





**Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

**Study Area Code 442068**

**Response to Line 920- Tribal Engagement Obligation**

Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Cooperative") serves the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas located in eastern Texas. The Cooperative coordinated with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas in 2014 to engage in discussion of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas' needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions, feasibility and sustainability planning, marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner, rights of way, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation processes, and compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements per the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.313(a)(9). The following pages provide documentation of the Cooperative's engagement with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas.

# **EASTEX TELEPHONE CO-OP., INC.**

*"A PHONE FOR EVERY FARM"*

June 5, 2015

Representatives from Eastex Telephone Co-op Inc. (Anthony Hendrix, Kaitlin Puckett) met with the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation (ACIR) tribal counsel on December 9, 2014 at 2:00 pm. Those present for ACIR were, Tribal Administrator Stephanie Williams, Tribal Council Member Ronnie Thomas and Communications/Media Relations Manager Carlos Bullock. The following items listed below were discussed:

1. Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on community anchor institutes.
2. Feasibility and sustainability planning.
3. Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner.
4. Compliance with right of ways.
5. Compliance with land use permitting.
6. Compliance with facilities siting rules.
7. Compliance with environmental review processes.
8. Compliance with cultural preservation review processes.
9. Compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements.

All of the above items were discussed in detail. Currently, Eastex Telephone Coop., Inc. provides Telephone, DSL and Ethernet Transport services to ACIR. ACIR expressed they are very satisfied with these services. Features that they have today but currently do not use, include: online management of their voice mail and voice mail to email. ACIR was interested in both and would be discussed more in detail at another meeting to be determined. Notify Plus was also discussed and how it could benefit the Tribe. ACIR expressed that Notify Plus could replace some of the current tools they are using.

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ACIR Tribal Engagement Meeting, December 9, 2014

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Eastex provided free WIFI services this year at the Annual PO WOW and ACIR was very pleased. They asked if we could provide WIFI for the POW WOW and other events throughout the year, at which Eastex agreed to work with them on future functions. ACIR expressed they were experiencing issues with their current WIFI that was installed by another company, Eastex offered to provide an analysis and assist them in resolving their issues. They commented how much they would appreciate us with helping them and further commented on how we helped resolve issues they were having with a credit card machine at the One Stop convenience store.

Council member Ronnie Thomas inquired about several new services. One involved providing services to a radio station that will be located on the Reservation. Another was internet service to their maintenance building and the last was an inquiry about providing service to the Smoke Shop located outside of our service area Eastex expressed that providing service to the radio station and the maintenance shop could be accomplished but the service to the Smoke Shop which is located outside of our service area would be an issue, but I would discuss this with upper management.

Eastex Telephone Co-op, Inc. had requested permission on June 30th, 2014 to install a new fiber optic cable on Tribal land. Eastex has a twenty year easement (which expires September 2015), but sought the approval of the Tribal Council. This request was discussed and we received permission to begin after January 1, 2015. Council member Ronnie Thomas requested that prior to beginning the project, that the ACIR wanted a written description of the project which included the specs on the fiber being installed, as well as, a time frame in which the project will be completed. Eastex agreed to do so and informed him that we would have this written description to him on or before December 19th, 2014. Also, the process in seeking a new easement was discussed. Tribal Administrator Stephanie Williams expressed that we should begin this process after the first of the year as the Indian Bureau of Affairs would have to be involved and the process could take some time.

ACIR Tribal Engagement Meeting, December 9, 2014

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Marketing Coordinator Kaitlin Puckett from Eastex Telephone Co-op, Inc. was introduced. We discussed her roll at Eastex and the relationship we would like her to establish with the Tribe. She expressed ideas and goals she had about promoting the ACIR as an attraction as well as events hosted by them. Her ideas were accepted very well and Communications/Media Relations Manager Carlos Bullock also shared some of his ideas and goals with her. This was a very positive correspondence and they will be working closely in the future to achieve these goals.

Meeting was adjourned and we feel that the ACIR is very well pleased with Eastex Telephone Co-op, Inc. as a service provider and our efforts to continue providing quality services as well as our efforts to assist in the future development of the ACIR.

**Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

**Study Area Code: 442068**

**Rates, Terms and Conditions for Lifeline Service**

**(Response to Form 481, Line 1210)**

Local exchange service rates and charges as specified below are for basic local exchange service and facilities only, including tone dialing service. The rates for other ancillary services not specifically shown below are presented in Eastex Telephone Cooperative's tariff(s) on file with the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Unless otherwise specified, the rates and charges quoted below are for periods of one month at same location, payable in advance and provide unlimited flat rate calling within the local exchange calling scope.

Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rates:<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

<b>Exchange Name</b>	<b>R-1 Rate</b>	<b>Res. EAS Charge</b>
Blanchard	\$ 16.00	\$ -
Chester	\$ 12.50	\$ 3.50
Coldsprings	\$ 13.00	\$ 3.00
DeBerry	\$ 12.50	\$ 3.50
Elysian Fields	\$ 12.50	\$ 3.50
Evergreen	\$ 12.50	\$ 3.50
Goodrich	\$ 16.00	\$ -
Goodsprings	\$ 10.60	\$ 3.50
Hudson	\$ 12.50	\$ 3.50
Huxley	\$ 13.50	\$ 2.50
Laneville	\$ 10.60	\$ 3.50
Maydelle	\$ 12.50	\$ 3.50
Minden	\$ 10.60	\$ 3.50
Mt. Enterprise	\$ 10.60	\$ 3.50
Oak Hill	\$ 10.60	\$ 3.50
Oakhurst	\$ 13.05	\$ 2.95
Onalaska	\$ 16.00	\$ -
Pinehill	\$ 10.60	\$ 3.50
Ruby	\$ 16.00	\$ -
Segno	\$ 16.00	\$ -
Waskom	\$ 12.50	\$ 3.50

<sup>(1)</sup> Above listed fees do not include mandatory taxes, fees and surcharges, including, but not limited to Texas Universal Service Fund charges, 9-1-1 fees, and municipal franchise fees.

<sup>(2)</sup> Qualified Lifeline customers are eligible for Lifeline credits or discounts as outlined in the attached Lifeline tariff.

EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
HENDERSON, TEXAS

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4<sup>th</sup> Revised Page 11  
Replacing 3<sup>rd</sup> Revised Page 11

**MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**I. GENERAL (Continued)**

**F. Lifeline Program**

The Lifeline Program is a retail local service offering designed to make telephone service available at reduced rates to qualifying low-income customers.

**1. General**

a. A qualifying low-income customer subscribing to the Lifeline Program shall receive federal and state reductions to their monthly tariffed residential local exchange access line rate.

b. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for the Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications services.

c. Lifeline Program reductions do not apply to surcharges, taxes, long distance service, 976 and other information related telecommunications services, and optional services such as custom calling features. Customers may obtain these services, where available, at their discretion.

d. The Lifeline Program rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges; however, customers eligible for the Tribal Link Up Program will receive a 100% reduction not to exceed \$100.00 on applicable service connection charges, as provided in Section 5 of this tariff.

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By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
 HENDERSON, TEXAS

SECTION 4  
 5<sup>th</sup> Revised Page 12  
 Replacing 4<sup>th</sup> Revised Page 12

MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF  
 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

1. General (Continued)

e. The Cooperative may not disconnect the service of a Lifeline Program customer for the non-payment of toll charges. However, the Cooperative reserves the right to implement toll blocking, at no charge, if the customer incurs a significant balance of unpaid toll bills. The Cooperative will inform the customer, by direct mail, of this change to their service due to the customer's non-payment of toll charges. Upon the customer's payment of all outstanding toll charges, the Cooperative shall remove mandatory toll blocking at no charge.

f. Upon subscribing to the Lifeline Program, a customer will be offered a subscription, at no charge, to toll blocking service (in exchanges where technically available) which denies the customer access to the long distance telecommunications network; however, the customer is under no obligation to accept the subscription to toll blocking.

g. The Lifeline Program rate reductions will not be available on a retroactive basis unless directed by the Public Utility Commission or the Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA).

h. Lifeline Service rate reductions apply to basic network service. The Cooperative shall provide access to and the customer may choose to subscribe to vertical services, including bundled services where offered by the Cooperative, at the tariffed rate, however, the Lifeline discount is applied first to the billed charge for basic telephone service.

i. The Cooperative shall waive monthly number portability charges, subject to its tariff, for Lifeline customers.

By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
HENDERSON, TEXAS

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1<sup>st</sup> Revised Page 12.1  
Replacing Original Page 12.1

MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF  
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

2. Designated Lifeline Program Services

The Cooperative shall offer the following voice telephony services:

- a. Voice-grade access to the public network or its functional equivalent.
- b. Local usage at no additional charge to end-users.
- c. Access to emergency services such as 9-1-1 and E 9-1-1 as implemented locally.
- d. Toll limitation, including toll blocking or toll control.

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By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
HENDERSON, TEXAS

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5<sup>th</sup> Revised Page 13  
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MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF  
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

3. Eligibility Requirement

a. Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer  
Criteria

An eligible customer shall be defined as an individual whose annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines or in whose household resides a person who receives or has a child who receives benefits from at least one of the assistance programs identified in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409 and in P.U.C. Substantive Rule 26.412 regarding consumer qualification for Lifeline.

The Lifeline Program rate reductions will be provided to each eligible customer. The Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) will provide a list of eligible customers to the Cooperative each month.

b. Obligations of the Customer

i. Customers whose annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines or who participate in FPHA or LIHEAP programs may self-enroll for Lifeline Program benefits by completing an application form and returning it to LIDA. LIDA will send a blank application upon customer request. LIDA can be reached at 1-866-4LITEUP. Current customers receiving benefits under Medicaid, Food Stamps, SSI or CHIP will be subject to the Lifeline Program automatic enrollment procedures as provided by the LIDA unless they provide a written request to the LIDA to be excluded from the Lifeline Program.

ii. A customer who is eligible for the Lifeline Program but does not have telephone service at the time the LIDA provides its eligibility list to the Cooperative, shall be responsible for initiating a request for the Cooperative.

By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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HENDERSON, TEXAS

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MEMBERS SERVICES TARIFF

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

3. Eligibility Requirement (Continued)

c. Obligations of the Cooperative

i. LIDA will provide a list of eligible customers to the Cooperative on a monthly basis. Upon receipt of the list, the Cooperative shall begin reduced billing for those customers in accordance with the terms of the LIDA's procedures included in the LIDA Guide.

d. Discontinuance of Service

i. Discontinuance of Lifeline Discounts for customers automatically enrolled: The eligibility period for automatically enrolled customers is the length of their enrollment in Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC) benefits plus a period of 60 days for renewal. Automatically enrolled customers will have an opportunity to renew their THHSC benefits or self-enrollment with LIDA upon the expiration of their automatic enrollment.

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By: Mr. Allen Dorman

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EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
HENDERSON, TEXAS

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4th Revised Page 15  
Replacing 2nd Revised Page 15

**MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**I. GENERAL (Continued)**

**F. Lifeline Program (Continued)**

**3. Eligibility Requirements (Continued)**

**d. Discontinuance of Service (Continued)**

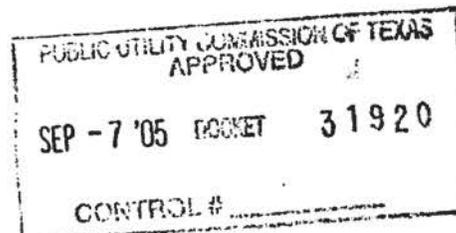
ii. Discontinuance of Lifeline Discounts for customers who have self-enrolled. Individuals not receiving benefits through THHSC programs, but who have met Lifeline income qualifications, are eligible to receive the Lifeline Discount for seven months, which includes a period of 60 days during which the customer may renew their eligibility with LIDA for an additional seven months.

**4. Deposit and Credit Requirements**

a. The Cooperative shall be prohibited from charging a service deposit in order to initiate the Lifeline Program if the eligible customer voluntarily elects to receive toll blocking.

b. The Cooperative may charge a service deposit if the eligible customer denies subscription to toll blocking upon subscribing to the Lifeline Program.

c. In instances where the Cooperative may require a service deposit, the same credit verification procedures and deposit regulations used for all applicants who apply for service with the Cooperative are also applicable to eligible customers of the Lifeline Program.



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EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
HENDERSON, TEXAS

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2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Page 15.1  
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**MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**I. GENERAL (Continued)**

**F. Lifeline Program (Continued)**

**5. Service Connection Charges**

a. Service connection charges do not apply to eligible customers with existing, qualifying service converting to the Lifeline Program.

b. Service connection charges do apply when:

i. Existing eligible customers request additional non-qualifying services at the time Lifeline Program reduced billing is initiated.

ii. New customers (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the Lifeline Program establish service.

iii. Customers make subsequent moves or changes after the initial connection to the Lifeline Program.

c. In instances where service connection charges apply, customers who qualify for the Lifeline Program and who also reside on Tribal Lands may be eligible for the Tribal Lands Link Up Program, to receive a reduction in the applicable service connection charges as provided in Section 5 of this tariff. T

By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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HENDERSON, TEXAS

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2nd Revised Page 15.2  
Replacing 1st Revised Page 15.2

MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

6. Lifeline Program Rate Reduction

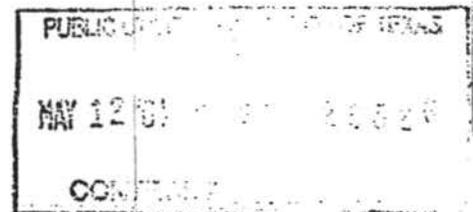
a. Implementation

The Cooperative shall provide reduced billing for all Lifeline Program eligible customers within its service area in accordance with Commission's Substantive Rules.

In instances where a customer inquires about participation in the Lifeline Program, the Cooperative shall provide contact information for LIDA.

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5<sup>th</sup> Revised Page 15.3  
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MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

6. Lifeline Program Rate Reduction (Continued)

b. Amounts

The Cooperative shall apply Lifeline Program rate reductions, per eligible customer, as described below.

	Monthly Rate <u>Reduction</u>	
1) Federal Lifeline support amount. The Cooperative shall grant qualifying low-income consumers support of \$10.00 per month or equal to the support amount as directed by the Federal Communications Commission in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.403 regarding Lifeline support.	up to \$10.00	T DTR D T  T D D D T
2) Maximum State Reduction to Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rate.	up to \$3.50	T

By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
HENDERSON, TEXAS

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2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Page 15.4  
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**MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF**

**LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**I. GENERAL (Continued)**

**F. Lifeline Program (Continued)**

**7. Tribal Lands Customers**

The Cooperative will apply additional Lifeline Program rate reductions per eligible customer residing on Tribal Lands [referenced in 47, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 54.409(b).

**a. Eligibility Requirement**

**Qualifying Low-Income Tribal Lands Consumer**

A consumer who lives on Tribal Lands and is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size; or

A consumer, their dependents, or their household who reside on Tribal Lands based upon CFR 47 § 54.400 and who participate in one of the federal or state assistance programs identified in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409(a) and (b) and in P.U.C. Substantive Rule 26.412 regarding consumer qualification for Lifeline, or

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By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
HENDERSON, TEXAS

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2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Page 15.5

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MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

7. Tribal Lands Customers (Continued)

b. Obligations of the Tribal Lands Consumer

i. Prior to implementation of the Lifeline Program, the Cooperative shall require the eligible Tribal Lands customer to sign a document certifying that:

ii. The customer resides on a reservation, as defined in 47 CFR §54.400(e);

iii. The customer meets the income eligibility criteria in 47 CFR §54.409 (a)(1) or (a)(3) or participates in one of the programs previously identified in this subsection. Acceptable documentation of a state, federal, or Tribal tax return, employer paycheck stub, and other proof in 47 CFR §54.410(b)(1)(i)(B); and

iv. The Tribal Lands customer agrees to notify the Cooperative if the customer ceases to participate in the identified program(s).

c. Lifeline Program Rate Reduction

In addition to the Lifeline Program rate reductions described in Section 4(F)(6), the Cooperative shall apply an additional federal reduction to the residential local exchange access line rate of up to \$25 per eligible Tribal Lands customer.

Monthly  
Support

i. Qualified Tribal Lands Lifeline Customer Residential Local Exchange Access Line Maximum Support up to \$25.00

By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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HENDERSON, TEXAS

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MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

7. Tribal Lands Customers (Continued)

c. Service Connection Charges

The Lifeline Program rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges.<sup>1</sup> A Tribal Lands customer eligible for the Tribal Link-Up Program will receive a 100% reduction on service connection charges, up to \$100 in federal Link-Up support per eligible Tribal Lands customer's principal place of residence.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicable service connection charges are provided in Section 5 of this tariff.

By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
HENDERSON, TEXAS

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2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Page 15.7  
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MEMBER SERVICES TARIFF  
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

I. GENERAL (Continued)

F. Lifeline Program (Continued)

7. Tribal Lands Customers (Continued)

d. Tribal Lifeline Eligibility Form

Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Tribal Lands Lifeline/Link Up Service  
Authorization and Self-Certification Form

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your contact number during weekdays between 8a.m. and 5 p.m.)

Applicant's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ or  
Official Tribal Government ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

1. I also certify that:

\_\_\_ My telephone service is listed in my name  
\_\_\_ My telephone service is listed in another's name, and I want to be contacted for a billing name change at no charge  
\_\_\_ I do not currently have telephone service and want to be contacted for Link Up and Lifeline  
\_\_\_ The address listed above is my primary service residence  
\_\_\_ To the best of my knowledge, I reside on a tribal land/reservation (as defined in Title 25 Code of Federal Regulation, Section 20.1, paragraph (v))  
Name of Reservation \_\_\_\_\_

2. I hereby certify that I participate in at least one of the following programs (check all that apply):

\_\_\_ Food Stamps  
\_\_\_ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  
\_\_\_ Medicaid  
\_\_\_ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
\_\_\_ Federal Public Housing Association (FPHA)  
\_\_\_ State Child Health Plan  
\_\_\_ Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance program  
\_\_\_ Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)  
\_\_\_ Head Start (Income qualified customers only)  
\_\_\_ National School Lunch Program (free lunch program only)  
\_\_\_ Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Or

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By: Mr. Allen Dorman, General Manager

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**Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

**Study Area Code: 442068**

**Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))**

Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. hereby certifies that throughout 2014, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, and currently, it is taking reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream broadband service at with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time. If a request for broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is unreasonable, and offering broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is reasonable, the Company offers broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream.

**Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (SAC 442068)**

**Response to Line 3012 - List of Community Anchor Institutions to Which the ETC Newly  
Began Providing Service**

The FCC's *USF/ICC Transformation Order* requires a listing of community anchor institutions<sup>1</sup> to which the ETC newly began providing broadband service. In 2014, as Appendix C to its original Five-Year Network Improvement Plan, Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. provided a list of all community anchor institutions to which it provided broadband service. Since that time, Eastex has not begun providing any additional community anchor institutions with access to broadband service. Therefore, for calendar year 2014, Eastex has no additional community anchor institution information to report.

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<sup>1</sup> The FCC has defined community anchor institutions in Section 54.5 of its Rules as "schools, libraries, health care providers, community colleges, other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and entities."

**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**