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Control Number: 50194



Item Number: 1

Addendum StartPage: 0



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October 31, 2019

Central Records Filing Clerk Public Utility Commission of Texas 1701 N. Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78711-33326

#### Re: Application of Community Telephone Company to Revise Tariff Pages Pursuant to 16 Tex. Admin. Code § 26.208

Dear Filing Clerk:

On behalf of Community Telephone Company ("CTC"), an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier operating within the State of Texas, I am submitting an original and five (5) copies of the attached tariff revisions to update CTC's Customer Services Tariff pursuant to 16 TAC § 26.208. The proposed tariff revisions are being made pursuant to FCC 47 C.F.R. §54.403 and the 2016 Lifeline Modernization Order to decrease the Federal Lifeline discount from \$9.25 to \$7.25 effective December 1, 2019.

Please return any additional copies of this filing submission via our courier. You may direct any questions concerning this submission to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

amopo

Cynthia Zamora () Authorized Representative for Community Telephone Company

Enclosures

cc: Cliff Humpert, General Manager Community Telephone Company

Office of Public Utility Counsel

Headquarters: 7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200 Greenbelt, MD 20770 phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310 1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121 phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909 3440 Blue Springs Rd. NW, Suite 503 Kennesaw, GA 30144 phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608 547 South Oakview Lane Bountiful, UT 84010 phone: 801-294-4576

Telecommunications Advisors Since 1962

## ATTACHMENT A

### **PROPOSED CUSTOMER NOTICE**

Community Telephone Company ("CTC") has submitted revised tariffs to the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") regarding changes to the federal Lifeline Program.

Beginning December 1, 2019, if you are a current Lifeline customer, you may see a decrease to the federal Lifeline discount which is listed as Federal Lifeline Discount on your monthly bill. CTC is required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reduce the monthly federal Lifeline discount from \$9.25 to \$7.25 in accordance with FCC Rule 47 C.F.R. §54.403. If you are currently receiving a Lifeline discount on your voice line or if you have a bundle that includes voice and broadband that does not meet the minimum service standards, you will see the monthly federal Lifeline discount reduced by \$2.00. Please note that your current residential local service rate remains the same, however, because of the federally-mandated reduction to your monthly Lifeline credit you will see an increase to your total bill of \$2.00 per month.

A complete copy of the proposed tariff revisions is available for inspection at the address listed below. A proceeding number will be assigned to this application by the commission. Persons who wish to formally participate in the Commission's proceedings concerning this application, or who wish to express their comments concerning this application should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas, 78711-3326 or you may call the Commission's Consumer Hotline at (888) 782-8477, or (800) 735-2989 for Relay Texas, or (512) 936-7136 for text telephone, or (512) 936-7120. For a copy of the proposed tariffs or for further information regarding this notice, customers should contact CTC at 10184 State Hwy 25E, Windthorst, Texas 76389 or call (940) 423-6201 during regular business hours.

To obtain this information in Spanish, please visit our business office located at 10184 State Hwy 25E, Windthorst, Texas 76389 or call (940) 423-6201. Si usted quisiera obtener esta informacion en espanol, favor de visitar nuestra oficina de negocios ubicada 10184 State Hwy 25E

## ATTACHMENT B

## **COMMUNITY TELEPHONE COMPANY**

## PROPOSED CUSTOMER SERVICES TARIFF REVISIONS FOR LIFELINE

## October 31, 2019

Section	Sheet No.
4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Revised Page 14
4	1 <sup>st</sup> Revised Page 18

## CUSTOMER SERVICES TARIFF LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

#### V. FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

#### B. Designated Federal Lifeline Program Services (Continued)

- 3. For broadband service, the federal Lifeline Program rate reductions apply to the monthly recurring retail rate for eligible broadband service provisioned by the Company or its affiliated Internet Service Provider.
- 4. All designated federal Lifeline Program services are subject to minimum service standards and exceptions delineated in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.408.

#### C. Eligibility Requirements

1. Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria

The federal Lifeline Program rate reductions will be provided per eligible customer, limited to one discount per eligible household location. The applicant must certify that their annual household income is at or below 135% of the annual federal poverty guidelines, be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or participate in, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in, a program identified in 47 Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409.

- 2. Obligations of the Customer
  - a. A current customer of the Company may be automatically enrolled in the federal Lifeline Program by their participation in the qualifying programs or they may self-enroll by contacting the Texas Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA).
  - b. A customer who is eligible for the federal Lifeline Program, but does not subscribe to a designated federal Lifeline Program service at the time of application, shall be responsible for initiating a request for a designated federal Lifeline Program service from the Company before any federal Lifeline Program discounts will be administered.
- 3. The LIDA reviews the customer application received and determines if the customer meets the eligibility criteria for the federal Lifeline Program. The LIDA shall provide a list of eligible customers to the Company on a monthly basis.
- 4. Federal Lifeline Program customers will lose their federal Lifeline Program eligibility once they cease to meet income criteria or cease to participate in one of the qualified programs. Customers will be notified by the LIDA for loss of eligibility and an opportunity given to prove eligibility. Reduced billing under the federal Lifeline Program will be terminated if eligibility ceases.

## CUSTOMER SERVICES TARIFF LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### V. FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM (Continued)

#### G. Federal Lifeline Program Support Amount

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

- 1.
   The qualifying low-income customer can only receive one federal discount on one service option outlined below. The discount shall only be given if the customer and service meet qualifying criteria as specified above.
   N
- The Company shall grant federal support to qualifying low-income consumers of eligible broadband service up to \$9.25 per month, subject to the T support amount directed by the Federal Communications Commission in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.403 regarding Lifeline support amount.
- 3. The company shall grant federal support to qualifying low-income consumers N of eligible voice-only service as follows, subject to 47 Code of Federal Regulations §54.403 regarding Lifeline support amount.

Up to \$7.25 per month from December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020;

Up to \$5.25 per month from December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021;

No support per month beginning December 1, 2021 except in allowable circumstances defined by the FCC.

- 4. The federal Lifeline Program discounts shall not result in a rate of less than T zero charged for the customer's qualifying voice or broadband service.
- 5. Tribal Lands Support Amount (where applicable). Additional federal Lifeline T support of up to \$25 per month will be made available to qualifying eligible residents of Tribal lands.

N