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JUN 29 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

June 29, 2012

Mr. Pat Fahn  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Fahn,

Effective August 1, 2012, SRT Communications, Inc. ("SRT") will revise the Lifeline and Enhanced Lifeline portions of our General Exchange Tariff. These changes are the result of the FCC's Lifeline Reform Order, WC Dkt. Nos. 11-42 et al., CC Dkt. No. 96-45, FCC 12-11 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012).

**Section 2, Sheet 7 - 10**

Federal Lifeline support in the amount of \$9.25 per month will be made available to qualifying low-income consumers. Prior to August 1, 2012, this support was \$10.00.

Federal Lifeline support in the amount of \$9.25 per month will be made available to qualifying low-income consumers. Additional federal Lifeline support of up to \$25 per month will be made available to eligible residents of Tribal lands. Prior to August 1, 2012, there was a \$1.00 minimum Local Service Charge given to Tribal land customers. After August 1, 2012, no minimum charge to Tribal customers is required; therefore, Tribal land subscribers will not pay anything for the Local Service Charge.

Please give me a call at 701-858-5233 if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Julie Lizotte'.

Julie Lizotte  
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

1 **PU-12-320** Filed: 6/29/2012 Pages: 5  
**Lifeline, Link Up**

SRT Communications, Inc.  
Julie Lizotte

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**LOCAL SERVICE  
LIFELINE SERVICE**

**A. General**

1. The Federal Communications Commission and the North Dakota Public Service Commission require that an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier must offer Lifeline assistance to non-Tribal Land customers, and Enhanced Lifeline and Link-up assistance for Tribal Land customers. Tribal Lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony.
2. Lifeline service means qualifying low income subscribers pay reduced charges for residential local telecommunications service.
  1. Lifeline service includes voice grade access to the public switched network, minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users, access to emergency 911 and enhanced 911 service to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems, and toll limitation at no charge to qualifying low-income consumers.
  2. A service deposit shall not be collected in order to initiate Lifeline service if the qualifying low income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking.
  3. Lifeline assistance is not available when a subscriber is already receiving one or more Lifeline services concurrently, or one or more subscribers in a household are receiving Lifeline services concurrently.
  4. All Lifeline customers will be required to recertify on an annual basis.

**B. Program Based Eligibility – Non-Tribal land**

1. A subscriber can receive the Lifeline assistance by providing SRT their current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying assistance program, a notice or letter of participation in a qualifying assistance program, program participation documents, or another official document demonstrating that the prospective subscriber, one or more of the prospective subscriber's dependents or the prospective subscriber's household receives benefits from a qualifying assistance program. Applicant must complete SRT's Lifeline Assistance Application. Eligible programs include:

Medicaid  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8) (FPHA)  
Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)  
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

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**LOCAL SERVICE  
LIFELINE SERVICE**

**C. Income Based Eligibility – Non-Tribal Land**

2. A qualifying low income subscriber is eligible to receive Lifeline assistance by certifying under the Income-Based method. The subscriber's household income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) will be the point of reference to determine the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The subscriber must complete SRT's Assistance Application, provide SRT income documentation, and certify the number of household members. The income of all household members will be used to determine eligibility. Acceptable income documentation includes:

- Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return
- Current income statement from an employer
- Paycheck stub (must present three consecutive months)
- Social security statement of benefits
- Veterans administration statement of benefits
- Federal or tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- Child Support
- Divorce Decree
- Other official document

**D. Lifeline Support Amount – Non-Tribal Lands**

1. Federal Lifeline support in the amount of \$9.25 per month will be made available to qualifying low-income consumers.

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**LOCAL SERVICE  
ENHANCED LIFELINE AND LINK UP SERVICE  
TRIBAL LANDS**

**A. General**

1. In order to receive Enhanced Lifeline for residents of Tribal lands, a consumer must complete and sign a SRT Assistance Application.
2. In addition to the \$9.25 Lifeline support indicated in Section 2, Sheet 8 (D), Enhanced Lifeline Assistance for residents of Tribal Lands are eligible to receive an additional \$25 in support. The total amount of Enhanced Lifeline support cannot exceed the amount of the Residential Local Line Charge.

**B. Program Based Eligibility - Tribal Lands**

1. Residents of Tribal lands who are eligible to receive one of the following assistance programs are eligible to receive Enhanced Lifeline.

Medicaid

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8) (FPHA)

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance Program

Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards)

**C. Income Based Eligibility – Tribal Lands**

1. A qualifying low income subscriber is eligible to receive Enhanced Lifeline assistance by certifying under the Income-Based method. The subscriber's household income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) will be the point of reference to determine the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The subscriber must complete SRT's Assistance Application, provide SRT income documentation, and certify the number of household members. The income of all household members will be used to determine eligibility.

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**LOCAL SERVICE  
ENHANCED LIFELINE AND LINK UP SERVICE  
TRIBAL LANDS**

**C. Income Based Eligibility – Tribal Lands, continued...**

Acceptable forms of documentation include:

- Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return
- Current income statement from an employer
- Paycheck stub (must present three consecutive months)
- Social security statement of benefits
- Veterans administration statement of benefits
- Federal or tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- Child Support
- Divorce Decree
- Other official document

**D. Enhanced Linkup - Tribal Lands**

1. A resident of Tribal Lands who is eligible to receive Enhanced Lifeline is also eligible to receive Expanded Link Up.
2. A 100 percent reduction, up to \$100, of the customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection.
3. An eligible resident of Tribal lands may receive the benefit of the Enhanced Tribal Link Up program for a second or subsequent time only for otherwise qualifying commencement of telecommunications service at a principal place of residence with an address different from the address for which Tribal Link Up assistance was provided previously.

**E. Enhanced Lifeline Support Amount - Tribal Lands**

1. Federal Lifeline support in the amount of \$9.25 per month will be made available to qualifying low-income consumers. Additional federal Lifeline support of up to \$25 per month will be made available to eligible residents of Tribal lands. The total Lifeline support cannot exceed the Residential Local Line Charge.