BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support	WC Docket No. 09-197
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization	WC Docket No. 11-42
Global Connection Inc. of America	

GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA COMPLIANCE PLAN

Global Connection Inc. of America ("Global Connection" or the "Company"),[1] through its undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully submits and requests expeditious approval of its Compliance Plan outlining the measures it will take to implement the conditions imposed by the Commission in its *Lifeline Reform Order*.[2]

The Company commends the Commission's commitment to a nationwide communications system that promotes the safety and welfare of all Americans, including

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[1] The Company hereby also reports its corporate and trade names, identifiers, and its holding company, operating companies and affiliates as: Stand Up Wireless (dba), and Global Connection Holdings Corporation (holding company). This Compliance Plan applies only to Global Connection's wireless Lifeline service offerings.

[2] *See Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report And Order and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (Feb. 6, 2012) ("*Lifeline Reform Order*"). The Company herein submits the information required by the Compliance Plan Public Notice. *See Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance for the Submission of Compliance Plans Pursuant to the Lifeline Reform Order*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42, Public Notice, DA 12-314 (rel. Feb. 29, 2012).

Lifeline customers. Global Connection will comply with 911 requirements as described below and it is submitting this Compliance Plan in order to qualify for blanket forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Communications Act and participate as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") in the Lifeline program.[3]

Global Connection will comply fully with all conditions set forth in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, as well as with the Commission's Lifeline rules and policies more generally.[4] This Compliance Plan describes the specific measures that the Company intends to implement to achieve these objectives. Specifically, this Compliance Plan: (1) describes the specific measures that the Global Connection will take to implement the obligations contained in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, including the procedures the Company follows in enrolling a subscriber in Lifeline and submitting for reimbursement for that subscriber from the low income fund, materials related to initial and ongoing certifications and sample marketing materials; and (2) provides a detailed description of how Global Connection offers Lifeline services, the geographic areas in which it offers services, and a detailed description of the Company's Lifeline service plan offerings.

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[3] *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 368. Although Global Connection qualifies for and seeks to avail itself of the Commission's grant of forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) for purposes of the federal Lifeline program, the Company reserves the right to demonstrate to a state public utilities commission that it provides service using its own facilities in a state for purposes of state universal service funding under state program rules and requirements.

[4] In addition, this Compliance Plan is consistent with the compliance plan filed by Cricket Communications, Inc. *See* Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication of Cricket Communications, Inc., WC Docket No. 09-197 (Sept. 23, 2011) ("Cricket Compliance Plan"). The Wireline Competition Bureau approved the Cricket Compliance Plan on February 7, 2012. *See Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Cricket Communications, Inc. Petition for Forbearance*, WC Docket No. 09-197, Order, DA 12-158 (Feb. 7, 2012).

ACCESS TO 911 AND E911 SERVICES[5]

Pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order*, forbearance is conditioned upon the Company: (1) providing its Lifeline subscribers with 911 and E911 access, regardless of activation status and availability of minutes; and (2) providing its Lifeline subscribers with E911-compliant handsets and replacing, at no additional charge to the subscriber, noncompliant handsets of Lifeline-eligible subscribers who obtain Lifeline-supported services.[6] The Company will comply with these conditions starting on the effective date of the *Lifeline Reform Order*.

The Company will provide its Lifeline customers with access to 911 and E911 services immediately upon activation of service. The Commission and consumers are hereby assured that all Company customers will have available access to emergency calling services at the time that Lifeline service is initiated, and that such 911 and E911 access will be available from Company handsets, even if the account associated with the handset has no minutes remaining.

Global Connection's existing practices currently provide access to 911 and E911 services for all customers. The Company uses Sprint and Verizon Wireless as its underlying network provider/carrier. Sprint and Verizon Wireless route 911 calls from the Company's customers in the same manner as 911 calls from their own retail customers. To the extent that Sprint or Verizon Wireless is certified in a given PSAP territory, this 911 capability will function the same for the Company. Global Connection also currently enables 911 emergency calling services for all properly activated handsets regardless of whether the account associated with the handset is active or suspended.

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5 *See* Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

6 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 373.

Finally, Global Connection transmits all 911 calls initiated from any of its handsets even if the account associated with the handset has no remaining minutes.

E911-Compliant Handsets. Global Connection will ensure that all handsets used in connection with the Lifeline service offering are E911-compliant. In point of fact, the Company's phones have always been and will continue to be 911 and E911-compliant. The Company uses phones from BDI Logistics LLC that have been through a stringent certification process, which ensures that the handset models used meet all 911 and E911 requirements. As a result, any existing customer that qualifies for and elects Lifeline service will already have a 911/E911-compliant handset, which will be confirmed at the time of enrollment in the Lifeline program. Any new customer that qualifies for and enrolls in the Lifeline program is assured of receiving a 911/E911-compliant handset as well, free of charge.

COMPLIANCE PLAN

I. PROCEDURES TO ENROLL A SUBSCRIBER IN LIFELINE[7]

A. Policy

Global Connection will comply with the uniform eligibility criteria established in new section 54.409 of the Commission's rules (when it becomes effective on June 1, 2012), as well as any additional certification and verification requirements for Lifeline eligibility in states where the Company is designated as an ETC.

Therefore, all subscribers will be required to demonstrate eligibility based at least on: (1) household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a

[7] *See* Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

household of that size; or (2) the household's participation in one of the federal assistance programs listed in new sections 54.409(a)(2) or 54.409(a)(3) of the Commission's rules. In addition, through the certification requirements described below, the Company will confirm that the subscriber is not already receiving a Lifeline service and no one else in the subscriber's household is subscribed to a Lifeline service.

B. Eligibility Determination

If Global Connection cannot determine a prospective subscriber's eligibility for Lifeline by accessing income databases or program eligibility databases, the Company's employees or agents ("Company personnel") will review documentation establishing eligibility pursuant to the Lifeline rules.[8] All personnel who interact with current or prospective customers will be trained to assist Lifeline applicants in determining whether they are eligible to participate based on the federal and state-specific income-based and/or program-based criteria. These personnel will be trained to answer questions about Lifeline eligibility, and will review required documentation to determine whether it satisfies the *Lifeline Reform Order* and state-specific eligibility requirements using state-specific checklists.[9]

Proof of Eligibility. Company personnel will be trained on acceptable documentation required to establish income-based and program-based eligibility.[10] Acceptable documentation of program eligibility includes: (1) the current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; (2) a notice letter

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8 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 100; section 54.410(b)(1)(i)(B), 54.410(c)(1)(i)(B); Cricket Compliance Plan at 4.

9 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 6.

10 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 101.

of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; (3) program participation documents (*e.g.*, the consumer's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) electronic benefit transfer card or Medicaid participation card (or copy thereof)); or (4) another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.[11]

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; a Social Security statement of benefits; a Veterans Administration statement of benefits; a retirement/pension statement of benefits; an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance; or a divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three months time.[12]

Company personnel will examine this documentation for each Lifeline applicant, and will record the type of documentation used to satisfy the income- or program-based criteria.[13] The Company will not retain a copy of this documentation.[14] Where the Company personnel conclude that proffered documentation is insufficient to establish such eligibility, Global Connection will deny the associated application and inform the applicant of the reason for such rejection.[15] In the event that Company personnel cannot

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11 *Id*. and section 54.410(c)(1)(i)(B).

12 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; section 54.410.(b)(1)(i)(B).

13 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; sections 54.410(b)(1)(iii), 54.410(c)(1)(iii).

14 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; sections 54.410(b)(1)(ii), 54.410(c)(1)(ii).

15 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 6.

ascertain whether documentation of a specific type is sufficient to establish an applicant's eligibility, the matter will be escalated to supervisory personnel.[16]

De-Enrollment for Ineligibility. If Global Connection has a reasonable basis to believe that one of its Lifeline subscribers no longer meets the eligibility criteria, the Company will notify the subscriber of impending termination in writing and in compliance with any state dispute resolution procedures applicable to Lifeline termination, and give the subscriber 30 days to demonstrate continued eligibility.[17] A demonstration of eligibility must comply with the annual verification procedures below and found in new rule section 54.410(f), including the submission of a certification form.

C. Subscriber Certifications for Enrollment

Global Connection will implement certification policies and procedures that enable consumers to demonstrate their eligibility for Lifeline assistance to Company personnel as detailed in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, together with any additional state certification requirements.[18] The Company shares the Commission's concern about abuse of the Lifeline program and is thus committed to the safeguards stated herein, with the belief that these procedures will prevent the Company's customers from engaging in such abuse of the program, inadvertently or intentionally.[19] Every applicant will be required to complete an application/certification form containing disclosures, and collecting certain information and certifications as discussed below.[20] Applicants that do

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16 *See id*.

17 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 143; section 54.405(e)(1).

18 *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 61; section 54.410(a).

19 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 3.

20 *See* Model Application/Certification Form, included as Exhibit A. *See* Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

not complete the form in person will be required to return the signed application/certification to the Company by mail, facsimile, electronic mail or other electronic transmission. In addition, Company personnel will verbally explain the certifications to consumers when they are enrolling in person or over the phone.[21]

Disclosures. The Company's application and certification forms will include the following disclosures: (1) Lifeline is a federal benefit and willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program; (2) only one Lifeline service is available per household; (3) a household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses; (4) a household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers; (5) violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Commission's rules and will result in the applicant's de-enrollment from the program; and (6) Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and the applicant may not transfer his or her benefit to any other person.[22]

Applications and certification forms will also state that: (1) the service is a Lifeline service, (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program, and (3) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program.[23]

In addition, the Company will notify the applicant that the prepaid service must be personally activated by the subscriber and the service will be deactivated and the subscriber de-enrolled if the subscriber does not use the service for 60 days.[24]

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[21] *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 123.

[22] *See id.*, ¶ 121; section 54.410(d)(1).

[23] *See* section 54.405(c).

Information Collection. The Company will also collect the following information from the applicant in the application/certification form: (1) the applicant's full name;[25] (2) the applicant's full residential address (P.O. Box is not sufficient[26]); (3) whether the applicant's residential address is permanent or temporary; (4) the applicant's billing address, if different from the applicant's residential address; (5) the applicant's date of birth; (6) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number (or the applicant's Tribal identification number, if the subscriber is a member of a Tribal nation and does not have a Social Security number); (7) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the program-based criteria, the name of the qualifying assistance program from which the applicant, his or her dependents, or his or her household receives benefits;[27] and (8) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the income-based criterion, the number of individuals in his or her household.[28]

Applicant Certification. Consistent with new rule section 54.410(d)(3), the Company will require the applicant to certify, under penalty of perjury, in writing or by electronic signature or interactive voice response recording,[29] the following: (1) the applicant meets the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline; (2) the applicant will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason he or she no longer satisfies the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if the applicant no longer meets the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving

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24 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 114.

25 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 4.

26 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 87.

27 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 4.

28 *See* section 54.410(d)(2). *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 4.

29 *See Lifeline Reform Order*. ¶¶ 168-69; section 54.419.

Lifeline support, the applicant is receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of the applicant's household is receiving a Lifeline benefit; (3) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, he or she lives on Tribal lands; (4) if the applicant moves to a new address, he or she will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days; (5) if the applicant provided a temporary residential address to the Company, the applicant will be required to verify his or her temporary residential address every 90 days; (6) the applicant's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, the applicant's household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;[30] (7) the information contained in the applicant's certification form is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge;[31] (8) the applicant acknowledges that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and (9) the applicant acknowledges that the applicant may be required to re-certify his or her continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and the applicant's failure to re-certify as to the applicant' s continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of the applicant's Lifeline benefits pursuant to the de-enrollment policy included below and in the Commission's rules.

In addition, the applicant will be required to authorize Global Connection to access any records required to verify the applicant's statements on the application/certification form and to confirm the applicant's eligibility for the Company Lifeline credit.[32] The applicant must also authorize the Company to release any records

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30 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 4.

31 *See id*. at 5.

32 *See id*.

required for the administration of the Company Lifeline credit program, including to USAC to be used in a Lifeline program database.[33]

D. Annual Verification Procedures

Global Connection will annually re-certify all subscribers by querying the appropriate eligibility databases or obtaining a signed certification from each subscriber consistent with the certification requirements above and new section 54.410(d) of the Commission's rules. This certification will include a confirmation that the applicant's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of the subscriber's knowledge, the subscriber's household is receiving no more than one Lifeline service.[34] Further, the verification materials will inform the subscriber that he or she is being contacted to re-certify his or her continuing eligibility for Lifeline and if the subscriber fails to respond, he or she will be de-enrolled in the program.[35]

2012 Verification. Global Connection will re-certify the eligibility of each of its existing subscribers as of June 1, 2012 on a rolling basis by the end of 2012 and report the results to USAC by January 31, 2013.[36] The Company will contact its subscribers via text message to their Lifeline supported telephone, or by mail, phone, email or other Internet communication. The notice will explain the actions the customer must take to

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33 *See* Section 54.404(b)(9). The application/certification form will also describe the information that will be transmitted, that the information is being transmitted to USAC to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline program and that failure to provide consent will result in the applicant being denied the Lifeline service. *See id*. *See also* Cricket Compliance Plan at 5.

34 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 120 and Cricket Compliance Plan at 8.

35 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 145.

36 *See id*, ¶ 130.

retain Lifeline benefits, when Lifeline benefits may be terminated, and how to contact the Company.

Verification De-Enrollment. Global Connection will de-enroll subscribers that do not respond to the annual verification or fail to provide the required certification.[37] The Company will give subscribers 30 days to respond to the annual verification inquiry. If the subscriber does not respond, the Company will send a separate written notice explaining that failure to respond within 30 days will result in the subscriber's de-enrollment from the Lifeline program. If the subscriber does not respond within 30 days, the Company will de-enroll the subscriber within five business days.

E. Activation and Non-Usage

Global Connection will not consider a prepaid subscriber activated, and will not seek reimbursement for Lifeline for that subscriber, until the subscriber activates the Company's prepaid service by dialing a specified dedicated number from their Global Connection-issued handset.[38] In addition, after service activation, the Company will provide a de-enrollment notice to subscribers that have not used their service for 60 days. After 60 days of non-use, the Company will provide notice to the subscriber that failure to use the Lifeline service within a 30-day notice period will result in de-enrollment.[39] Subscribers can "use" the service by: (1) completing an outbound call; (2) purchasing minutes from the Company to add to the subscriber's plan; (3) answering an incoming

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[37] *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 142; section 54.54.405(e)(4).

[38] *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.407(c)(1).

[39] *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3). *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 2 (stating that it did not need to implement a non-usage policy because it offered only plans with unlimited local and long distance calling).

call from a party other than the Company; or (4) responding to a direct contact from the Company and confirming that the subscriber wants to continue receiving the service.[40]

If the subscriber does not respond to the notice, the subscriber will be de-enrolled and the Company will not request further Lifeline reimbursement for the subscriber. Global Connectino will report annually to the Commission the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month.[41]

F. Additional Measures to Prevent Waste, Fraud and Abuse

To supplement its verification and certification procedures, and to better ensure that customers understand the Lifeline service restrictions with respect to duplicates, Global Connection will implement measures and procedures to prevent duplicate Lifeline benefits being awarded to the same household. These measures entail additional emphasis in written disclosures as well as live due diligence.[42]

In addition to checking the database when it becomes available, Company personnel will emphasize the "one Lifeline phone per household" restriction in their direct sales contacts with potential customers.[43] Training materials will include a discussion of the limitation to one Lifeline phone per household, and the need to ensure that the customer is informed of this restriction.[44] All customer-facing employees and agents must demonstrate understanding of the Commission's and Global Connection's

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40 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 261; section 54.407(c)(2).

41 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3).

42 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 9.

43 *See id*. at 6, 9.

44 *See id*.

rules and policies by completing the Company's Lifeline training and passing a Company issued exam. The training will be updated as needed, but at least every 90 days.

Database. When the National Lifeline Accountability Database ("National Database") becomes available, the Company will comply with the requirements of new rule section 54.404. The Company will query the National Database to determine whether a prospective subscriber is currently receiving a Lifeline service from another ETC and whether anyone else living at the prospective subscriber's residential address is currently receiving Lifeline service.[45]

One-Per-Household. Global Connection will implement the requirements of the *Lifeline Reform Order* to ensure that it provides only one Lifeline benefit per household[46] through the use of its application and certification forms discussed above, internal database checks and its marketing materials discussed below. Upon receiving an application for the Company's Lifeline service, the Company will search its own internal records to ensure that it does not already provide Lifeline-supported service to someone at the same residential address.[47] If so, and the applicant lives at an address with multiple

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45 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 203. Company will also transmit to the National Database the information required for each new and existing Lifeline subscriber. *See id*., ¶¶ 189-195; section 54.404(b)(6). Further, Company will update each subscriber's information in the National Database within ten business days of any change, except for de-enrollment, which will be transmitted within one business day. *See* section 54.404(b)(8),(10).

46 A "household" is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him/her, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians. *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 74; section 54.400(h).

47 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 78 and Cricket Compliance Plan at 7.

households, the Company will require the applicant to complete and submit a written USAC document containing the following: (1) an explanation of the Commission's one-per-household rule; (2) a check box that an applicant can mark to indicate that he or she lives at an address occupied by multiple households; (3) a space for the applicant to certify that he or she shares an address with other adults who do not contribute income to the applicant's household and share in the household's expenses or benefit from the applicant's income, pursuant to the Commission's definition; and (4) the penalty for a consumer's failure to make the required one-per-household certification (*i.e.*, de-enrollment).[48] Further, if a subscriber provides a temporary address on his or her application/certification form collected as described above, Global Connection will verify with the subscriber every 90 days that the subscriber continues to rely on that address.[49]

Finally, Company personnel will inform each Lifeline applicant that he or she may be receiving Lifeline support under another name, and facilitate the applicant's understanding of what constitutes "Lifeline-supported services," and ability to determine whether he or she is already benefiting from Lifeline support, by informing the consumer that not all Lifeline services are currently marketed under the name Lifeline.

Marketing Materials. Within the deadline provided in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Company will include the following information regarding its Lifeline service on all marketing materials describing the service: (1) it is a Lifeline service,[50] (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program, (3) the service is non-transferable, (4) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program, (5) the program is limited to one discount per

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48 *Id*.

49 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 89.

50 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 4.

household; (6) what documentation is necessary for enrollment; (7) Global Connection's name (the ETC); and (8) consumers who willfully make a false statement in order to obtain the Lifeline benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.[51] These statements will be included in all print, audio video and web materials (including social networking media) used to describe or enroll customers in the Company's Lifeline service offering, as well as the Company's application forms and certification forms.[52] This specifically includes the Company's website (www.StandUpWireless.com) and outdoor signage.[53] A sample of the Company's marketing materials is included as Exhibit B.

G. Company Reimbursements From the Fund

To ensure that the Global Connection does not seek reimbursement from the Fund without a subscriber's consent, the Company will certify, as part of each reimbursement request, that it is in compliance with all of the Commission's Lifeline rules and, to the extent required, has obtained valid certification and verification forms from each of the subscribers for whom it is seeking reimbursement.[54] Further, the Company will transition the submission of its FCC Forms 497 to the eighth day of each month in order to be reimbursed the same month, and inform USAC, to the extent it deems necessary, to transition its reimbursement process to actual claims rather than projected claims over the

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51 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 275; section 54.405(c).

52 *Id*.

53 *Id*.

54 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 128; section 54.407(d).

course of more than one month.[55] In addition, the Company will keep accurate records as directed by USAC[56] and as required by new section 54.417 of the Commission's rules.

H. Annual Company Certifications

The Company will submit an annual certification to USAC, signed by a Global Connection officer under penalty of perjury, that the Company: (1) has policies and procedures in place to review consumers' documentation of income- and program-based eligibility and ensure that its Lifeline subscribers are eligible to receive Lifeline services;[57] (2) is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures;[58] and (3) has obtained a valid certification form for each subscriber for whom the carrier seeks Lifeline reimbursement.[59]

In addition, the Company will provide the results of its annual re-certifications/verifications on an annual basis to the Commission, USAC, the applicable state commission and the relevant Tribal governments (for subscribers residing on Tribal lands).[60] Further, as discussed above, Global Connection will report annually to the Commission the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month.[61]

The Company will also annually report to the Commission, USAC, and relevant state commissions and the relevant authority in a U.S. territory or Tribal government as

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55 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 302-306.

56 *See* section 54.407(e).

57 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 126; section 54.416(a)(1).

58 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 127; section 54.416(a)(2).

59 *See* section 54.416(a)(3).

60 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 132,148; section 54.416(b).

61 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3).

appropriate,[62] the company name, names of the company's holding company, operating companies and affiliates, and any branding (such as a "dba" or brand designation) as well as relevant universal service identifiers for each entity by Study Area Code.[63] The Company will report annually information regarding the terms and conditions of its Lifeline plans for voice telephony service offered specifically for low income consumers during the previous year, including the number of minutes provided and whether there are additional charges to the consumer for service, including minutes of use and/or toll calls.[64] Finally, Global Connection will annually provide detailed information regarding service outages in the previous year, the number of complaints received and certification of compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules, as well as a certification that the Company is able to function in emergency situations.[65]

I. Cooperation with State and Federal Regulators

Global Connection has cooperated and will continue to cooperate with federal and state regulators to prevent waste, fraud and abuse. More specifically, the Company will:

- Make available state-specific subscriber data, including the names and addresses of Lifeline subscribers, to USAC and to each state public utilities commission where the Company operates for the purpose of determining whether an existing Lifeline subscriber receives Lifeline service from another carrier;[66]

- Assist the Commission, USAC, state commissions, and other ETCs in resolving instances of duplicative enrollment by Lifeline subscribers, including by providing to USAC and/or any state commission, upon

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62 *See* section 54.422(c).

63 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 296, 390; section 54.422(a).

64 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 390; section 54.422(b)(5).

65 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 389; section 54.422(b)(1)-(4).

66 The Company anticipates that the need to provide such information will sunset following the implementation of the national duplicates database.

request, the necessary information to detect and resolve duplicative Lifeline claims;

- Promptly investigate any notification that it receives from the Commission, USAC, or a state commission to the effect that one of its customers already receives Lifeline services from another carrier; and

- Immediately de-enroll any subscriber whom the Company has a reasonable basis to believe[67] is receiving Lifeline-supported service from another ETC or is no longer eligible – whether or not such information is provided by the Commission, USAC, or a state commission.[68]

II. Description of Lifeline Service Offerings[69]

Global Connection will offer its wireless Lifeline service in the states where it is designated as an ETC[70] and throughout the coverage area of its underlying provider(s) Sprint and Verizon Wireless. The Company's Lifeline offering will provide customers with 100 anytime prepaid minutes per month, plus 100 anytime text messages, with rollover, at no charge. Additionally, the Company will offer a 250 anytime talk and text plan without rollover (one minute of talk time for each text). Lifeline customers can purchase additional bundles of minutes in denominations of $5 (40 minutes), $10 (100 minutes), $20 (250 minutes), $30 (500 minutes) and $50 (1000 minutes). Airtime "top-up" minutes are available for purchase at the Company's retail locations, through customer service and on its website. Text messaging is available at the rate of one minute of talk time per text message. Additional information regarding the Company's plans, rates and services can be found on its website www.StandUpWireless.com.

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67 *See* section 54.405(e)(1).

68 *See* Cricket Compliance Plan at 10.

69 *See* Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

70 Global Connection is currently designated as an ETC in Arkansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri and West Virginia.

In addition to free voice services, Global Connection's Lifeline plan will include a free handset and custom calling features at no charge, including Caller ID, Call Waiting, and Voicemail. All plans include domestic long-distance at no extra per minute charge. Calls to 911 emergency services are always free, regardless of service activation or availability of minutes.

III. Demonstration of Financial and Technical Capabilities and Certifications Required for ETC Designation[71]

Financial and Technical Capabilities. Revised Commission rule 54.202(a)(4), 47 C.F.R. 54.202(a)(4), requires carriers petitioning for ETC designation to demonstrate financial and technical capability to comply with the Commission's Lifeline service requirements.[72] The Compliance Plan Public Notice requires that carriers' compliance plan include this demonstration. Among the factors the Commission will consider are: a carrier's prior offering of service to non-Lifeline subscribers, the length of time the carrier has been in business, whether the carrier relies exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement to operate; whether the carrier receives revenues from other sources and whether the carrier has been the subject of an enforcement action or ETC revocation proceeding in any state.

Global Connection has been offering non-Lifeline and Lifeline wireline service since 1998 and began providing non-Lifeline and Lifeline-supported wireless service in April, 2011. The Company generates substantial revenues from non-Lifeline services and has access to capital from its investors. The majority owner of Global Connection is Milestone Partners, a Pennsylvania private equity firm. Consequently, Global

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71 *See* Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

72 *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 387-388 (revising Commission rule 54.202(a)(4)).

Connection has not relied, and will not be relying exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement for the Company's operating revenues. The Company has not been subject to enforcement sanctions or ETC revocation proceedings in any state.

Service Requirements Applicable to the Company's Support. The Compliance Plan Public Notice requires carriers to include "certifications required under newly amended section 54.202 of the Commission's rules."[73] Global Connection certifies that it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support the Company receives.[74] The Company provides all of the telecommunications service supported by the Lifeline program and will make the services available to all qualified consumers throughout the states in which it is designated as an ETC. The Company's services include voice telephony services that provide voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent. Further, the Company's service offerings provide its customers with a set number of minutes of use for local service at no charge to the customer. The Company's current Lifeline offerings include packages in Section II *supra* that can be used for local and domestic toll service.

The Company also will provide access to emergency services provided by local government or public safety officials, including 911 and E911 where available and will comply with any Commission requirements regarding E911-compatible handsets. As discussed above, the Company will comply with the Commission's forbearance grant conditions relating to the provision of 911 and E911 services and handsets.

Finally, Global Connection will not provide toll limitation service ("TLS"), which allows low income consumers to avoid unexpected toll charges. However, since the

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[73] Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

[74] 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1).

Company is a prepaid service provider, customers cannot be disconnected for failure to pay toll charges, nor are there additional charges for exceeding their minutes. Further, the Company, like most wireless carriers, does not differentiate domestic long distance toll usage from local usage and all usage is paid for in advance. Pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order*, subscribers to such services are not considered to have voluntarily elected to receive TLS.[75]

IV. Conclusion

Global Connection submits that its Compliance Plan fully satisfies the conditions set forth in the Commission's *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Compliance Plan Public Notice and the Lifeline rules. Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously approve its Compliance Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

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(202) 342-8544

Counsel to Global Connection Inc. of America

March 8, 2012

[75] *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 230.

EXHIBIT A

Global Connection Inc. of America

Global Connection Inc. of America D/B/A StandUP Wireless
State Wireless Lifeline Service Application and Certification

Mail or fax form completed and signed form to:
Fax 1.888.878.9323 / Customer Service: 1.800.544.4441

A complete and signed Lifeline Service Application and Certification ("Certification") is required to enroll you in Global Connection Inc. of America D/B/A StandUP Wireless ("the Company's") Lifeline service program in your state. This Certification is only for the purpose of verifying your eligibility for Lifeline service and will not be used for any other purpose. Service requests will not be processed until this Form has been received and verified by Company.

One Lifeline service per household disclosures: Lifeline is a government assistance program and willfully making false statements to obtain a Lifeline benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. Lifeline benefits are limited to a single line of service per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. A household may not receive multiple Lifeline discounts. You may apply your Lifeline discount to either one landline or one wireless number, but you cannot have the discount on both and you cannot receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Note that not all Lifeline services are currently marketed under the name Lifeline. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person, including another eligible low-income consumer. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program, and potentially prosecution by the United States Government.

▫ **I hereby certify that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above and that, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service benefit.**

Customer eligibility certification: I hereby certify that I participate in at least one of the following programs **(check one)**:

- ❑ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- ❑ Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- ❑ Medicaid (not Medicare)
- ❑ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ❑ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- ❑ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- ❑ National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- ❑ Income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines

Additional certifications: I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that (Check the box next to each line):

- ▫ I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline service and have provided documentation of eligibility if required
- ▫ I will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria, I begin receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit. I understand that I may be subject to penalties if I fail to follow this requirement
- ▫ I am not listed as a dependent on another person's tax return (unless over the age of 60)
- ▫ The address listed below is my primary residence, not a second home or business
- ▫ If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days
- ▫ If I provided a temporary residential address to the Company, I will verify my temporary residential address every 90 days
- ▫ I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law
- ▫ I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility within 30 days will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits
- ▫ The information contained in this certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Multiple households sharing and address:

▫ I hereby certify that I reside at an address occupied by multiple households, including adults who do not contribute income to my household and/or share in my household's expenses, and I will complete a separate additional form.

Activation and usage requirement disclosures: This service is a prepaid service and you must personally activate it by calling 1.**877.283.3890.** To keep your account active, you must use your Lifeline service at least once during any 60 day period by completing an outbound call, purchasing additional minutes from Company, answering an in-bound call from someone other than Company, or by responding to a direct contact from Company confirming that you want to continue receiving Lifeline service from Company. If your service goes unused for 60 days, you will no longer be eligible for Lifeline benefits and your service will be suspended (allowing only 911 calls and calls to the Company's customer care center) subject to a 30 day cure period during which you may use the service (as described above) or contact the Company to confirm that you want to continue receiving Lifeline service from Company.

▫ **I hereby certify that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above regarding activation and usage requirements.**

Authorizations:

▫ I hereby authorize the Company to access any records required to verify my statements on this form and to confirm my eligibility for the Lifeline program. I also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Lifeline program (e.g., name, telephone number and address), including to the Universal Service Administrative Company, to be used in a Lifeline database and to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline Program. Failure to consent will result in denial of service.

Customer Application Information:

First Name:_____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: Month: ___ Day: ___ Year: _____ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: _____

If Qualifying for Lifeline by Income, number of Individuals in Household: _____

Home Telephone Number (if available): _____

Residential Address (P.O. Box NOT sufficient)

Number: _____ Apt: _____ Street_____ City _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Address is (choose one): ☐ Permanent ☐ Temporary

Billing Address (if different from Residential Address) (P.O. Box IS sufficient)

Number: _____ Apt: _____ Street_____ City _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

For Agent Use Only (check only 1 eligibility category and only 1 box under that category; do not copy or retain documentation):

Documents Acceptable Proof for Income-Eligibility:

☐ The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return,
☐ Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub,
☐ A Social Security statement of benefits,
☐ A Veterans Administration statement of benefits,
☐ A retirement/pension statement of benefits,
☐ An Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits,
☐ Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance, or
☐ A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three months time.

Documents Acceptable Proof for Program-Eligibility:

☐ The current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program;
☐ A notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program;
☐ Program participation documents (e.g., the consumer's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) electronic benefit transfer card or Medicaid participation card (or copy thereof)); or
☐ Another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program

Applicant Account Number	Agent/Dealer Number

EXHIBIT B

WIRELESS FLYER - FRONT

FREE
CELL PHONE
FREE MINUTES & TEXTS

See reverse for more info!

250
MINUTES

EACH MONTH. EVERY MONTH.

ALL qualifying customers get:

FREE Cell Phone & Activation

1.800.544.4441

www.StandUpWireless.com

Stand UP WIRELESS

Complaints concerning Lifeline/ Linkup service can be directed to the XXXXX Public Service Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit at 000-000-0000.

WIRELESS FLYER - FRONT2

FREE
CELL PHONE
FREE MINUTES & TEXTS

See reverse for more info!

100
ANYTIME MINUTES
100
TEXT MESSAGES

EACH MONTH. EVERY MONTH.

WITH ROLLOVER

ALL qualifying customers get:

FREE Cell Phone & Activation

1.800.544.4441

www.StandUpWireless.com

Stand UP WIRELESS

Complaints concerning Lifeline/ Linkup service can be directed to the XXXXX Public Service Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit at 000-000-0000.

WIRELESS FLYER - BACK

1.800.544.4441

www.StandUpWireless.com

Stand UP WIRELESS

IMPORTANT | **LIFELINE WIRELESS SERVICE INFORMATION:**

Lifeline is a government assistance program. **Only one Lifeline service is available per household.** A violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communication Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program. **Your household is not permitted to receive multiple Lifeline benefits** whether they be from one or multiple companies. This includes wireline and wireless services. **Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit.** You many not transfer your benefit to any other person. **You must activate your service. You must use your phone to continue to receive service.** Should you not use your service for 60 days you will be de-enrolled. **Lifeline is a federal benefit.** Willingly making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. **Proof of eligibility is required and only eligible customers may enroll. Proof** may consist of eligible program card or statement of benefits.

Global Connection Inc. of America