Form 5500-SF

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Short Form Annual Return/Report of Small Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500-SF.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2016

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2016 and ending 12/31/2016

A This return/report is for:
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan (not multiemployer) (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- [ ] a one-participant plan
- [ ] a foreign plan

B This return/report is
- [ ] the first return/report
- [ ] the final return/report
- [ ] an amended return/report
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C Check box if filing under:
- [ ] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
HILL COUNTRY TELEPHONE COOP POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 501

1c Effective date of plan 11/01/1987

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
HILL COUNTRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE INC

PO BOX 768
INGRAM, TX 78025

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 74-1197928

2c Sponsor's telephone number 830-367-5333

2d Business code (see instructions) 517000

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor.

3b Administrator's EIN

3c Administrator's telephone number

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the name, EIN, and the plan number from the last return/report.
a Sponsor's name

4b EIN

4c PN

5a Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5a**	35
b Total number of participants at the end of the plan year	**5b**	37
c Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**5c**	
d(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5d(1)**	
d(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**5d(2)**	
e Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**5e**	

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including, if applicable, a Schedule SB or Schedule MB completed and signed by an enrolled actuary, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	06/29/2017	ALAN LINK
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	06/29/2017	ALAN LINK
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor

Preparer's name (including firm name, if applicable) and address (include room or suite number)

Preparer's telephone number

6a Were all of the plan's assets during the plan year invested in eligible assets? (See instructions.) ..... [X] Yes [ ] No

b Are you claiming a waiver of the annual examination and report of an independent qualified public accountant (IQPA) under 29 CFR 2520.104-46? (See instructions on waiver eligibility and conditions.)..... [X] Yes [ ] No

If you answered "No" to either line 6a or line 6b, the plan cannot use Form 5500-SF and must instead use Form 5500.

c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (see ERISA section 4021)? ..... [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Not determined

Part III Financial Information

7 Plan Assets and Liabilities		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total plan assets	7a	9128951	9823682
b Total plan liabilities	7b		
c Net plan assets (subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c	9128951	9823682
8 Income, Expenses, and Transfers for this Plan Year		**(a) Amount**	**(b) Total**
a Contributions received or receivable from: (1) Employers	8a(1)	426884	
(2) Participants	8a(2)		
(3) Others (including rollovers)	8a(3)		
b Other income (loss)	8b	694731	
c Total income (add lines 8a(1), 8a(2), 8a(3), and 8b)	8c		1121615
d Benefits paid (including direct rollovers and insurance premiums to provide benefits)	8d	426884	
e Certain deemed and/or corrective distributions (see instructions)	8e		
f Administrative service providers (salaries, fees, commissions)	8f		
g Other expenses	8g		
h Total expenses (add lines 8d, 8e, 8f, and 8g)	8h		426884
i Net income (loss) (subtract line 8h from line 8c)	8i		694731
j Transfers to (from) the plan (see instructions)	8j		

Part IV Plan Characteristics

9a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:
4A 4Q 4D

Part V Compliance Questions

10 During the plan year:		Yes	No	N/A	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program)	10a		X		
b Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 10a.)	10b		X		
c Was the plan covered by a fidelity bond?	10c		X		
d Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	10d		X		
e Were any fees or commissions paid to any brokers, agents, or other persons by an insurance carrier, insurance service, or other organization that provides some or all of the benefits under the plan? (See instructions.)	10e		X		
f Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	10f		X		
g Did the plan have any participant loans? (If "Yes," enter amount as of year-end.)	10g		X		
h If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	10h		X		
i If 10h was answered "Yes," check the box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3	10i				

Part VI Pension Funding Compliance

11	Is this a defined benefit plan subject to minimum funding requirements? (If "Yes," see instructions and complete Schedule SB (Form 5500) and line 11a below)	☐ Yes ☒ No
11a	Enter the unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40	**11a**
12	Is this a defined contribution plan subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Code or section 302 of ERISA? (If "Yes," complete line 12a or lines 12b, 12c, 12d, and 12e below, as applicable.)	☐ Yes ☒ No
a	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions, and enter the date of the letter ruling granting the waiver. Month _____ Day _____ Year _____	

If you completed line 12a, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB (Form 5500), and skip to line 13.

b	Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year	**12b**	
c	Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	**12c**	
d	Subtract the amount in line 12c from the amount in line 12b. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	**12d**	
e	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 12d be met by the funding deadline?		☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Part VII Plan Terminations and Transfers of Assets

13a	Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted in any plan year?		☐ Yes ☒ No
	If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year	**13a**	
b	Were all the plan assets distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☐ Yes ☒ No

c If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

13c(1) Name of plan(s):	**13c(2)** EIN(s)	**13c(3)** PN(s)

Part VIII Trust Information

14a Name of trust	**14b** Trust's EIN
14c Name of trustee or custodian	**14d** Trustee's or custodian's telephone number

Part IX IRS Compliance Questions

15a	Is the plan a 401(k) plan? If "No," skip b.	☐ Yes ☐ No
15b	How did the plan satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals under section 401(k)(3) for the plan year? Check all that apply:	☐ Design-based safe harbor ☐ "Prior year" ADP test ☐ "Current year" ADP test ☐ N/A
16a	What testing method was used to satisfy the coverage requirements under section 410(b) for the plan year? Check all that apply:	☐ Ratio percentage test ☐ Average benefit test ☐ N/A
16b	Did the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination requirements of sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) for the plan year by combining this plan with any other plan under the permissive aggregation rules?	☐ Yes ☐ No

17a If the plan is a master and prototype plan (M&P) or volume submitter plan that received a favorable IRS opinion letter or advisory letter, enter the date of the letter _____/_____/_____ and the serial number _____.

17b If the plan is an individually-designed plan that received a favorable determination letter from the IRS, enter the date of the most recent determination letter _____/_____/_____.

18	Defined Benefit Plan or Money Purchase Pension Plan Only: Were any distributions made during the plan year to an employee who attained age 62 and had not separated from service?	☐ Yes ☐ No
19	Was any plan participant a 5% owner who had attained at least age 70 ½ during the prior plan year?	☐ Yes ☐ No