FIVE AREA TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

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March 15, 2017

To: Federal Communications Commission

From: Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Re: Forbearance Notification
WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization

Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Five Area; SAC 442071) hereby notifies the FCC that it is availing itself of forbearance relief granted by the *Lifeline Modernization Order*[1] from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported broadband Internet access service.

Five Area is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) that receives Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support in Texas. The Cooperative elects forbearance relief for those census blocks in its study area that are not funded under A-CAM. The Cooperative does not receive high-cost support for those unfunded census blocks and is not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations in them. What follows is the information the Wireline Competition Bureau has requested in these notifications.[2]

1. *Carrier Name*: Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

2. *ETC Designation Information*

    a. *ETC Designation Order*: Public Utility Commission of Texas; General Counsel's Petition for Designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Under 47 U.S.C. §214(e); Project No. 18100; Approving/Denying/Abating Applications for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier; Order No. 3; December 10, 1997.

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[1] *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016) (*Lifeline Modernization Order*). In particular, the *Lifeline Modernization Order* forbore from requiring high-cost support recipients to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in areas where they are not receiving high-cost support or are not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations. *Id.*, 31 FCC Rcd 4074-75, paras. 309, 311, 312.

[2] *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12672 (2016).

b. *Designating Authority*: Public Utility Commission of Texas

c. *Type of Designation*: High-cost support recipient (*i.e.*, not Lifeline-only)

d. *Date of ETC Designation*: December 10, 1997

3. *Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance*: The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains a list of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where Five Area is availing itself of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within the Cooperative's ETC-designated service area that are not funded under A-CAM.

4. *Date and Reason for Change*: Five Area received its first A-CAM support payment on February 28, 2017. Therefore, as of that date, the Cooperative no longer receives high-cost support for census blocks within its designated service area that are not funded under the model and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.

5. *Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband*: Notwithstanding the forbearance relief Five Area is claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM support, the Cooperative still intends to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

Please feel free to contact me at 806-272-5533 or markwa@fivearea.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark Washington

Mark Washington
Chief Executive Officer