021 and 2020, respectively, from access revenues and assistance provided by the State Universal Access Fund (UAF) Federal Universal Service Fund (USF). The manner in which access revenues and Universal Service funds are determined has been modified in several recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proceedings. Changes include modifications to rate-of-return support, including caps on the recovery of certain expenditures, and reductions in terminating access charges billed with eventual transition to a bill-and-keep framework for the exchange of traffic between carriers. These changes by the FCC created various support mechanisms which allowed eligible rate-of-return carriers to elect an Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM II) option, continue with their existing or revised Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM I) election or remain a legacy rate-of-return carrier.

The Company elected to accept the A-CAM I and revised A-CAM I support offers. The Company is eligible to receive funds of $3,920,521 over a twelve-year period effective January 2017. For the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, the Company received $381,272 and $424,921, respectively, in A-CAM funds, which is included in network access services.

Whether a rate-of-return carrier chooses model-based support or remains on legacy mechanisms, it will be required to meet service obligations, adhere to reporting obligations, and retain records.

The Company has completed an analysis of eligible locations to meet the buildout requirements covered by the A-CAM order. The Company has determined it will meet buildout requirements; as such, no allowance has been established.

Note 12: Commitments

The Company has entered into purchase commitments totaling approximately $44,576 for property, plant and equipment to be placed in service in future years.

Note 13: Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through April 25, 2022, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.