

SAC: 361500
State: Minnesota
Northern Telephone Company
Form 481 Line No.: 610 Description of Functionality in Emergency Situations

Northern Telephone Company pursuant to Minnesota Administrative Rule "7810.3900 Emergency Operations" has:

- Established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from failures of lighting or power service, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness of operators or from fire, storm, or acts of God including provisions for emergency power that meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:
 - A minimum of four hours of battery service in each central office.
 - A permanently installed power unit in exchanges exceeding 5,000 lines.
 - Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and which can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.

- Has informed employees as to the procedures to be followed, including reasonable rerouting of traffic around damaged facilities and the deployment of emergency power in the event of emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telecommunications service.

LINE 1010 – VOICE SERVICES RATE COMPARABILITY

The Wireline Competition Bureau's most recent reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services is \$47.48, which includes the federal subscriber line charge ("SLC").

In all of the exchanges served by the Northern Telephone Company, the single-line residential local rate, including any mandatory extended area service charge, is \$16.00. When the federal SLC (\$6.50) and the other state fees are included, the rate becomes \$22.50. Therefore, the Company's pricing of fixed voice services is less than the reasonable comparability benchmark of \$47.48.

SAC: 361500
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Northern Telephone Company
Form 481 Line No.: 1210 Terms and Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

- Northern Telephone Company offers Lifeline Service Credit according to basic service requirements listed in **Minnesota Administrative Rule "7812.06000 – Basic Service Requirements."**

Subpart 1. Required services. A local service provider (LSP) shall provide, as part of its local service offering, the following to all customers within its service area:

- A. Single party voice-grade service and touch-tone capability;
 - B. 911 or enhanced 911 access;
 - C. 1 + intraLATA and interLATA presubscription and code-specific equal access to interexchange carriers subscribing to its switched access service;
 - D. Access to directory assistance, directory listings, and operator services;
 - E. Toll and information service-blocking capability without recurring monthly charges as provided in the commission's ORDER REGARDING LOCAL DISCONNECTION AND TOLL BLOCKING CHARGES, Docket No. P-999/CI-96-38 (June 4, 1996), and its ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSIONS AND CLARIFYING ONE PORTION OF PREVIOUS ORDER, Docket No. P-999/CI-96-38 (September 16, 1996), which are incorporated by reference, are not subject to frequent change, and are available through the statewide interlibrary loan system;
 - F. One white pages directory per year for each local calling area, which may include more than one local calling area, except where an offer is made and explicitly refused by the customer;
 - G. A white pages and directory assistance listing, or, upon customer request, a private listing that allows the customer to have an unlisted or unpublished telephone number;
 - H. Call-tracing capability according to chapter 7813;
 - I. Blocking capability according to the commission's ORDER ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF CUSTOMER LOCAL AREA SIGNALING SERVICES, Docket No. P-999/CI-92-992 (June 17, 1993) and its ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION, Docket No. P-999/CI-92-992 (December 3, 1993), which are incorporated by reference, are not subject to frequent change, and are available through the statewide interlibrary loan system; and
 - J. Telecommunications relay service capability or access necessary to comply with state and federal regulations.
- Northern Telephone Company Lifeline service offerings are listed in their Local Service Tariff Section 4, Pages 3-6 (attached) pursuant to **Minnesota Rule 7812.0600 Subpart 2:**

Subpart 2. Separate flat rate service offering. At a minimum, each LSP shall offer the services identified in subpart 1 as a separate tariff or price list offering on a flat rate basis. An LSP may also offer basic local service on a measured rate basis or in combination with other services. An LSP may impose separate charges for the services set forth in subpart 1 only to the extent permitted by applicable laws, rules, and commission orders.

- The Local Service Tariff is on file with the Minnesota Public Utility Commission.
- All Lifeline subscribers must meet the terms and conditions of Federal Lifeline Eligibility Rules.

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Northern Telephone Company does adhere to all Federal Lifeline eligibility rules and regulations as well as Minnesota Administrative Rule "7817.0400 - Eligibility for Telephone Assistance Credits" which states:

Minnesota Administrative Rule 237 Chapter 7817.0400

Subpart 1. Information provided. Each local service provider shall annually mail a notice of the availability of the telephone assistance plan to each residential subscriber in a regular billing. If a subscriber has chosen to receive the regular billing other than through U.S. mail, the local service provider shall send the notice in a regular billing using the delivery method chosen by the subscriber for delivery of the regular billing. The notice must state the following: YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE IN PAYING YOUR TELEPHONE BILL IF YOU RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM CERTAIN LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OR MEET CERTAIN INCOME LIMITS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT

 (local service provider) . On request, the local service provider shall mail to a person an application form developed by the commission and the Department of Commerce, and a brochure that describes the telephone assistance plan's eligibility requirements and application process.

Subpart 2. Application process. On completing and signing the application certifying under penalty of perjury that the information provided by the applicant is true and that the statutory criteria for eligibility are satisfied, the applicant must return it to the local service provider for enrollment in the telephone assistance plan. An application may be made by the subscriber, the subscriber's spouse, or a person authorized by the subscriber to act on the subscriber's behalf.

Subpart 4. Eligibility criteria. To be eligible for a telephone assistance credit the applicant must:

- A. be a subscriber who resides in Minnesota or has moved to Minnesota and intends to remain; and
- B. be eligible for the federal Lifeline telephone service discount.

Subpart 7. Applicant and recipient responsibilities. Each applicant and each recipient shall provide current information to the local service provider about permanent changes that affect the applicant's or recipient's eligibility.

Subpart 8. Local service provider responsibilities.

- A. A local service provider shall begin providing telephone assistance credits to an applicant in the earliest possible billing cycle but not later than the second billing cycle following submission of a completed application demonstrating eligibility. If certified, the local service provider shall notify the applicant by, for example, placing telephone assistance credits on the bill.
- B. If an applicant is denied eligibility, the local service provider shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, of the right to appeal, and of the right to reapply.

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

LIFELINE AND MINNESOTA TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PLAN (TAP)

The Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) program, established by the Federal Communications Commission under 47CFR54, is a means of maintaining and preserving universal service by providing a reduction in the recurring price of basic local residential exchange access service to qualifying low income residential subscribers.

TAP is a state sponsored assistance program under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 237 and is designed to make telephone service accessible to qualifying low-income residential households. Through this program, eligible households will receive a monthly discount on their telephone service.

1. GENERAL

- A. Lifeline is a federally-funded reduction of the subscriber line charge (SLC) and a reduction of local service charges. The maximum rate changes depending on the company's approved SLC tariffs. (D)
- B. Federal Universal Service Fund End User Charge will not be billed to Lifeline customers.
- C. Local service for Lifeline subscribers may not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges.
 - 1) Toll Restriction Service will be provided to Lifeline subscribers at no charge.
 - 2) Lifeline subscribers are not required to accept Toll Restriction Service as a condition to avoid disconnection of local service for non-payment of toll.
 - 3) Lifeline subscribers are not required to pay a service deposit in order to initiate service if the subscriber voluntarily elects to receive Toll Restriction Service.
- D. Partial payments from Lifeline subscribers will be applied first to local service charges and then to toll charges.

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Lifeline will be provided for one (1) telephone line per household, at the subscriber's principal place of residence, to those individuals who meet the eligibility requirements.
- B. The applicant has income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in one of the following programs:
 - Medicaid/Medical Assistance
 - Food Support/Food Stamps
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
 - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 - National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Minnesota Family Investment Program, or MFIP)

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

LIFELINE AND MINNESOTA TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PLAN (TAP) (Continued)

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

Individuals who do not qualify under any of the above but live on or near a federally recognized reservation may qualify if the applicant receives benefits from at least one of the following programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
 - Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 - Head Start (only for those meeting its income qualifying standard)
 - National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- C. The applicant signs a document certifying under penalty of perjury that the applicant receives benefits from one of the programs listed and identifying the program or programs from which that consumer receives benefits.
- D. The applicant signs a document agreeing to notify the carrier if that consumer ceases to participate in the program or programs. When the company is notified by the customer that the customer no longer participates in one of the above programs, the federal credits to that customer's monthly charges shall cease beginning with the start of the billing cycle beginning in the month after the month in which notification is received.

3. ELIGIBILITY REVOCATION

If the telephone company discovers that conditions exist that disqualify the recipient of Lifeline Assistance, the support will be discontinued. The customer will be billed retroactively to whichever is the most recent of the dates Lifeline assistance commenced or the recipient no longer qualified for the service not to exceed 12 months.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR THE STATE TAP CREDIT

- A. The state TAP credit is only available to residential subscribers who meet the eligibility requirements for the Federal Lifeline Credit in 2 above.
- B. The customer must reside in Minnesota or have moved to Minnesota and intend to remain.

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

LIFELINE AND MINNESOTA TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PLAN (TAP) (continued)

5. REGULATIONS

- A. The Federal Lifeline and state TAP credit will begin at the customer's earliest possible billing cycle but no later than the second billing cycle after the date the application for the Federal Lifeline and state TAP credit is received by the telephone company.
- B. A service charge shall not be billed to establish qualification for either the Federal Lifeline or state TAP credit.
- C. When a customer enrolls for the state TAP credit, the Company is reimbursed for the cost of the service order activity.

6. FUNDING

The Federal Lifeline Credit is funded through the FCC universal service program. The state TAP credit shall be funded through the state Telephone Assistance Plan Surcharge on residence and business access lines which pay the 911 surcharge.

7. RATES

The surcharge rate is the effective rate ordered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The company is responsible for billing, collecting and remitting the surcharge to the appropriate government agency.

SAC: 361500
State: Minnesota
Northern Telephone Company
Form 481 Line No.: 3010 Milestone Certification

Northern Telephone Company 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 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/1Mbps upstream is reasonable, the Company offers broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream.

SAC: 361500
State: Minnesota
Northern Telephone Company
Form 481 Line No.: 3012 Community Anchor Institutions

The FCC's *USF/ICC Transformation Order* requires a listing of community anchor institutions to which the ETC newly began providing broadband service.

In 2014, Northern Telephone Company did not add any new anchor institutions.

REDACTED:

Northern Telephone Company

Financial Data 2014 - 2013