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January 26, 2026

Reece McAlister
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

Re: Application for Approval of Plant Upgrade financing

Dear Mr. McAlister:

On behalf of our client, Darien Telephone Company, Inc. ("Darien Telephone"), enclosed please find for filing pursuant to Rule 515-4-1-.01 of the rules of the Georgia Public Service Commission an electronically filed copy of a financing application to the Georgia Public Service Commission. The application requests approval for "Darien Telephone" to enter into a Promissory note with Southeastern Bank to Finance the upgrade of the outside plant in the City of Darien, GA.

Please note that the information included in this filing as Exhibit A and Exhibit B is being filed as Trade Secret under Section 515-3-1-.11. A Statement for Trade Secret Protection is attached to this letter.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at 478-389-8020 or by email at lgarrett@dmvickers.cpa or David Stevens 912-437-4111 or by email at david.stevens@dtctel.com.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Garrett, CPA

Larry E. Garrett, CPA

Enclosures

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATEMENT FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Darien Telephone Company, Inc. ("Darien") hereby files this Statement for Trade Secret Protection for Darien's Promissory Note included in the attached Financing Authority Application as Exhibits A pursuant to Section 151-3-1.11 of the Rules of the Georgia Public Service Commission ("PSC") and states as follows:

1. Rule 515-3-1.11 requires that a party claiming that information constitutes a trade secret provide, in writing, that basis of this claim. Rule 515-3-1.11(c) specifically requires that this statement detail (1) the economic benefit derived from the information not being generally known; (2) the economic benefit to others if disclosure were to occur and (3) the procedures utilized to maintain confidentiality. This statement is being submitted pursuant to those requirements. Darien is submitting this statement in accordance with the Commission's rules requiring submission of Promissory Note and financial statements associated with a financing authority approval. The Loan Terms included with this filing is trade secret.
2. The subject trade secret material is the Audited Financial Statements and Loan Terms, included in Exhibits A and B in the Financing Authority Request.
3. The release of these terms would disadvantage Darien by providing its competitors with an unfair advantage by disclosing data regarding Darien that is not generally known and would not be readily ascertainable to third parties by proper means. Darien takes all legal measures to ensure that such information is disseminated internally only to those with a need to know, and that all public measures are taken to protect the information when it is required to be filed in a public forum.
4. Release of Darien's financial information to the general public would provide Darien's competitors an unfair advantage in a competitive market.
5. Darien requests that the Exhibits A and B included in the request for a Financing Authority to the Georgia Public Service Commission be treated as confidential information entitled to trade secret protection.

This 26th day of January 2026.

Darien Telephone Company, Inc.

Mary Lou Forsyth

Mary Lou Forsyth, President

AFFIDAVIT

Pursuant to the requirements in Rule 515-4-1-.01, Financing Authority Request,

I Mary Lou Forsyth hereby attest to the validity and
(Name of Company Official)

the correctness of the financial and other data provided in conjunction with this Request for

Financing Authority for Darien Telephone Company, Inc. .
(Name of Exchange Carrier)

and that I am authorized to execute this affidavit.

Date:	January 26, 2026
Certifying Signature:	Mary Lou Forsyth
Name:	Mary Lou Forsyth
Title:	President

DARIEN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
INDEX OF LOAN APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION
SUMMARY	SUMMARY OF LOAN APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSES TO ITEMS REQUESTED
DTC-1	NARRATIVE PETITION BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
DTC-2	CORPORATE STRUCTURE
DTC-3	CONTACT PERSONS FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS
EXHIBIT A	INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2024
EXHIBIT B	LOAN PROPOSAL FROM SOUTHEASTERN BANK.

DARIEN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
SUMMARY OF LOAN APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND
RESPONSES TO ITEMS REQUESTED

ITEM 1 - Identify the name(s) of the Applicant(s) and all Georgia certificate of authority number(s) (e.g., L-123, X-456, etc.) currently held by the Applicant(s).

RESPONSE - DTC-1 identifies all certificate numbers held by Darien Telephone Company, Inc. and Darien Communications, Inc.

ITEM 2 - Identify the type of transaction along with pertinent details including, but not limited to, the purpose of the transaction, use of expected proceeds, terms, expected interest rate, statement as to whether assets of the regulated company will be Pledged, expected date of closure of the transaction, a list of all parties involved the transaction, organizational charts, etc.

RESPONSE - DTC-1 Narrative petition for the loan and DTC-2 Organizational Chart

ITEM 3 - Include supporting material (e.g., purchase agreement, merger agreement, etc.).

RESPONSE - Anticipated loan terms are included in Narrative petition for the loan and Exhibit B Loan Proposal.

ITEM 4 - State whether the proposed transaction will adversely affect the operation of the Georgia certificated carrier(s).

RESPONSE - DTC-1 Narrative Petition for the loan.

ITEM 5 - Identify the name, telephone number, email address and mailing address of the contact person to whom questions and correspondence may be addressed.

RESPONSE - DTC-3 schedule of contact persons.

ITEM 6 - Provide audited financials for most recent fiscal year. If audited financials are unavailable, provide unaudited income statement, balance sheet and statement of cash flows for most recent fiscal year.

RESPONSE - Exhibit A Audited Financial Statements as of December 31, 2024, and 2023.

ITEM 7- If the transaction involves a merger, acquisition, or any reorganization of entities, please provide a diagram showing the corporate hierarchy, both before and after the transaction.

RESPONSE - This transaction does not involve a merger, acquisition, or any reorganization of entities.

ITEM 8- State whether the transaction involves a proposed discontinuance of service or transfer/sale of customer base.

RESPONSE The transaction does not involve a proposed discontinuance of service or a transfer/sale of customer base.

ITEM 9- State whether the transaction involves a proposed name change and/or certificate cancelation request.

RESPONSE This transaction does not involve a proposed name change and/or a certificate cancelation request.

PETITION BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTENTION: Reece McAlister
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

This petition is an application to the Georgia Public Service Commission relating to the proposed issuance of a note by Darien Telephone Company ("Darien") to finance the upgrade of the City of Darien from Hybrid Fiber Coax ("HFC") to Fiber to the Home ("FTTH"). Darien anticipates borrowing up to six million dollars to complete the project. Southeastern Bank has offered to finance the project at the five-year T-bill rate plus 250 Basis points with a Ten-year amortization and a five-year balloon.

I. Introduction and Background

"Darien" is an independent family-owned telecommunications company located in rural southeastern Georgia that has been in business since 1911. "Darien" currently provides telephone service in and throughout McIntosh County, Georgia. "Darien" and its Subsidiary Darien Communications, Inc. hold the fo1lowing Certificates of Authority:

For Darien Telephone Company, Inc. -
IL-010 Provide Incumbent Local Exchange Services
For Darien Communications, Inc:
L-0246 Provide Competitive Local Exchange Telecommunications Services
A-0212 Provide Intrastate Interexchange Alternate Operator Services (AOS)
R-0745 Resell Interexchange Telecommunications Services

All the outstanding capital stock of Darien is owned by Mary Lou Forsyth. The issued and outstanding capital stock consists of ninety-four shares of One Hundred Dollar ($100.00) par value common stock. Ninety-three shares are issued but are being held as treasury shared to secure a note to the Trust u/w Reginald V. Jacson. See schedule DTC-2 for Details of Corporate Structure.

II. Purpose of the Financing Request transaction

Darien Telephone is in the process of overbuilding Hybrid Fiber Coax ("HFC") with Fiber to the Home ("FTTH"). Over the last few years, Darien has replaced all in-service copper plant and have been making slow but steady progress with overbuilding "HFC" with "FTTH". The HFC plant is old, costly to maintain has limitations on Broadband speeds. The purpose of this financing request is to allow "Darien to accelerate the upgrade of existing "HFC" in the Darien Exchange which is the most densely populated of "Darien's service areas. Along with the overbuild of "HFC" in the Darien area, "Darien" will use approximately $1,000,000 of the loan proceeds to upgrade the electronics on the remaining "HFC" plant. The electronics upgrade will increase the speeds available to be offered to customers in the "HFC" areas.

III. Plan of Use of Proceeds

The use of the proceeds will be to upgrade to "FTTH" in the Darien service area. The upgrade will include approximately 31 miles of "FTTH" cable and related electronics. The fiber will pass 1,238 locations providing each location with the ability to have fiber-based broadband. In addition, approximately $1,000,000 of the proceeds will be used to upgrade the electronics in areas still served by "HFC" plant. The electronics upgrade will increase the speed and capacity of broadband offered to these customers.

IV. Plan for Financing

"Darien" has negotiated a short-term line of credit with the Southeastern Bank to pay for the upgrade as the project progresses. The plan for financing is once the project is completed to re-finance the short-term loan on a ten-year amortization with a five-year balloon. The rate proposed by Southeastern Bank is five-year T-Bill plus 250 Basis points with a 5.5% floor. It is anticipated that the construction and upgrade project will be completed and the loan closed prior to December 31, 2026. All assets of Darien Telephone Company, Inc. and its subsidiary will be pledged as security for the loan.

V. Analysis

"Darien" has analyzed the effect of the financing of the upgrade and determined that it will not burden the rates or revenues of Darien, nor will it in any way jeopardize or diminish the service presently rendered to the ratepayers of Darien. Darien's analysis further indicates that the financing will not affect Darien's continued investment in property, plant and equipment.

VI. Summary

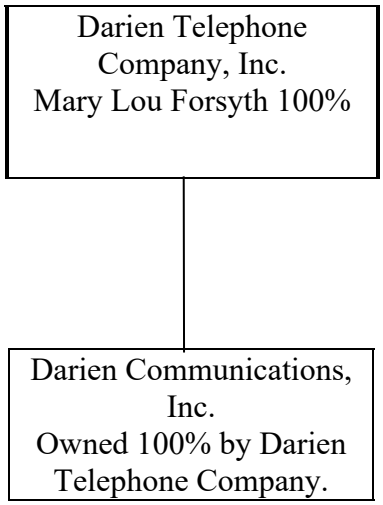
Darien believes that the financing of the upgrade is in the best interest of "Darien" and their respective constituencies:

1. The promissory note will not burden the rates, revenues, or service of "Darien".
2. The promissory note will provide for continued investment in plant and facilities for provision of service to the subscribers of Darien.
3. The issuance of the Note will enhance the service provided to the subscribers of "Darien"

Based on the foregoing, owners and management of Darien Telephone Company, Inc. respectfully request Commission approval of the requested financing.

DTC-2

Corporate Structure of Darien Telephone Company, Inc.



Questions or request for additional information may be directed to the following individuals:

David Stevens
Chief Operating Officer
P.O. Box 575
Darien, GA 31305
912-437-4111
david.stevens@dtctel.com

Larry E Garrett, CPA
P.O. Box 239
Hawkinsville, GA 31036
478-389-8020
lgarrett@dmvickers.cpa

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have caused to be served this day a copy of the foregoing by electronic delivery.

Mr. Reece McAlister
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Mr. Leon Bowles
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Mr. Patrick Reinhardt
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Ms. Tonika Starks
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Ms. Dorothy Buckner
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

This 26th day of January, 2026

Mary Lou Forsyth

Mary Lou Forsyth, President

This information has been filed with the Georgia Public Service Commission as a Trade Secret under Section 515-3-1-.11

DARIEN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

This information has been filed with the Georgia Public Service Commission as a Trade Secret under Section 515-3-1-.11

This information has been filed with the Georgia Public Service Commission as a Trade Secret under Section 515-3-1-.11

DARIEN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Loan Application Loan Terms

This information has been filed with the Georgia Public Service Commission as a Trade Secret under Section 515-3-1-.11