

Starting your Windstream Pension Plan payments



The Windstream Pension Plan

The Windstream Pension Plan, which is currently closed to new participants, covers about 2,000 active employees of Windstream. Participants include:

- Certain union employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement providing for participation in the pension plan, and
- Former participants of one of the pension plans listed below with a pension that transferred to the Windstream Pension Plan

The following eligibility rules determine if an employee is retirement eligible:

- Age 55 with at least 20 years of service
- Age 60 with at least 15 years of service
- Age 65 with at least 5 years of service

Former prior plans or bargaining groups have different eligibility rules. For details, reference your Summary Plan Description (SPD) or bargaining agreement. (References to the Windstream Pension Plan also cover pensions from the plans listed below.)

For questions

- Call Merrill at **800.228.4015**
- Contact Windstream at windstreambenefits@windstream.com

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Investment products:

Are Not FDIC Insured	Are Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value
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Estimating your Windstream pension benefits

You can review your estimated pension benefit under different scenarios on Benefits OnLine® at benefits.ml.com. You can save up to five different calculations and compare up to three calculations at a time. You can also print copies or save electronic copies for future reference.

The enclosed brochure explains the simple steps for calculating your projected pension benefits. You can also call the Retirement & Benefits Contact Center at 800.228.4015 and a representative can walk you through the steps.

Timing of your first pension payment

Once you decide to retire from Windstream, you must submit all required documents to Merrill for processing. You should receive your initial pension payment about two months after your last day of employment.



Plans transferred to the Windstream Pension Plan

The Windstream Pension Plan includes pensions from the following plans that have merged into the Windstream Pension Plan:

- Alltel Corporation Pension Plan
- Valor Telecommunications Enterprises, LLC Pension Plan
- D&E Communications, Inc. Employees' Retirement Plan
- Pension Plan of the Concord Telephone Company
- Plan for Employees' Pensions of Aliant Communications Co.
- CP National Pension Plan
- Kerrville Telephone Company Employees' Retirement Plan
- GTE South Incorporated (Kentucky) Plan for Hourly-Paid Employees' Pension
- Conestoga Telephone & Telegraph Company Pension Plan
- SLT Communications, Inc. Retirement Plan
- Iowa Telecom Pension Plan
- GTE Telephone Operations Salaried Plan
- GTE South Incorporated (Southeast) Plan for Hourly-Paid Employees' Pension
- Telephone Utilities of Pennsylvania, Inc. Group Pension Plan
- Heins Retirement Plan
- Old Town Telephone system, Inc. Pension Plan
- Leeds Telephone Company Pension Plan
- Pension Plan of the Newark Telephone Company

Managing Your Windstream Pension Benefit



Important Contact Information The Windstream Pension Plan

Merrill is the service provider for the Windstream Pension Plan (“Pension Plan”). You have access to all your Pension Plan information through Benefits OnLine® and the Retirement & Benefits Contact Center. Managing your Pension Plan benefit has never been easier!

Manage Your Pension Plan Benefit OnLine: benefits.ml.com

You can use Benefits OnLine to:

- Model benefit options
- Request benefit estimates
- Compare the results of prior benefit estimates
- Access important forms and documents

Visit benefits.ml.com and enter your User ID and Password to log in. If you don’t yet have a User ID or Password, just click the “Create User ID” link and follow the instructions.

Note: If you have an account in the Windstream 401(k) Plan (“401(k) Plan”), and have a User ID and Password for that plan, you can use the same login information for both plans. There is no need to create a new User ID and Password for the Pension Plan.

Manage Your Pension Plan Benefit Over the Phone: 800.228.4015

By calling the Retirement & Benefits Contact Center, you can get information about your Pension Plan benefit by using the automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, available virtually 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Or, you can speak with a participant service representative between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, on any day the New York Stock Exchange is open.

You will need to have your Social Security number available. You will also need a PIN or Password to use the IVR system. If you have created your Password for Benefits OnLine, you will use that Password for the IVR. If not, you can (1) use the PIN that you have created for the 401(k) Plan, or (2) speak with a participant service representative to create a PIN.

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Integrated Plan Access Through Benefits OnLine

Benefits OnLine can be your home base for managing your Pension Plan benefit. In addition, if you have an account in the 401(k) Plan, you can manage both plans on Benefits OnLine.

Your Retirement Income Projection - How these results were calculated

Monthly Yearly

Retirement income

YOU ARE HERE **\$3,844/mo**

\$0 \$819 \$1,638 \$3,276 \$4,095 \$X,XXX

78%
OF YOUR INCOME GOAL

- Retirement Income Goal \$X,XXX.XX
- Current Projected Income \$X,XXX.XX

IMPORTANT: The projections or other information shown in the Advice Access service regarding the likelihood of various investment outcomes are hypothetical in nature, do not reflect actual investment results and are not guarantees of future results. Results may vary with each use and over time.

Employer sponsored accounts

Total market value	\$XX,XXX.XX
Windstream 401(k) Plan I want to ▾	\$XX,XXX.XX
Windstream Pension Plan I want to ▾	\$XX,XXX.XX

To Do

Looking Forward to Some “Me” Time?

Through your employer’s retirement plan, you have access to a Merrill professional who can answer your questions and help you make informed choices. Get started today by calling 888.363.2389 or Schedule a Call at your convenience.

[Schedule a call >](#)

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Link Accounts

You can add new accounts that you own to your online portfolio view.

[Link accounts](#)

Midyear Outlook 2022:

Turning volatility into opportunity

Experts discuss ways to navigate market uncertainty, inflation, interest rates - and the outlook for economic growth.

[Watch now](#)

Once you’ve logged in to Benefits OnLine, you’ll see your Pension Plan and 401(k) Plan benefits on the Home page. You can click either plan name for more detailed information.

Windstream Pension Plan

[Account Information](#) [Plan Information](#) **[Benefits Calculation](#)** [Payroll Summary](#) [Document Library](#)

Calculation Request

Calculation Title	Termination Date	Benefit Start Date	Annual Salary	Annual Pay Increase	Survivor Birthday
Retire at 60	9/1/2032	11/1/2032	\$102,735.36	2.00000000%	6/1/1970

Summary of Estimated Future Benefits

Payment Option	Benefit	Frequency	Details
Single Life Annuity -	\$216.06	Monthly	WINDSTREAM: A monthly pension benefit of \$216.06, commencing November 1, 2032 , and payable for your lifetime with the last payment to be made on the first date of the month in which you die.
10-Year Certain & Continuous Annuity -	\$249.72	Monthly	WINDSTREAM: A monthly pension benefit of \$211.63, commencing November 1, 2032 , and payable for you during your lifetime with the provision that, in the event of your death prior to receiving 120 monthly payments, the same monthly pension benefit will be continued to your beneficiary until the remainder of such payments have been made.
50% Joint and Contingent Annuity -	\$203.68	Monthly	WINDSTREAM: A monthly pension benefit of \$203.68, commencing November 1, 2032 , and payable for you during your lifetime and, upon your death if your Joint Annuitant survives you, a monthly pension benefit of 50% of the above amount or \$101.84, continued to your spouse for your spouse's lifetime.

Calculate Projected Benefits

Select the **Windstream Pension Plan**, followed by the **Benefits Calculation** tab. Click the blue tab next to **Calculate Benefits** and enter the requested data. The **Projected Benefits** screen (shown here) will display your results. You can enter different assumptions, and view the impact of these assumptions on your estimated monthly benefit under different forms of payment.

Windstream Pension Plan

Account Information Plan Information **Benefits Calculation** Payroll Summary Document Library

Compare Benefits

This page allows you to compare the results of up to three benefit estimates you have previously performed to help you determine the best benefit options for you. It is important that the benefits you compare are all based on assumptions that are reasonable when compared to one another.

Request a copy of a saved benefits calculation by selecting the calculation below and clicking **Request**.

Selected Calculations

	Termination Date	Benefit Start Date	Annual Salary	Annual Pay Increase	Survivor	Survivor Birthday
Calculation Name:55						
<input type="radio"/>	6/1/2012	8/1/2033	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	Spouse 3/5/1970
Calculation Name:55						
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	8/1/2033	8/1/2033	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	Spouse 3/5/1970

Request Benefits Paperwork

Compare Projected Benefits

Select the Windstream Pension Plan, followed by the **Benefits Calculation** tab. Scroll down to the box labeled **Saved Benefits Calculation**, select the saved calculations you would like to compare, and click the blue tab next to **View/Compare Selected**. The **Compare Benefits** screen (shown here) will display your results. You can compare benefit estimates that you have performed based on various ages and income commencement dates under different forms of payment.

Benefits Calculation

You can perform benefit calculations as often as you want, any time, virtually 24/7. To estimate your benefits at future dates:

- Enter a title.
- Choose a termination date.
- Choose a benefit start date—the start date must be the first day of a month.
- You must enter an annual pay increase percentage, even if it's zero.
- Review your survivor (beneficiary) information.
- Click **Continue**.
- To print your calculation, click on the **Printer-Friendly Version** icon.

You can save up to five calculations for future reference, and view/compare up to three calculations at a time.

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