

SOLARUS / HO-CHUNK MEETING MINUTES

In fulfillment of tribal engagement obligations in the US Code at §54.313 (a)(9), and to further the goal of establishing good working relationships with its customers located on tribal lands, Wood County Telephone Company d/b/a Solarus ("Solarus") requested a meeting with previously identified representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation, held on December 30, 2014 in Black River Falls, WI.

On behalf of the Ho-Chunk:

- o **Jess Lozano** – Information Technology Supervisor Jess.Lozano@ho-chunk.com (715) 284-2290
- o **Dave Lambert** – IT Systems Engineer Dave.Lambert@ho-chunk.com (715) 284-2290
- o unable to attend, **William Browne**– Systems Administrator and Tribal representative on the LinkWisconsin Region 4 Regional Broadband Planning Team William.Browne@ho-chunk.com (715) 284-2290

On behalf of Solarus (Wood County Telephone Company):

- o **Wendy Hack** – Business Sales Manager wendy@solarus.biz (715) 421-8143
- o unable to attend, **Greg Krings** – Director of Finance / Controller krings@solarus.biz (715) 421-8129

The meeting opened with a brief review of the tribal engagement obligations and reporting requirements required under FCC rules, and through guidance published by the Office of Native Affairs and Policy¹ regarding specific topics that should be covered in these meetings. The following areas were discussed during this meeting:

Tribal Service Areas: Wood County Telephone Company d/b/a Solarus serves Ho-Chunk lands within its Nekoosa exchange.

Needs Assessment and Deployment Planning

A map of Ho-Chunk lands was reviewed, and the particular geography falling into Solarus' ILEC ETC service areas. Solarus explained that all of the tribal homes and business locations in Nekoosa should be able to request broadband services, today. Solarus currently provides fiber connectivity, and services over those facilities, to the Nekoosa casino. Several small tribal-owned businesses and residential service locations are also within the Nekoosa local serving area. Tribal representatives felt that all key needs and deployment planning needs are being addressed through existing Solarus sales channels.

There was a brief discussion of the availability of tribal Lifeline and Link-up services, how these programs works, and how Solarus will continue to advertise its potential benefits. In particular, contact will be established with the Ho-Chunk Social Services Department's Ms. Stephanie Lozano to insure these programs are reaching all members in need, and at the Tribal Aging Unit in particular.

¹ See Office Of Native Affairs and Policy, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Wireline Competition Bureau Issue Further Guidance on Tribal Government Engagement Obligation Provisions of the Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, DA 12-1165, Released July 19,2012.

Feasibility and Sustainability Planning

Certain planned and potential expansion projects at the Nekoosa casino are already under discussion, and are being cared for through the existing relationship between the tribal Information Technologies organization and Solarus. No gaps or concerns were voiced during the meeting.

Marketing Services in a culturally sensitive manner

There was a discussion of what might constitute insensitive cultural references in marketing and sales. Tribal representatives felt that Solarus marketing has been sufficiently sensitive to Ho-Chunk cultural issues, and would report any concerns if they were to develop. Solarus representatives said that any tribal concerns or recommendations would immediately be taken to heart and resolved.

Right of Way, Land Use Permitting and Environmental Review Processes

There are no known complaints from existing tribal land owners, and no known gaps in Solarus' compliance with land use permitting and environmental review processes of the Ho-Chunk or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources/ State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO).

New tribal permitting forms are being developed and representatives agreed in this meeting to share and be bound by tribal requirements that result from them. Representatives will work together to implement any changes in processes that result.

Cultural Preservation and Environmental Review Processes

There are no known concerns with cultural preservation or environmental concerns at this time, or in recent memory. It is believed that the new permitting process will provide some additional opportunities to identify potential concerns early in the planning process.

Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing Requirements

There are no known concerns with tribal business or licensing requirements.

Follow Up Activities

- Incremental tribal Lifeline and LinkUp outreach to Ho-Chunk Social Services
- Continuing successful teamwork on new projects for the Nekoosa casino, including expansion of services to tribal locations (residential and business) in the Nekoosa exchange.
- Sharing of the currently evolving tribal permitting forms.

FCC Form 481 – Line 1210 Lifeline Service Terms & Conditions

SAC: 330974
State: WI
Name: Wood County Telephone Company
Submission: 7/1/2015

Wood County Telephone Company offers Lifeline service to qualifying subscribers.

- Qualifying subscribers receive Lifeline credits totaling **\$10.00** (\$9.25 via the federal Low Income program, plus \$0.75 via the Wisconsin Universal Service Fund) on their telephone bill. The Lifeline benefit reduces the regular monthly rate for any single line residential local telephone service. This benefit is limited to one per qualifying household, and for service received from a single provider.
- Qualifying Tribal members may receive larger credits that bring their monthly local service rate down to \$1.00 under the FCC's Enhanced Lifeline program, and pay no initial local service installation charge under the FCC's Enhanced Link-up program.
- Number of Local Minutes/Calls Provided: Unlimited local calling.
- Additional Charges for Toll Calls: Toll calls and services for Lifeline subscribers are available and are billed at carriers' standard rates.
- No monthly or non-recurring charges for toll blocking features, pursuant to PSC 160.04, Wis. Adm. Code.
- Federal program eligibility for Lifeline service must be confirmed before the credit is issued. All subscribers must be recertified at least once each year.

Lifeline eligibility requires that income be no higher than 135% of the federal Poverty Guideline level, and/or participation in at one of the following programs, verified at least once each year:

- Wisconsin Works (W2)
- Medical Assistance (MA)/Badger Care/Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Wisconsin Homestead Tax Credit (Schedule H)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)/Section 8
- National School Lunch – Free Lunch Program
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

Wood County Telephone Company's local tariff Terms and Conditions for Lifeline Service and residential local rate page are attached.

Exchange Tariff - PSCW

Section 2
Sheet No. 2
Amendment No. 165

WOOD COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY
GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
LIFELINE PROGRAM¹

A. Description

Lifeline is a program designed to provide telephone service at a monthly discounted rate to low income customers, as defined in s. PSC 160.02(8), Wis. Adm. Code. Lifeline rates are established according to s. PSC 160.062(1), (2) and (3), Wis. Adm. Code and are available to all qualified low-income customers.

B. Regulations

The Lifeline Program is available only to qualifying low-income residential customers with a single telephone line per household.

Customers may not be disconnected from Lifeline service for non-payment of toll charges.

If toll blocking is available and the customer has voluntarily elected toll blocking, a service deposit may not be collected to initiate Lifeline service.

If toll blocking is not available, the qualifying low-income customer may be charged a service deposit for initiation of Lifeline service.

Participation in the specified programs must be verified by the telephone company through the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), or the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

Customers shall complete and remit any query authorization forms or forfeit eligibility. Verification of eligibility will be deemed to be the finding of the Social Security Number (SSN) and name of the listed customer in the active records of DWD for at least one of the specified income assistance programs, or to be a recipient of the Wisconsin homestead tax credit in the past year. Eligibility confirmation through receipt of the Wisconsin homestead tax credit will not become effective until the PSCW acknowledges an acceptable data base query process is in place.

Credits will appear on an eligible customer's bill on the bill date next following the date of application for the Lifeline Program. In cases where a customer's eligibility date as found in DWD records or the records of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue precedes the last bill date prior to application, credit will also be given on one month's prior bill.

Issue _____ Applicable to bills rendered on and after _____

PSCW Authorization by order No. _____ file # _____

Exchange Tariff - PSCW

Section	<u>2</u>
Sheet No.	<u>3</u>
Amendment No.	<u>100</u>

WOOD COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY
GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
LIFELINE PROGRAM

B. Regulations (Cont'd)

Except in cases where a customer's qualifying income assistance programs includes LIEAP or the Wisconsin homestead tax credit, eligibility for the Lifeline Program will continue until the bill date next following a failure to find the customer's SSN in the DWD records.

When LIEAP is one of the customer's qualifying income assistance programs, the Lifeline assistance will continue until the bill date in December next following the close of the heating season. At that time, lack of eligibility will be reverified by the Company before removing the Lifeline assistance from the customer's bill.

When the homestead tax credit is one of the customer's qualifying income assistance programs, the eligibility for Lifeline assistance continues until the bill date in the next June following the end of the tax year. At that time, lack of eligibility will be reverified by the Company before removing the Lifeline assistance from the customer's bill.

The Lifeline Program is not available to customers who are dependents for Federal income tax purposes as defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 152 (1986) Unless the customer is more than 60 years of age.

C. Rates

Lifeline Service monthly credit

The Lifeline Service monthly credit is \$10.00.

(1)

Exchange Tariff - PSCW

Section 2
Sheet No. 4
Amendment No. 165

WOOD COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY
GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
LIFELINE PROGRAM¹

C. Rates Cont'd

- (ii) to discontinue or modify the conditions under which the services described herein are provided; and
- (iii) to modify the rates, tolls and charges for the services described herein, effective as of the date such services are provided;

based on any declaratory ruling by the Public Service Commission or any decision by court of appropriate jurisdiction reviewing the Commission's declaratory ruling or the validity and application of Wis. Adm. Code Ch. PSC 160.

Issue _____ Applicable to bills rendered on and after _____

PSCW Authorization by order No. _____ file # _____

WOOD COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY
TELEPHONE RATE FILE
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, PORT EDWARDS, NEKOOSA AND RUDOLPH
EXCHANGE RATES

Base Rate Service:	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>State USF Assessment</u>
Business Access Line -		
One-Party	\$27.55	\$0.81 (I)
One-Party (24-month Term)	ICB	0.81 (I)
One-Party (36-month Term)	ICB	0.81 (I)
One-Party (60-month Term)	ICB	0.81 (I)
Key System Line (Multi-line)	\$33.14	\$0.81 (I)
Key System Line (Multi-line) ¹ (24-month Term)	ICB	0.81 (I)
Key System Line (Multi-line) ¹ (36-month Term)	ICB	0.81 (I)
Key System Line (Multi-line) ¹ (60-month Term)	ICB	0.81 (I)
PBX Trunk	\$45.94	
PBX Trunk ¹ (24-month Term)	ICB	
PBX Trunk ¹ (36-month Term)	ICB	
PBX Trunk ¹ (60-month Term)	ICB	
Residence Access Line -		
One-Party	\$22.68 (I)	\$0.81 (I)
One-Party Key Pushbutton Line (Multi-line)	22.68 (I)	\$0.81 (I)
One-Party Key Pushbutton Line (Grouped)	22.68 (I)	\$0.81 (I)

Note 1 - Term pricing applies to purchase on a business accounts of 3 or more lines/trunks.

The State USF Assessment applicable per IBN line, as described in Individual Contract Services, Section 25 Sheet 1, is \$0.81. (I)

* The monthly rate, including Federal and State taxes, are not applicable for the second exchange line when the second exchange line is requested by hearing-impaired Customers to use Two Line Voice Carryover as defined in the Wis. Admin. Code PSC 160.02 (12).

Switching Service:*

Each switched line \$13.61 (I)

*Applicable to Central State Telephone Company's Cranmoor customers only.

Rates in this tariff apply for any other services offered to switcher Customers if not specifically covered in an agreement.

Wood County Telephone Company dba Solarus (SAC 330974)

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

Wood County Telephone Company dba Solarus 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 as determined in an annual survey, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

Wood County Telephone Company dba Solarus (SAC 330974)

**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 to which the ETC newly began providing broadband service. Wood County Telephone Company dba Solarus did not newly begin providing community anchor institutions with access to broadband service in calendar year 2014.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY