



*More Than a Telephone Company!*

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**RECEIVED**

MAY 22 2012

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

May 18, 2012

Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Ave Dept. 408  
Bismarck ND 58505-0480

RE: North Dakota Telephone Company Exchange and Network Services Tariff

Enclosed you will find revisions to the 4.4.8 Telephone Assistance Programs section of the North Dakota Telephone Company Exchange and Network Services Tariff to be in compliance with the new FCC rules:

Section 4.4.8.A - Link Up Program – Effective April 1, 2012  
Section 4.4.8.B - Lifeline Program – Effective June 1, 2012  
Section 4.4.8.C – Link Up for Eligible Residents of Tribal Lands – Effective April 1, 2012  
Section 4.4.8.D – Lifeline for Eligible Residents of Tribal Lands – Effective June 1, 2012

If you have any questions please call me at 701.662.6439 or Kathy Young at 701.662.6426.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McLean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat McLean  
Executive Administrative Assistant

Enclosure

1 **PU-12-221** Filed: 5/22/2012 Pages: 8  
Lifeline, Link Up

North Dakota Telephone Company

Pat McLean

**NORTH DAKOTA TELEPHONE COMPANY**  
**Exchange and Network Services Tariff**

State of North Dakota  
Issued: September 13, 2005  
Effective: June 1, 2012

Section 4  
2nd Revised Page 1  
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**4. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

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**4. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**4.8 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**A. Link Up Program**

1. Residents of Tribal lands are eligible for Link Up support if served by a high cost recipient based on:
  - a. Income Level
  - b. Participation in any Tribal-specific federal assistance program identified in the FCC rules (See Lifeline/Link Up application)
  - c. Participation in any other program identified in the FCC rules (See Lifeline/Link Up application)

The Link Up Program consists of the following:

- a. A reduction in the installation charge for a single telecommunications connection at a subscriber's principal place of residence.
- b. The reduction shall be 100% of the customary charge.
- c. The reduced connection charge will be payable in the first billing cycle following connection of service.
- d. Charges assessed for commencing service include any charge customarily assessed to connect a subscriber to the network. The charges do not include security deposit requirements.
- e. There is no limit on the number of times the subscriber may use Link Up as long as they haven't received Link Up at the address that they are requesting the benefit for.

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**NORTH DAKOTA TELEPHONE COMPANY**  
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**4. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**4.8 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (CONT'D)**

**B. Lifeline Program**

North Dakota residents who are eligible to receive assistance from one of the following federal assistance programs; Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program, Temporary Assistance For Needy Families, or the consumer's household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size may qualify for the Lifeline Program.

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The Federal Lifeline Program consists of the following:

- a. Qualifying low income consumers pay reduced charges for retail local telecommunications service.
- b. Lifeline service includes voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent, minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users, access to emergency services, and toll limitation service to qualifying low income consumers.
- c. Toll Limitation Service will be provided at no additional cost to the consumer who qualifies for Lifeline where the ETC still distinguishes between local and long distance.
- d. A deposit may not be collected in order to initiate Lifeline Service for plans that:
  1. Do not charge subscribers additional fees for toll calls; or
  2. That charge additional fees for toll calls, but the subscriber voluntarily elects toll limitation service.
- e. North Dakota Telephone Company will not disconnect Lifeline service if consumer keeps their basic local service in good standing
- f. Only one Federal Lifeline Service is available per household.

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**4. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**4.8 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (CONT'D)**

**B. Lifeline Program (Cont'd)**

- f. Lifeline credits applied to retail residential basic local telecommunication service rates are as follows:

<b>Regular Federal Lifeline Customers</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Federal Lifeline Waiver	LLW	\$9.25
Lifeline Regular Toll Block Credit	BLKLL	\$1.00

(N)

(N)

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**4. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**4.8 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (CONT'D)**

**C. Link Up for Eligible Residents of Tribal Lands**

1. North Dakota residents of Tribal lands who are eligible to receive Lifeline for residents of Tribal lands under Section 4.8.D, and make the certification required for Tribal Lifeline are also eligible to receive Link Up.
  - a. Link Up provides eligible residents of Tribal lands with a reduction up to \$100.00 of the customary charge for a single telecommunications connection at a subscriber's principal place of residence. See Section 4, Page 11 for eligibility requirements.

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**4. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**4.8 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (CONT'D)**

**D. Lifeline for Eligible Residents of Tribal Lands**

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1. North Dakota residents of Tribal lands who are eligible to receive one of the following programs are eligible to receive Tribal Lifeline.

Major assistance programs administered by the North Dakota Department of Human Service:

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)  
Food Stamps  
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program  
Medicaid

Other programs:

Federal public housing assistance  
Bureau of Indian Affairs assistance  
Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)  
Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard)  
National School Lunch Program's free lunch program (NSL)  
SSI  
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations  
Income guidelines of 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (Income based eligibility is intended for those that do not otherwise qualify)

- a. A resident of Tribal lands is a consumer living on a reservation as defined by Section 20.1(v) of the Bureau of Indian Affairs regulations (25 C.F.R. § 20.1(v)).
- b. Tribal Lifeline for eligible residents of Tribal lands provides additional Lifeline support above the Lifeline received under the Federal Lifeline program described in Section 4.8.B, of up to \$25.00 per month.

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**4. LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**4.8 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (CONT'D)**

**D. Tribal Lifeline for Eligible Residents of Tribal Lands (Cont'd)**

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1. (Cont'd)
  - d. Tribal Lifeline benefits apply to the basic local residential telephone charges.
2. In order to receive Tribal Lifeline for residents of Tribal lands, a consumer must complete and sign a certification form provided by North Dakota Telephone Company as described below. The Tribal Lifeline certification form will include the following:
  - a. a statement that the consumer is certifying the information conveyed in the completed certification under penalty of perjury,
  - b. indication that the consumer is receiving benefits under one of the programs listed under Section 4.8.D.1 for Tribal Lifeline,
  - c. indication that the consumer lives on Tribal lands, and
  - d. a statement that the consumer agrees to notify North Dakota Telephone Company if the consumer ceases to participate in the program or programs.
3. Federal Lifeline credits applied to tribal residential basic local telecommunications service rates are as follows:

Tribal Lifeline Credit Amounts

<u>Exchange with Tribal Land</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Credit Amount</u>	
Federal Lifeline Waiver	<u>LLWX</u>	\$ 9.25	(N)
Additional Federal Tribal Lifeline Amounts			
	<u>LLXTT</u>		
Crary.....		\$14.27	
Fort Totten.....		\$14.07	
Minnewaukan.....		\$10.37	
Oberon.....		\$11.32	
Sheyenne.....		\$12.82	
Tolna.....		\$12.52	
Warwick.....		\$14.57	
Toll Block	<u>BLKEX</u>	\$ 1.00	(N)

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(N)

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