



West River Telecom

March 12, 2012

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Division
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 408
Bismarck ND 58505-0480

RE: WRT TARIFF Miscellaneous Service Arrangements Section 5.1 Low Income Programs and Rates and Charges Section 10.3 Special Rates and Charges

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

The updated West River Telecommunications Cooperative's Miscellaneous Service Arrangements and Rates and Charges is enclosed for filing. Changes were made to Section 5.1 and Section 10.3.

We are enclosing three copies of West River Telecommunications Cooperative's updated Tariff, Section 5.1 and Section 10.3 effective March 12, 2012. We are also enclosing one copy of the strike through version.

We are sending three copies of our Tariff changes, two are for the Public Service Commission and one is to be date stamped and returned to us for our documentation of the filing.

We will send an electronic copy to ndpsc@nd.gov

Please contact me if you have any questions about this filing.

Sincerely,

Loretta Beckman
Executive Assistant

lmb

Enclosures (4)
Electronic Copy: ndpsc@nd.gov

1 PU-12-114 Filed 03/15/2012 Pages: 18
Lifeline, Link Up
West River Telecommunications Cooperative
Loretta Beckman, Exec. Assistant

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

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MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 LOW INCOME PROGRAMS

The Company, as part of its obligations as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, offers three low-income assistance programs. These programs, Lifeline Assistance, ~~Enhanced Tribal Lands~~ Lifeline and ~~Tribal Lands~~ Link Up are offered under the terms and conditions provided below:

5.1.1 Lifeline Assistance

A. General

Lifeline Assistance is a retail service offering available to qualifying low-income subscribers, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges for ~~the following package of services, voice telephony services including:~~ voice grade access to the public switched network; local usage ~~or its functional equivalent;~~ dual tone multi-frequency signaling ~~or its functional equivalent;~~ access to emergency services; ~~access to 1-8XX service, access to interexchange service; access to directory assistance;~~ and toll limitation.

B. Regulations

1. Unless other eligibility requirements are established, Lifeline Assistance is available to all subscribers who participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, ~~Food Stamps~~ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public Housing Assistance; ~~or~~ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; National School Lunch Program's free lunch program, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
2. Each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that they receive benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph (B)(1) above. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.
3. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline

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Assistance to receive toll restriction as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll Restriction" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (cont'd)

5.1.1 Lifeline Assistance (cont'd)

4. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll restriction from the Company.

Life line Assistance provides a Federal baseline reduction from the subscriber's monthly service bill. See Section 10 for discount rates.

The Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administration of the Federal Lifeline Assistance Program to waive the qualifying customer's Federal End-User Common Line Charge, The Company shall apply any additional federal support amount to the qualifying customer's basic local exchange service rate.

Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.

5.1.2 Link Up Tribal Lands Lifeline

A. General

Eligible residents of Tribal Lands, can lower their charges for primary local telephone service. It does not cover costs for long distance, E-911, optional features or taxes and state-mandated fees. Residents of Tribal Lands who qualify for regular Lifeline are also eligible for Tribal Lifeline support. Link Up provides a reduction in the Company's customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a subscriber's principal place of residence. Link Up is provided to eligible subscribers in addition to Lifeline Assistance. Charges assessed for commencing service include any charges that the Company customarily assesses to connect subscribers to the network. These charges do not include

~~any permissible security deposit requirements.~~

B. Regulations

1. ~~Unless other eligibility requirements are established by the Commission, Link Up is available to all subscribers who participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid; Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public Housing Assistance; or Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Unless other eligibility requirements are established, Tribal Lands Lifeline Assistance is available to residents of Tribal Lands who receive benefits under one of the following programs: Medicaid, Heating Assistance, WIC, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Food Distribution Program, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start or Early Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard), National School Free Lunch Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Healthy Steps - Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIPs).~~

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (cont'd)

5.1.2 Link Up (cont'd)

2. ~~Each Link Up subscriber must certify in writing under penalty of perjury that the subscriber receives benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph (B) (1), above. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service Administrators.~~
3. ~~Link Up is available for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which the Link Up assistance was provided previously.~~
4. ~~See Section 10 for rates. Each subscriber to Tribal Lands Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that they receive benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph (B) (1) above. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service~~

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administrators.

5.1.3 ~~Enhanced Lifeline & Expanded~~ Tribal Lands Link Up

A. General

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Tribal Lands Link Up provides a reduction in the Company's customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a subscriber's principal place of residence. Charges assessed for commencing service include any charges that the Company customarily assesses to connect subscribers to the network. These charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.

B. Regulations

1. Tribal Lands Link Up is available to all subscribers who are residents on a Tribal Land in which the Company receives High Cost Support.

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MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (cont'd)

5.1.3 Tribal Lands Link Up (cont'd)

B. Regulations (cont'd)

2. Unless other eligibility requirements are established, Tribal Land Link Up Assistance is available to residents of Tribal Lands who receive benefits under one of the following programs: Medicaid, Heating Assistance, WIC, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Food Distribution Program, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start or Early Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard), National School Free Lunch Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Healthy Steps - Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIPs). In addition, consumers who have a household income equal to or less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for support.

3. Each subscriber to Tribal Land Link Up Assistance must certify in writing

to
the Company, under penalty of perjury, that they receive benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph (B) (1) above. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.

4. See Section 10 for discount rates.

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~~Eligible resident of Tribal Lands, can lower their charges for primary local telephone service. It does not cover costs for long distance, E-911, optional features or taxes and state mandated fees. Residents of Tribal Lands who qualify for regular Lifeline are also eligible for Enhanced Lifeline and Expanded Link Up. Additionally, residents of Tribal Lands who receive benefits under one of the following programs also qualify for Enhanced Lifeline and Expanded Link Up. Income equal to or less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or one of the following programs: Medicaid, Heating Assistance, WIC, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Food Distribution Program, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start or Early Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard), National School Free Lunch Program, Food Stamps Benefit Recipient, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Healthy Steps Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIPs).~~

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MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 LOW INCOME PROGRAMS

The Company, as part of its obligations as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, offers three low-income assistance programs. These programs, Lifeline Assistance, Tribal Lands Lifeline and Tribal Lands Link Up are offered under the terms and conditions provided below:

5.1.1 Lifeline Assistance

A. General

Lifeline Assistance is a retail service offering available to qualifying low-income subscribers, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges for voice telephony services including: voice grade access to the public switched network; local usage or its functional equivalent; access to emergency services; and toll limitation.

B. Regulations

1. Unless other eligibility requirements are established, Lifeline Assistance is available to all subscribers who participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public Housing Assistance; Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; National School Lunch Program's free lunch program, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
2. Each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that they receive benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph (B) (1) above. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (cont'd)

5.1.1 Lifeline Assistance (cont'd)

3. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll restriction as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll Restriction" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.
4. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll restriction from the Company.

Life line Assistance provides a Federal baseline reduction from the subscriber's monthly service bill. See Section 10 for discount rates.

The Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administration of the Federal Lifeline Assistance Program to waive the qualifying customer's Federal End-User Common Line Charge, The Company shall apply any additional federal support amount to the qualifying customer's basic local exchange service rate.

Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.

5.1.2 Tribal Lands Lifeline

A. General

Eligible residents of Tribal Lands, can lower their charges for primary local telephone service. It does not cover costs for long distance, E-911, optional features or taxes and state-mandated fees. Residents of Tribal Lands who qualify for regular Lifeline are also eligible for Tribal Lifeline support.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (cont'd)

5.1.2 Tribal Lands Lifeline (cont'd)

B. Regulations

1. Unless other eligibility requirements are established, Tribal Lands Lifeline Assistance is available to residents of Tribal Lands who receive benefits under one of the following programs: Medicaid, Heating Assistance, WIC, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Food Distribution Program, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start or Early Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard), National School Free Lunch Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Healthy Steps - Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIPS). In addition, consumers who have a household income equal to or less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for support.
2. Each subscriber to Tribal Lands Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that they receive benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph (B) (1) above. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.
3. See Section 10 for discount rates.

5.1.3 Tribal Lands Link Up

A. General

Tribal Lands Link Up provides a reduction in the Company's customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a subscriber's principal place of residence. Charges assessed for commencing service include any charges that the Company customarily assesses to connect subscribers to the network. These charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS (cont'd)

5.1.3 Tribal Lands Link Up (cont'd)

B. Regulations

1. Tribal Lands Link Up is available to all subscribers who are residents on a Tribal Land in which the Company receives High Cost Support.
2. Unless other eligibility requirements are established, Tribal Link Up Assistance is available to residents of Tribal Lands who receive benefits under one of the following programs: Medicaid, Heating Assistance, WIC, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Food Distribution Program, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start or Early Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard), National School Free Lunch Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Healthy Steps - Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIPS). In addition, consumers who have a household income equal to or less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for support.
3. Each subscriber to Tribal Land Link Up Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that they receive benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraph (B) (1) above. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.
4. See Section 10 for discount rates.

RATES AND CHARGES

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RATES AND CHARGES

10.1 GENERAL

This section contains the rates and charges for the services identified in this Tariff. Rates and charges are generally per item charges or monthly rates as the context warrants, unless otherwise noted.

10.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

The following rates and charges are made for Local Exchange Service of the Company as identified in Section 4 of this Tariff.

A. Local Exchange Service

All of the WRT exchanges have the same residential rate - \$16.45 and business rate - \$19.45. All exchanges are a local call. The exchanges and prefixes are as follows:

Beulah 701-873, Carson 701-622, Center 701-794, Elgin 701-584, Flasher 701-597, Fort Yates 701-854, Glen Ullin 701-348, Golden Valley 701-983, Goodrich 701-884, Hazen 701-748, Hebron 701-878, McClusky 701-363, McLaughlin 605-823, Mercer 701-447, Mobridge 605-845, New Salem 701-843, North McLaughlin 605-827, Pick City 701-487, St. Anthony 701-445, Selfridge 701-422, Stanton 701-745, Turtle Lake 701-448, Underwood 701-442, Washburn 701-462 and Zap 701-948.

B. EAS charges are St. Anthony ~ \$2.00 and they can call Mandan, New Salem charges are \$4.00 ~ they can call Bismarck & Mandan and Mobridge charges are \$1.00 ~ they can call Glenham & Selby.

MONTHLY LINE CHARGE - is the basic charge which reflects the cost of providing a telephone line to a premise, which includes the touchtone charge. (Premise is a building or portions of a building used and/or occupied by the customer in the conduct of his business or as a residence.)

EXTENDED AREA SERVICE (EAS) - is toll free dialing service furnished at a flat rate between two or more exchanges.

RATES AND CHARGES

10.3 SPECIAL RATES AND CHARGES

10.3.1 Lifeline Discounts

The Federal End User charge is waived.

A.	Additional Federal Lifeline Assistance Support	\$2.753.50
B.	Tribal Lands Lifeline	Up to an additional \$25.00
<u>Enhanced Lifeline is</u>		<u>\$15.45</u>

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10.3.2 Tribal Lands Link Up ~~Link up~~

100% of customary charge for commencing telecommunications service, up to \$100 for eligible residents of Tribal lands.
~~Reduction is one-half of the customary connection charge or \$30.00, whichever is less.~~

10.3.3 Enhanced Link up

~~Support also provides a deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service, for which the subscriber does not pay interest. The interest charges not assessed to the subscriber shall be for connection charges of up to \$200.00 that are deferred for a period not to exceed one year.~~

~~Enhanced Link Up customers may receive up to \$70.00 on aid to construction charges.~~

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RATES AND CHARGES

10.1 GENERAL

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Beulah 701-873, Carson 701-622, Center 701-794, Elgin 701-584, Flasher 701-597, Fort Yates 701-854, Glen Ullin 701-348, Golden Valley 701-983, Goodrich 701-884, Hazen 701-748, Hebron 701-878, McClusky 701-363, McLaughlin 605-823, Mercer 701-447, Mobridge 605-845, New Salem 701-843, North McLaughlin 605-827, Pick City 701-487, St. Anthony 701-445, Selfridge 701-422, Stanton 701-745, Turtle Lake 701-448, Underwood 701-442, Washburn 701-462 and Zap 701-948.

B. EAS charges are St. Anthony ~ \$2.00 and they can call Mandan, New Salem charges are \$4.00 ~ they can call Bismarck & Mandan and Mobridge charges are \$1.00 ~ they can call Glenham & Selby.

MONTHLY LINE CHARGE - is the basic charge which reflects the cost of providing a telephone line to a premise, which includes the touchtone charge. (Premise is a building or portions of a building used and/or occupied by the customer in the conduct of his business or as a residence.)

EXTENDED AREA SERVICE (EAS) - is toll free dialing service furnished at a flat rate between two or more exchanges.

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RATES AND CHARGES

10.3 SPECIAL RATES AND CHARGES

10.3.1 Lifeline Discounts

- A. All eligible Lifeline consumers qualify for Federal Lifeline Assistance support equal to \$9.25.
- B. Tribal Land residents who qualify for Lifeline Assistance are eligible to receive up to an additional \$25.00 in support.
- C. Toll blocking can be included for eligible Lifeline consumers without charge. No service deposit would be required if the applicant voluntarily elects toll blocking with the initiation of Lifeline Service.

10.3.2 Tribal Lands Link up

- A. Tribal Land residents are eligible for a 100% reduction, up to \$100.00, off the customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a subscriber's principal place of residence providing the eligible telecommunications carrier is receiving high-cost support for that specific Tribal Land.
- B. Support also provides a deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service, for which the subscriber does not pay interest. The interest charges not assessed to the subscriber shall be for connection charges of up to \$200.00 that are deferred for a period not to exceed one year.