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Lifeline Re-Certification – FCC Form 555

1221 North Russell St. | Missoula, MT 59808
866-541-5000 | Blackfoot.com

January 20, 2017

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 14-171

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. respectfully submits the attached certifications pursuant to 47 CFR §54.416 (b) and 54.410 (d) as required by the FCC's Lifeline Reform Order. The filing has been electronically filed in accordance with the Commission's Public Notice DA 14-1731.

Sincerely,

Michelle Owens

Michelle Owens
Regulatory Specialist
Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
1221 N. Russell St.
Missoula, MT 59808

cc: Montana Public Service Commission
USAC High Cost Low Income Division
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Idaho Public Utilities Commission

OMB Approval
3060-0819

Annual Lifeline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification Form
All carriers must complete all or portions of all sections
Form must be submitted to USAC and filed with the Federal Communications Commission

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Deadline: January 31st (Annually)

482235
Study Area Code (SAC)

143002531
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)

*(An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) must provide a certification form for **each SAC** through which it provides Lifeline service).*

2016
Recertification Year

MT
State

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative Inc.
ETC Name

Blackfoot
DBA, Marketing, or Other Branding Name
(If same as ETC name, list "N/A" Do not leave blank)

BTC HOLDINGS INC
Holding Company Name
(If same as ETC name, list "N/A" Do not leave blank)

Does the reporting company have affiliated ETCs? Yes ☐ No ☐

Provide a list of all ETCs that are affiliated with the reporting ETC, using page 4 and additional sheets if necessary. Affiliation shall be determined in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Communications Act. That Section defines "affiliate" as "a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person." 47 U.S.C. § 153(2). See also 47 C.F.R. § 76.1200.

Affiliated ETC's SAC	Affiliated ETC's Name
-- See attached worksheet --	

For purposes of this filing, an officer is an occupant of a position listed in the article of incorporation, articles of formation, or other similar legal document. An officer is a person who occupies a position specified in the corporate by-laws (or partnership agreement), and would typically be president, vice president for operations, vice president for finance, comptroller, treasurer, or a comparable position. If the filer is a sole proprietorship, the owner must sign the certification.

Section 1: **Initial Certification** *All ETCs must complete this section*

I certify that the company listed above has certification procedures in place to:

A) Review income and program-based eligibility documentation prior to enrolling a consumer in the Lifeline program, and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company was presented with documentation of each consumer's household income and/or program-based eligibility prior to his or her enrollment in Lifeline; and/or

B) Confirm consumer eligibility by relying upon access to a state database and/or notice of eligibility from the state Lifeline administrator prior to enrolling a consumer in the Lifeline program.

I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area Code listed above.

Initial mag

Section 2: Annual Recertification

Do not leave empty blocks. If an ETC has nothing to report in a block, enter a zero.

A	B	C	D	E = (A – B – C – D)
Number of subscribers claimed on February FCC Form 497 of current Form 555 calendar year *(February data month)*	**Number of lines claimed on February FCC Form 497 of current Form 555 calendar year provided to wireline resellers**	**Number of subscribers claimed on the February FCC Form 497 that were initially enrolled in the current Form 555 calendar year** *(These subscribers did not have Lifeline service prior to January 1 of the current 555 calendar year.)*	**Number of subscribers de-enrolled prior to recertification attempt by either the ETC, a state administrator, access to an eligibility database, or by USAC**	**Number of subscribers ETC is responsible for recertifying for current Form 555 calendar year**
200	0	0	40	160

Recertification Results:

F	G	H = (F-G)	I	J = (H+I)
Number of subscribers ETC contacted directly to recertify eligibility through attestation	**Number of subscribers responding to ETC contact**	**Number of non-responding subscribers**	**Number of subscribers responding that they are no longer eligible** *(This should be a subset of Block G.)*	**Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of non-response or response of ineligibility from ETC recertification attempt**
0	0	0	0	0

K	L
Number of subscribers whose eligibility was reviewed by state administrator, ETC access to eligibility database, or by USAC	**Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of finding of ineligibility by state administrator, ETC access to eligibility database, or USAC**
160	56

Note: *If any subscriber was reviewed by an ETC accessing a state database or by a state administrator and subsequently contacted directly by the ETC in an attempt to recertify eligibility, those subscribers should be listed in Blocks F through J as appropriate and not in Blocks K and L. As a result, all subscribers subject to recertification who were not de-enrolled prior to the recertification attempt must be accounted for in Block F or Block K.*

The total of Block F and Block K should equal the number reported in Block E.

Certification:

Based on the data entered above, initial the certification(s) below that apply. Both Certification A and B may apply depending on the recertification procedures in place for the SAC reporting on this form. If Certification C applies, neither Certification A nor B may apply.

A) I certify that the company listed above has procedures in place to recertify the continued eligibility of all of its Lifeline subscribers, and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company obtained signed certifications from all subscribers attesting to their continuing eligibility for Lifeline. Results are provided in the chart above in Blocks F through J. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.

Initial _____

AND/OR

B) I certify that the company listed above has procedures in place to recertify consumer eligibility by relying on: USAC. *(List database or name of administrator here)* Results are provided in the chart above in Blocks K through L. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.

Initial mag

OR

C) I certify that my company did not claim federal low income support for any Lifeline subscribers for the February Form 497 data month for the current Form 555 calendar year. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.

Initial _____

Section 3: De-enroll Percentage

Using the data entered in Section 2, complete the chart below to find the percentage of subscribers de-enrolled for this ETC.

M = (F+K)	N = (J+L)	O = ((N ÷ M) * 100)
Number of subscribers that the ETC attempted to recertify directly or through a state administrator, ETC access to a state database, or by USAC ***(This should equal the number reported in Block E)***	Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of non-response or ineligibility	**Percentage of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of ineligibility or non-response**
160	56	35.0%

Section 4: ETCs Subject to the Non-Usage Requirements

All ETCs must complete the appropriate check-box. ETCs that do not assess and collect a monthly fee from their Lifeline subscribers are subject to the non-usage requirements. ETCs subject to the non-usage requirements must indicate the number of subscribers de-enrolled by month in Section 4. ETCs that only assess a fee but do not collect such fees are subject to the non-usage requirements and must also indicate the number of subscribers de-enrolled by month.

Is the ETC subject to the non-usage requirements? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, record the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month in Block Q below.

P	Q
Month	Subscribers De-Enrolled for Non-Usage
January	0
February	0
March	0
April	0
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	0
December	0
Total Subscribers	0

Signature Block

By signing below, I certify that the company listed above is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area Code (SAC) listed above.

Signed,

Certified Online
Signature of Officer

mgillen@blackfoot.com
Email Address of Officer

Michelle Owens
Person Completing This Certification Form

Marlys Gillen, Controller
Printed Name and Title of Officer

01/10/2017
Date

401-541-5131
Contact Phone Number

Approved by OMB
3060-0819

Affiliated ETCs

SAC	Name
483308	Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative Inc.
472222	Fremont Telcom Co.

OMB Approval
3060-0819

Annual Lifeline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification Form
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IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Deadline: January 31st (Annually)

483308
Study Area Code (SAC)

143002531
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)

*(An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) must provide a certification form for **each SAC** through which it provides Lifeline service).*

2016
Recertification Year

MT
State

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative Inc.
ETC Name

Blackfoot
DBA, Marketing, or Other Branding Name
(If same as ETC name, list "N/A" Do not leave blank)

BTC Holdings, Inc.
Holding Company Name
(If same as ETC name, list "N/A" Do not leave blank)

Does the reporting company have affiliated ETCs? Yes ☒ No ☐

Provide a list of all ETCs that are affiliated with the reporting ETC, using page 4 and additional sheets if necessary. Affiliation shall be determined in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Communications Act. That Section defines "affiliate" as "a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person." 47 U.S.C. § 153(2). See also 47 C.F.R. § 76.1200.

Affiliated ETC's SAC	Affiliated ETC's Name
-- See attached worksheet --	

For purposes of this filing, an officer is an occupant of a position listed in the article of incorporation, articles of formation, or other similar legal document. An officer is a person who occupies a position specified in the corporate by-laws (or partnership agreement), and would typically be president, vice president for operations, vice president for finance, comptroller, treasurer, or a comparable position. If the filer is a sole proprietorship, the owner must sign the certification.

Section 1: **Initial Certification** *All ETCs must complete this section*

I certify that the company listed above has certification procedures in place to:

A) Review income and program-based eligibility documentation prior to enrolling a consumer in the Lifeline program, and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company was presented with documentation of each consumer's household income and/or program-based eligibility prior to his or her enrollment in Lifeline; and/or

B) Confirm consumer eligibility by relying upon access to a state database and/or notice of eligibility from the state Lifeline administrator prior to enrolling a consumer in the Lifeline program.

I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area Code listed above.

Initial mag

Section 2: Annual Recertification

Do not leave empty blocks. If an ETC has nothing to report in a block, enter a zero.

A	B	C	D	E = (A – B – C – D)
Number of subscribers claimed on February FCC Form 497 of current Form 555 calendar year *(February data month)*	**Number of lines claimed on February FCC Form 497 of current Form 555 calendar year provided to wireline resellers**	**Number of subscribers claimed on the February FCC Form 497 that were initially enrolled in the current Form 555 calendar year** *(These subscribers did not have Lifeline service prior to January 1 of the current 555 calendar year.)*	**Number of subscribers de-enrolled prior to recertification attempt by either the ETC, a state administrator, access to an eligibility database, or by USAC**	**Number of subscribers ETC is responsible for recertifying for current Form 555 calendar year**
96	0	0	23	73

Recertification Results:

F	G	H = (F-G)	I	J = (H+I)
Number of subscribers ETC contacted directly to recertify eligibility through attestation	**Number of subscribers responding to ETC contact**	**Number of non-responding subscribers**	**Number of subscribers responding that they are no longer eligible** *(This should be a subset of Block G.)*	**Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of non-response or response of ineligibility from ETC recertification attempt**
0	0	0	0	0

K	L
Number of subscribers whose eligibility was reviewed by state administrator, ETC access to eligibility database, or by USAC	**Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of finding of ineligibility by state administrator, ETC access to eligibility database, or USAC**
73	19

Note: *If any subscriber was reviewed by an ETC accessing a state database or by a state administrator and subsequently contacted directly by the ETC in an attempt to recertify eligibility, those subscribers should be listed in Blocks F through J as appropriate and not in Blocks K and L. As a result, all subscribers subject to recertification who were not de-enrolled prior to the recertification attempt must be accounted for in Block F or Block K.*

The total of Block F and Block K should equal the number reported in Block E.

Certification:

Based on the data entered above, initial the certification(s) below that apply. Both Certification A and B may apply depending on the recertification procedures in place for the SAC reporting on this form. If Certification C applies, neither Certification A nor B may apply.

A) I certify that the company listed above has procedures in place to recertify the continued eligibility of all of its Lifeline subscribers, and that, to the best of my knowledge, the company obtained signed certifications from all subscribers attesting to their continuing eligibility for Lifeline. Results are provided in the chart above in Blocks F through J. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.

Initial _____

AND/OR

B) I certify that the company listed above has procedures in place to recertify consumer eligibility by relying on: USAC _____. *(List database or name of administrator here)* Results are provided in the chart above in Blocks K through L. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.

Initial mag

OR

C) I certify that my company did not claim federal low income support for any Lifeline subscribers for the February Form 497 data month for the current Form 555 calendar year. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the SAC listed above.

Initial _____

Section 3: De-enroll Percentage

Using the data entered in Section 2, complete the chart below to find the percentage of subscribers de-enrolled for this ETC.

M = (F+K)	N = (J+L)	O = ((N ÷ M) * 100)
Number of subscribers that the ETC attempted to recertify directly or through a state administrator, ETC access to a state database, or by USAC ***(This should equal the number reported in Block E)***	Number of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of non-response or ineligibility	**Percentage of subscribers de-enrolled or scheduled to be de-enrolled as a result of ineligibility or non-response**
73	19	26.03%

Section 4: ETCs Subject to the Non-Usage Requirements

All ETCs must complete the appropriate check-box. ETCs that do not assess and collect a monthly fee from their Lifeline subscribers are subject to the non-usage requirements. ETCs subject to the non-usage requirements must indicate the number of subscribers de-enrolled by month in Section 4. ETCs that only assess a fee but do not collect such fees are subject to the non-usage requirements and must also indicate the number of subscribers de-enrolled by month.

Is the ETC subject to the non-usage requirements? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, record the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month in Block Q below.

P	Q
Month	Subscribers De-Enrolled for Non-Usage
January	0
February	0
March	0
April	0
May	0
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	0
December	0
Total Subscribers	0

Signature Block

By signing below, I certify that the company listed above is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures. I am an officer of the company named above. I am authorized to make this certification for the Study Area Code (SAC) listed above.

Signed,

Certified Online
Signature of Officer

Marlys Gillen, Controller
Printed Name and Title of Officer

mgillen@blackfoot.com
Email Address of Officer

01/10/2017
Date

Michelle Owens
Person Completing This Certification Form

406-541-5131
Contact Phone Number

Approved by OMB
3060-0819

Affiliated ETCs

SAC	Name
482235	Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative Inc.
472222	Fremont Telcom Co.