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Form 990  Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations) ▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public. ▶ Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990	OMB No 1545-0047 2015 Open to Public Inspection
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A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2015 , and ending 12-31-2015			
B Check if applicable ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Final return/terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending	C Name of organization HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION DBA NINESTAR CONNECT		D Employer identification number 35-0914373
	Doing business as NINESTAR CONNECT		E Telephone number (317) 326-3131
	Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) 2243 E MAIN	Room/suite	
	City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code GREENFIELD, IN 46140		G Gross receipts \$ 48,341,622
	F Name and address of principal officer SCOTT HIATT 2243 E MAIN GREENFIELD, IN 46140		H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? ☐ Yes ☒ No
I Tax-exempt status ☐ 501(c)(3) ☒ 501(c) (12) ◀(insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527		H(b) Are all subordinates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No," attach a list (see instructions)	
J Website: ▶ WWW.NINESTARCONNECT.COM		H(c) Group exemption number ▶	
K Form of organization ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶		L Year of formation 1950	M State of legal domicile IF

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities PROVIDING SUPERIOR ELECTRIC AND VARIOUS TELECOMMUNICATION PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO OUR CUSTOMERS			
	2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets			
	3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	14
	4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	14
	5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2015 (Part V, line 2a)	5	24
	6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	0
	7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	-15,362
	b	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	-48,84
Revenue	8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	Current Year
	9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0	0
	10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	47,862,595	47,934,00
	11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	183,479	184,18
	12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	25,615	32,50
			48,071,689	48,150,69
Expenses	13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	16,000	16,00
	14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0
	15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	618,397	668,56
	16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
	b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ☐ 0		
	17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	41,443,793	41,977,73
	18	Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	42,078,190	42,662,29
	19	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	5,993,499	5,488,39
Net Assets or Fund Balances			Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
	20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	110,579,374	114,159,16
	21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	40,474,257	38,559,08
	22	Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	70,105,117	75,600,08

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	***** Signature of officer				2016-11-04 Date	
	SCOTT HIATT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER Type or print name and title					
Paid Preparer Use Only	Print/Type preparer's name KATHY A GORDON CPA		Preparer's signature KATHY A GORDON CPA		Date 2016-11-04	Check ☐ if self-employed PTIN P00016213
	Firm's name ▶ AKT LLP				Firm's EIN ▶ 93-0623286	
	Firm's address ▶ 680 HAWTHORNE AVE SE 140 SALEM, OR 97301				Phone no (503) 585-7774	

Part III **Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III ☐

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:

PROVIDE ELECTRIC AND VARIOUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO COOPERATIVE CUSTOMERS IN A 7-COUNTY AREA OF EAST CENTRAL INDIANA

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a	(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)
PROVIDE ELECTRIC AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO COOPERATIVE CUSTOMERS IN A 7-COUNTY AREA OF EAST CENTRAL INDIANA. AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015, THE NUMBER OF ELECTRIC SERVICES TOTALED 13,682 AND THE NUMBER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS LINES TOTALED 5,286	

4b	(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4c	(Code) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4d	Other program services (Describe in Schedule O)
(Expenses \$	including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e **Total program service expenses ▶**

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A	1	No
2 Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)?	2	No
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	3	No
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	4	
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	5	No
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I	6	No
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II	7	No
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III	8	No
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV	9	No
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V	10	No
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI	11a	Yes
b Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII	11b	No
c Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII	11c	Yes
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX	11d	No
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	11e	Yes
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	11f	Yes
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII	12a	No
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional	12b	Yes
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	13	No
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	14a	No
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV	14b	No
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV	15	No
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV	16	No
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)	17	No
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II	18	No
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III	19	No
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H	20a	No
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b	

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II	21		No
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III	22	Yes	
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? If "Yes," complete Schedule J	23	Yes	
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a	24a		No
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d		
25a	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I			
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	25a		
		25b		
26	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II	26		No
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III	27		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	28a		No
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	28b		No
c	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV	28c	Yes	
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	29		No
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	30		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I	31		No
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II	32		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I	33		No
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1	34	Yes	
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a	Yes	
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2	35b		No
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2	36		
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI	37		No
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	38	Yes	

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V ☐

Form **990** (2015)

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI ☒

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O	14	
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	14	
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		No
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	Yes	
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	Yes	
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	Yes	
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following		
a	The governing body?	Yes	
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	Yes	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		No

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?		No
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	Yes	
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?		No
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	Yes	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	Yes	
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	Yes	
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	Yes	
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	Yes	
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)		
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed **IN**

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
☐ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request ☐ Other (explain in Schedule O)

19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year

20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records
SCOTT HIATT 2243 E MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, IN 46140 (317) 326-3131

Part VII

Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

☐ Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) PHIL HAYES DIRECTOR	5 00	X						14,000	0	0
(2) KIM CRONK DIRECTOR	4 00	X						15,400	0	0
(3) DAVID HELLER DIRECTOR	3 00	X						15,200	0	0
(4) JOE PAXTON DIRECTOR	4 00	X						15,200	0	0
(5) DON SHAW DIRECTOR	3 00	X						13,700	0	0
(6) DARRELL THOMAS DIRECTOR	5 00	X						14,900	0	0
(7) MARK EVANS SECRETARY/TREASURER	2 00	X		X				14,200	0	0
(8) STEPHEN VAIL CHAIRMAN	5 00	X		X				16,800	0	0
(9) RONNIE MOHR DIRECTOR	2 00	X						13,050	0	0
(10) JAMES CHERRY VICE CHAIRMAN	1 00	X		X				15,750	0	0
(11) JAMES GILLET DIRECTOR	3 00	X						12,950	0	0
(12) BEVERLY GARD DIRECTOR	3 00	X						12,850	0	0
(13) RICHARD WALKER DIRECTOR	2 00	X						15,200	0	0
(14) MIKE BURROW PRESIDENT	52 00			X				200,395	0	61,441

Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(15) SCOTT HIATT CFO	52 00			X				167,963	0	49,563
(16) JAMIE BELL OPERATIONS DIRECTOR	53 00					X		115,337	0	29,205
(17) RYAN BEWLEY ENGINEERING DIRECTOR	46 00					X		100,378	0	32,818
1b Sub-Total										
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A										
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								773,273	0	173,027

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization ▶ 4

3 Did the organization list any **former** officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual*

3

No

4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual*

4

Yes

5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? *If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person*

5

No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
YATES ENGINEERING SERVICES 2536 W INDUSTRIAL PARK BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404	ENGINEERING SERVICES	1,053,477
5 STAR ELECTRIC LLC 170 BEAN CEMETERY ROAD MADISONVILLE, KY 42431	CONTRACTOR LABOR AND MATERIALS	215,375
JOSEPH W CARR 32545 EARLY RD NEW CARLISLE, IN 46552	CONTRACT LABOR	202,775
ELECTRICOM LLC PO BOX 319 PAOLI, IN 47454	CONTRACT LABOR AND MATERIALS	202,133

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization ▶ 4

Part VIII

Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

				(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns . . .	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b				
	c	Fundraising events	1c				
	d	Related organizations . . .	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f				
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$					
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f					
Program Service Revenue	2a	ELECTRIC SERVICES	Business Code 221100	32,121,853	32,121,853		
	b	TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	517000	15,812,151	15,812,151		
	c						
	d						
	e						
	f	All other program service revenue					
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f		47,934,004			
	Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		184,186		
4		Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds . .					
5		Royalties					
6a		Gross rents	(i) Real 135,970				
b		Less rental expenses	190,927				
c		Rental income or (loss)	-54,957				
d		Net rental income or (loss)		-54,957		-54,957	
7a		Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities (ii) Other				
b		Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
c		Gain or (loss)					
d		Net gain or (loss)					
8a		Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18	a				
b		Less direct expenses	b				
c		Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . .					
9a		Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19	a				
b		Less direct expenses	b				
c		Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . .					
10a		Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances .	a				
b		Less cost of goods sold . . .	b				
c		Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . .					
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11a		POLE CONTACT RENTALS	532000	47,867			47,867
b	ADVERTISING	541800	39,595		39,595		
c							
d	All other revenue						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		87,462				
12	Total revenue. See Instructions		48,150,695	47,934,004	-15,362	232,053	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A)

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX ☒

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1	Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21				
2	Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22	16,000			
3	Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4	Benefits paid to or for members				
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	668,562			
6	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7	Other salaries and wages				
8	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)				
9	Other employee benefits				
10	Payroll taxes				
11	Fees for services (non-employees)				
a	Management				
b	Legal				
c	Accounting				
d	Lobbying				
e	Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f	Investment management fees				
g	Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)				
12	Advertising and promotion				
13	Office expenses				
14	Information technology				
15	Royalties				
16	Occupancy				
17	Travel				
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20	Interest	1,435,451			
21	Payments to affiliates				
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	6,503,192			
23	Insurance				
24	Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a	PURCHASED POWER	21,776,596			
b	PLANT SPECIFIC	3,022,887			
c	CORPORATE OPERATIONS	2,607,599			
d	ELECTRIC OPERATIONS AND	2,327,190			
e	All other expenses	4,304,822			
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	42,662,299			
26	Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X

Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X ☐

				(A)		(B)
				Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing		5,375,720	1	4,812,579
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments		260,000	2	1,620,000
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net			3	
	4	Accounts receivable, net		5,122,932	4	4,573,412
	5	Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L			5	
	6	Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions). Complete Part II of Schedule L			6	
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net			7	
	8	Inventories for sale or use			8	
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		396,562	9	316,877
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a	130,426,962		
	b	Less: accumulated depreciation	10b	57,824,299		
				70,023,152	10c	72,602,663
	11	Investments—publicly traded securities			11	
	12	Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11			12	
	13	Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11		25,298,354	13	26,291,494
	14	Intangible assets			14	
	15	Other assets. See Part IV, line 11		4,102,654	15	3,942,137
	16	Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)		110,579,374	16	114,159,162
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses		5,261,410	17	5,761,319
	18	Grants payable			18	
	19	Deferred revenue			19	
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities			20	
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D			21	
	22	Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L			22	
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		31,690,996	23	29,259,877
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties			24	
	25	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17–24). Complete Part X of Schedule D		3,521,851	25	3,537,885
	26	Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25		40,474,257	26	38,559,081
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☐ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.					
	27	Unrestricted net assets			27	
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets			28	
	29	Permanently restricted net assets			29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☒ and complete lines 30 through 34.					
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		0	30	0
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund		0	31	0
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		70,105,117	32	75,600,081
	33	Total net assets or fund balances		70,105,117	33	75,600,081
	34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances		110,579,374	34	114,159,162

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI ☒

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	48,150,695
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	42,662,299
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	5,488,396
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	70,105,117
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	6,568
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	75,600,081

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII ☒

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual ☐ Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis		No
b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☐ Separate basis ☒ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis	Yes	
c	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O	Yes	
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Supplemental Financial Statements

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

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Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

► Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.
► Attach to Form 990.
Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Name of the organization HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION DBA NINESTAR CONNECT	Employer identification number 35-0914373
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Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1	Total number at end of year	
2	Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)	
3	Aggregate value of grants from (during year)	
4	Aggregate value at end of year	
5	Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
6	Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? ☐ Yes ☐ No	

Part II Conservation Easements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1	Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply) ☐ Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education) ☐ Protection of natural habitat ☐ Preservation of open space ☐ Preservation of an historically important land area ☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure	
2	Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year	
a	Total number of conservation easements	2a
b	Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c	Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d	Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d
3	Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ►	
4	Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ►	
5	Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
6	Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ►	
7	Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ► \$	
8	Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
9	In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements	

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a	If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items	
b	If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items	
(i)	Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	► \$
(ii)	Assets included in Form 990, Part X	► \$
2	If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items	
a	Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	► \$
b	Assets included in Form 990, Part X	► \$

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets
(continued)

3

Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)

a

☐ Public exhibition

b

☐ Scholarly research

c

☐ Preservation for future generations

d

☐ Loan or exchange programs

e

☐ Other

4

Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII

5

During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a

Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?

☐ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table

c

Beginning balance

d

Additions during the year

e

Distributions during the year

f

Ending balance

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

2a

Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?

☐ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

☐

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a)Current year	(b)Prior year	b (c)Two years back	(d)Three years back	(e)Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2

Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as

a

Board designated or quasi-endowment

b

Permanent endowment

c

Temporarily restricted endowment

The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%

3a

Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

(i) unrelated organizations

(ii) related organizations

3a(i)

3a(ii)

Yes

No

b

If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

3b

Yes

No

4

Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.
Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' to Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	Accumulated (c) depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land		47,712		47,712
b Buildings		1,060,917	669,323	391,594
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment		129,318,333	57,154,976	72,163,357
e Other				
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c))				72,602,663

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	49,834,985
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12			
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a		
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		1,684,290
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	1,684,290
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	48,150,695
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b			0
5	Total revenue Add lines 3 and 4c.(This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)		5	48,150,695

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	43,593,064
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	2d		930,765
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	930,765
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	42,662,299
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b			0
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c.(This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)		5	42,662,299

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
PART X, LINE 2	THE COOPERATIVE FOLLOWS ACCOUNTING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA RELATED TO THE RECOGNITION OF UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS. THE COOPERATIVE RECOGNIZES ACCRUED INTEREST AND PENALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS AS PART OF THE INCOME TAX PROVISION, WHEN APPLICABLE. THERE WERE NO AMOUNTS ACCRUED IN THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS RELATED TO UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS.

Part XIII **Supplemental Information** *(continued)*

Return Reference	Explanation
PART XII, LINE 2D - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS	UNRELATED BUSINESS EXPENSES - RENTAL EXPENSE 190,685 EXPENSES NETTED WITH REVENUES 740,080

**Schedule I
(Form 990)**

Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments and Individuals in the United States

Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.

▶ **Attach to Form 990.**

► Information about Schedule I (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the
Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION
DBA NINESTAR CONNECT

Employer identification number	
--------------------------------	--

35-0914373

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1** Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance?
- 2** Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States

☒ Yes☐ No

Part II **Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

[illegible]

- 2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table ▶
- 3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table ▶

Part III

Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22
Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed

(a)Type of grant or assistance	(b)Number of recipients	(c)Amount of cash grant	(d)Amount of non-cash assistance	(e)Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f)Description of non-cash assistance
(1) SCHOLARSHIPS	16	16,000			

Part IV

Supplemental Information. Provide the information required in Part I, line 2, Part III, column (b), and any other additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
PART I, LINE 2	PROOF OF SCHOOL ENROLLMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COOPERATIVE PRIOR TO AWARD DISBURSEMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS WILL BE APPLIED DIRECTLY TOWARD SCHOOL-RELATED COSTS (TRAVEL AND HOUSING EXCLUDED) DISBURSEMENT OF AWARDS WILL BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION UPON RECEIPT OF VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT IN THE EVENT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ARE NOT AWARDED/CLAIMED WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE AWARD DATE, FUNDS WILL BE RETAINED FOR FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION RELATIVES OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED FOR AWARD DISBURSEMENT

Schedule J
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Compensation Information

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees
 ► Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.
 ► Attach to Form 990.
 ► Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
 HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION
 DBA NINESTAR CONNECT

Employer identification number
 35-0914373

Part I

Questions Regarding Compensation

	Yes	No
1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items		
☐ First-class or charter travel ☐ Housing allowance or residence for personal use ☐ Travel for companions ☐ Payments for business use of personal residence ☐ Tax indemnification and gross-up payments ☐ Health or social club dues or initiation fees ☐ Discretionary spending account ☐ Personal services (e g , maid, chauffeur, chef)		
b If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain	1b	
2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?	2	
3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director Check all that apply Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III		
☐ Compensation committee ☒ Independent compensation consultant ☐ Form 990 of other organizations ☐ Written employment contract ☒ Compensation survey or study ☒ Approval by the board or compensation committee		
4 During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization		
a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?	4a	No
b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?	4b	No
c Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?	4c	No
If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III		
Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.		
5 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of		
a The organization?	5a	
b Any related organization?	5b	
If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III		
6 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of		
a The organization?	6a	
b Any related organization?	6b	
If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III		
7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III	7	
8 Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III	8	
9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?	9	

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii) Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII

Note. The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column(B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		Base (i) compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 MIKE BURROWPRESIDENT	(i)	185,000 -----	15,395 -----	0 -----	26,197 -----	35,244 -----	261,836 -----	0 -----
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 SCOTT HIATTCFO	(i)	167,500 -----	463 -----	0 -----	23,130 -----	26,433 -----	217,526 -----	0 -----
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Part III **Supplemental Information**

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
------------------	-------------

Schedule L
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Transactions with Interested Persons
▶ Complete if the organization answered
"Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, lines 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c,
or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
▶ Information about Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at
www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047
2015
Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION DBA NINESTAR CONNECT	Employer identification number 35-0914373
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Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3), section 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations only)

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
				Yes	No

2 Enter the amount of tax incurred by organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 ▶ \$ _____

3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization ▶ \$ _____

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a, or Form 990, Part IV, line 26, or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?		(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?		(i) Written agreement?	
			To	From			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Total ▶ \$ _____

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefiting Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of assistance	(d) Type of assistance	(e) Purpose of assistance

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of transaction	(d) Description of transaction	(e) Sharing of organization's revenues?	
				Yes	No
(1) PHILIP M HAYES	BOARD MEMBER	21,776,596	PHILIP M HAYES IS A DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD OF HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION DBA NINESTAR CONNECT HE ALSO SERVES ON THE WABASH VALLEY POWER ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS NINESTAR CONNECT PURCHASED \$21,776,596 OF PURCHASED POWER FROM WABASH VALLEY POWER DURING 2015 THE SUPPLY CONTRACT WITH WABASH VALLEY POWER WILL EXPIRE IN 2028		No

Part V Supplemental Information

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule L (see instructions)

Return Reference	Explanation
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**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or
990-EZ)**Department of the
Treasury
Internal Revenue
Service**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at
www.irs.gov/form990.

OMB No 1545-0047

2015**Open to Public
Inspection**Name of the organization
HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION
DBA NINESTAR CONNECT**Employer identification number**

35-0914373

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 6	EACH MEMBER HAS THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ORGANIZATION'S GOVERNANCE OR RECEIVE DISTRIBUTIONS OF INCOME OR ASSETS
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7A	EACH MEMBER OF THE COOPERATIVE HAS ONE VOTE THE VOTE ALLOWS THEM TO ELECT THE BOARD AS WE LL AS VOTE ON ANY ISSUE THAT COMES BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP AT A SPECIAL OR ANNUAL MEETING

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7B	LIMITED TO APPROVING ANY CHANGES MADE TO THE BY-LAWS
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11	THE CFO REVIEWS THE FORM 990 BEFORE IT IS FILED WITH IRS

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C	THE ORGANIZATION HAS ESTABLISHED A CODE OF BUSINESS ETHICS WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONTAINS PROHIBITIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR ALL EMPLOYEES AS DETERMINED BY THE PRESIDENT, CEO, VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL COUNSEL, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	THE ORGANIZATION REGULARLY EMPLOYS A SALARY CONSULTANT WHO COMPLETES A SURVEY OF COMPARABLE JOBS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY AND AREA, AND PREPARES SALARY RANGES FOR EACH POSITION IN THE COMPANY THE BOARD, WITH MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION, THEN DETERMINES THE PERCENTILE IN WHICH IT WILL OPERATE WITHIN A SALARY RANGE

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	THE ORGANIZATION MAKES ITS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 24E	CUSTOMER SERVICE & ASSISTANCE 2,165,695 PLANT NONSPECIFIC 1,487,818 MISCELLANEOUS 651,309

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART XI, LINE 9	NET EQUITY INCOME - SUBSIDIARY 753,526 PATRONAGE PAID -407,634 AMORTIZATION ACCRUED PENSION BENEFIT OBLIGATION -339,324
FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C	NO CHANGE FROM THE PRIOR YEAR

SCHEDULE R

(Form 990)

Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

OMB No. 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35b, 36, or 37.

▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ Information about Schedule R (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
HANCOCK RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION
DBA NINESTAR CONNECT

Employer identification number

35-0914373

Part I

Identification of Disregarded Entities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33.

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity

Part II

Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No

Part IIIPart III

Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income(related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512- 514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K- 1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1) MULTI-COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS LLC 2243 EAST MAIN GREENFIELD, IN 46140 32-0134999	TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES	IN	CENTRAL INDIANA COMMUNICATIONS INC	RELATED	34,024	495,538		No		Yes		50 000 %
(2) SOUTHGATE TOWER LLC 123 NIEMAN STREET SUNMAN, IN 47041 38-3727225	TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES	IN	CENTRAL INDIANA COMMUNICATIONS INC	RELATED	10,693	108,363		No			No	50 000 %
(3) JOHNSON COUNTY FIBER NETWORK LLC 750 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE FRANKLIN, IN 46131 46-1533898	TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES	IN	CENTRAL INDIANA COMMUNICATIONS INC	RELATED		447,783		No			No	50 000 %

Part IVPart III

Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of- year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512 (b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No
CENTRAL INDIANA (1)COMMUNICATIONS INC 2243 EAST MAIN GREENFIELD, IN 46140 35-1566736	TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES	IN	NINESTAR CONNECT	C	16,644,198	19,681,034	100 000 %		No
CENTRAL INDIANA POWER (2)INC 2243 EAST MAIN GREENFIELD, IN 46140 27-4101168	ELECTRIC SERVICES	IN	NINESTAR CONNECT	C	176,350	433,759	100 000 %		No

Part V Transactions With Related Organizations Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.

Note. Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule

1 During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?

a Receipt of **(i)** interest, **(ii)** annuities, **(iii)** royalties, or **(iv)** rent from a controlled entity

b Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s)

c Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s)

d Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s)

e Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s)

f Dividends from related organization(s)

g Sale of assets to related organization(s)

h Purchase of assets from related organization(s)

i Exchange of assets with related organization(s)

j Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s)

k Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s)

l Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s)
.

m Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s)

n Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s)

o Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s)

p Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses

q Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses

r Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s)

s Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s)

	Yes	No
1a	Yes	
1b		No
1c		No
1d		No
1e		No
1f		No
1g		No
1h		No
1i		No
1j		No
1k		No
1l		No
1m		No
1n		No
1o		No
1p		No
1q		No
1r	Yes	
1s		No

2 If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds

(a) Name of related organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1)CENTRAL INDIANA COMMUNICATIONS INC	A	135,970	ACTUAL COST
(2)CENTRAL INDIANA COMMUNICATIONS INC	R	891,779	ACTUAL COST

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization. See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships.

[illegible]

Part VII **Supplemental Information**

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R (see instructions)

Return Reference	Explanation
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