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January 27th, 2021

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place E, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Halstad Telephone Cooperative to Expand its
Designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Docket No: _____

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Enclosed via efileing please find the Original Filing, Summary of Filing, and Petition for expansion as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, and Affidavit of Service in the above entitled Docket on behalf of Halstad Telephone Cooperative.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary T. Buley

Mary T. Buley
Consultant on behalf of Halstad Telephone Company

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Katie Sieben	Chair
Valerie Means	Commissioner
Matthew Schuerger	Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan	Commissioner
John A. Tuma	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of Halstad Telephone Company for Expansion as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier MPUC Docket No.:_____

ORIGINAL FILING

Halstad Telephone Company (“Halstad”) requests the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) approve an expansion of its designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) through areas awarded to Halstad in the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction where the Commission has not designated Halstad as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

The filing includes the following attachments:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Attachment 1 | One paragraph summary of the filing in accordance with Minn. Rules pt. 7829.1300 . |
| Attachment 2 | Petition to expand Halstad’s service area as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, which contains a description of the filing, the impact on Petitioner and affected ratepayers, and the reasons for the filings, provided in accordance with Minn. Rules pt. 7829.1300, subp. 4(F). |
| Attachment 3 | Affidavit of Service. |

In addition, the following information is provided, in accordance with Minn. Rules pt. 7829.1300, subp. 4:

Utility:	Halstad Telephone Company 345 2 nd Ave W Halstad, MN 56548
Date of Filing	January 27 th , 2021
Controlling Statute for Time in Processing the Filing	Minn. Rules pt. 7811.1400 , subp. 12

If additional information is required, please contact me at 651.621.8306.

/s/ *Mary T. Buley*

Mary T. Buley
Consultant on behalf of Halstad Telephone Company

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Katie Sieben	Chair
Valerie Means	Commissioner
Matthew Schuerger	Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan	Commissioner
John A. Tuma	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of Halstad Telephone Company for Expansion to its Designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier MPUC Docket No.: _____

SUMMARY OF FILING

Halstad Telephone Company ("Halstad") requests the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission grant an expansion of its designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") for new census blocks where the Commission has not designated Halstad as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Katie Sieben	Chair
Valerie Means	Commissioner
Matthew Schuerger	Commissioner
Joseph K. Sullivan	Commissioner
John A. Tuma	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of Halstad Telephone Company for Expansion of its Designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier MPUC Docket No.: _____

**PETITION FOR EXPANSION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

Halstad as an incumbent local service provider became ETC eligible on July 18, 1997 in the exchange areas where it is an incumbent. Halstad received CLEC authority in the exchanges of Crookston and East Grand Forks in in 2016.¹ In 2017, Halstad petitioned the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to become an ETC in its two CLEC exchanges.² This petition was granted on July 2nd, 2018. In 2018 Halstad was a winning bidder in the CAF II Auction and petitioned the Commission for ETC authority for those census blocks in Docket No. P431/AM-18-601. That petition was granted on February 14th, 2019. In this petition Halstad requests expansion of its ETC service area for certain census blocks awarded to Halstad in the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction 904. The list of RDOF census IDs is provided in Exhibit 3. Halstad was awarded 111 locations and yearly support of \$32,591.70.

In support of its Petition, Halstad states as follows:

- A. The legal name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner and its designated contact person are as follows:

Halstad Telephone Company
345 2nd Ave W
Halstad, MN 56548

Halstad is represented in connection with this petition by its consultant:

Mary T. Buley
Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd.
2675 Long Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55113
651.621.8306

¹ See Docket No. P530/SA-16-84.

² See Docket No. P530/M-17-838 effective July 2nd, 2018.

- B. The name and title of the officer or representative of authorizing this petition is Mark Forseth, Chief Executive Officer/General Manager, whose signature appears at the end of this petition.
- C. The proposed effective date of designation of eligibility to receive Universal Service Support is immediately upon the Commission's issuance of an Order approving this Petition.
- D. The service area (“Proposed RDOF Census Blocks) ” for which ETC designation is sought, is provide in a map attached as [Exhibit 1](#).
- E. Halstad’s Petition for expansion of its designation as a ETC for the Proposed RDOF Census Blocks is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, and satisfies the requirements for receiving universal service support under state and federal law, for the following reasons:

HALSTAD POSSESSES THE INTENT AND CAPABILITY OF PROVIDING SERVICE UPON REASONABLE CUSTOMER REQUEST THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE AREA

1. Halstad's Regulatory Authority –: Halstad as an incumbent local service provider became an ETC on July 28, 1997 for the exchange services areas it serves as an incumbent. In Docket No. P530/SA-16-84, Halstad Received CLEC authority in Minnesota for the exchanges of Crookston and East Grand Forks. In Docket P530/M-17-838, Halstad received ETC status for its two CLEC exchanges. In Docket No. P530/M-18-626 Halstad was granted ETC status for census blocks Halstad received through Connect America Funds (CAF II).
2. Halstad's Facilities and Commitment to Serve - Halstad will provide broadband and voice telephone over the RDOF installed fiber-optic facilities to customer premises. Halstad is committed to provide service to all customers making a reasonable request for service. Halstad certifies that it will: (a) provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Service Area where Halstad’s network already passes the potential customer's premises; and (b) provide service within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within the Service Area but not passed by Halstad’s current network facilities if service can be provided at reasonable cost by constructing network facilities.
3. Halstad's Basic Universal Service Offering - Halstad will provide voice telephony and broadband services in the Expanded Proposed Service Area. The services Halstad offers meet the Basic Local Service requirements under [Minn. Rule 7812.0600](#). Halstad has the ability and the intention to provide the voice telephony services required by [47 CFR § 54.101](#)(a)³:
 - Voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent,

³ [FCC Connect America Order 11-161 rel. November 18, 2011](#) at ¶ 76-81 discusses the changes to [47 CFR § 51.101](#) and the required voice service offerings.

- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users,
- Access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911,
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

The universal service offering will be made available throughout the Expanded Proposed Service Area once ETC authority in the RDOF blocks is granted. Halstad's tariffs address customer eligibility provisions and the availability of subsidies under the Lifeline program⁴ and the Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan⁵. The applicable sections of Halstad's tariff are attached as [Exhibit 2](#). Halstad is committed to providing the supported services throughout the Service Area to all customers who make a request for such services if service can be provided at reasonable cost by constructing network facilities. The local usage plans offered are comparable to those offered by the incumbent local exchange carriers. Halstad's local calling scope will mirror those of the ILECs and any mandatory Extended Area Service calling as part of the basic local service offering.

4. Halstad's Advertising Plan - Halstad currently advertises its services through several different channels of general distribution, including bill messages, customer newsletters, telephone directories and lifeline information available at its offices. Halstad will advertise the availability of its universal service offering throughout the Service Area through these same advertising channels it currently employs. In addition, the availability of the offering throughout the Proposed Service Area will be listed continuously on Halstad's web site: <https://www.halstadtel.com/support/life-line-support/>.
5. Halstad's 10-Year Plan for Use of Universal Service Support - Halstad will receive Universal High Cost Service Support and lifeline support to the extent it serves customers eligible for that program.
6. Halstad's Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations. Halstad's network will remain functional in emergency situations:

Commercial power outage: The central office serving Halstad's customers is equipped with electrical generators and battery power supply to provide service in the event of a commercial power outage.

Network failure: The interoffice facilities serving the Service Area are on a diverse routed, which if cut will be automatically rerouted.

Halstad complies with the Commission's Rules in Chapter [7810](#) establishing minimum standards on various operational matters, such as 7810.3900 (Emergency

⁴ Halstad Local Exchange Tariff Section 5, page 21 and 22

⁵ Halstad Local Exchange Tariff Section 5, page 23

Operations); 7810.4900 (Adequacy of Service); and 7810.5300 (Dial Service Requirements).

7. Halstad's Satisfaction of Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards – Halstad, is subject to, and complies with, the Commission's Rules pertaining to service quality and consumer protection. Halstad's tariff has specific provisions outlining the following terms addressing consumer protection issues:
- Deposit and guarantee requirements⁶
 - Customer Billing⁷
 - Appropriate handling of customer complaints and billing disputes⁸
 - Disconnection and notice requirements⁹

The specific provisions in Halstad's tariff, as well as the Commission's service quality rules by which Halstad is bound, will apply throughout the Expanded Proposed Service Area and assure a high level of service quality and consumer protection.

DESIGNATING HALSTAD AS A ETC IN THE PROPOSED EXPANDED SERVICE AREA WILL SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

8. Public Interest - Designation of Halstad as a ETC in the Expanded Proposed RDOF Service Area is in the public interest since it affords qualifying customers a choice of service providers while retaining the Lifeline benefit.
9. Superior Service Offering - Halstad believes its service offerings are superior to that received by the ILECs' customers in the Expanded RDOF Proposed Service Area. Halstad presently has fiber to the home in much of the Proposed Service Area and plans to place fiber to the home going forward, offering a technically superior network to that of the incumbents.

Halstad believes customers will additionally benefit from choosing a locally owned and Minnesota based provider which has demonstrated its commitment to, and success in, responding to the service needs of its residents.

10. Affordability – The local exchange services and broadband services offered to Halstad's customers for universal service offerings are within the range of the annual of the announced Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") 2021 Urban Rate Survey rates.¹⁰ Halstad's basic service offerings rates are identified in its Local Exchange Services¹¹ tariff. Halstad will provide the benefit of lifeline discounts to qualifying subscribers.

⁶ Halstad Local Exchange Tariff, Section 2, page 10 and 11

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Halstad Local Exchange Tariff, Section 2, page 12

⁹ Halstad Local Exchange Tariff, Section 2, pages 12 and 13

¹⁰ WC Docket 10-9 , Announcement from the Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics, 11-30-20

¹¹ Halstad Local Exchange Tariff, Section 4, page 2

11. Commitment to Service Quality - As noted in Paragraph E.7 above, Halstad is a certified CLEC in Minnesota is subject to, and complies with, the Commission's Rules pertaining to service quality and consumer protection.

ETC CERTIFICATION

12. Request for Certification - Halstad requests that the Commission certify its use of support effective as of the date of Halstad's ETC designation for the Proposed RDOF Service Area.

CONCLUSION

13. Halstad meets the requirements of both state and federal laws and regulations for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the requested Expanded Proposed Service Area. Pursuant to [47 USC § 214\(e\)](#), the Commission should designate Halstad as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the expanded RDOF Service Area. In so doing, the Commission will ensure that consumers in the expanded RDOF Service Area have an opportunity to secure better and more reliable service at a rate equal to or less than that which they are currently paying. The consumers in the Service Area will benefit and the public interest will be served if Halstad's Petition is approved.

Therefore, Halstad respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Designate Halstad Telephone Cooperative as a ETC for receipt of federal universal service lifeline support with respect to the expanded RDOF Service Areas specified in this Petition;
- B. For such other and further relief as the Commission may deem just and reasonable.

Dated: January 27th , 2021

By: /s/Mary T. Buley
Mary T. Buley

CONSULTANT FOR HALSTAD
TELEPHONE COMPANY

VERIFICATION

The undersigned, Mark Forseth, Chief Executive Officer/General Manager of Halstad Telephone Company, certifies that he has reviewed this Petition and the facts stated therein, of which he has personal knowledge, and that the same are true and correct to the best of his present knowledge and belief.

Respectfully submitted,

Halstad Telephone Company

By: /s/ Mark Forseth
Mark Forseth
CEO/General Manager

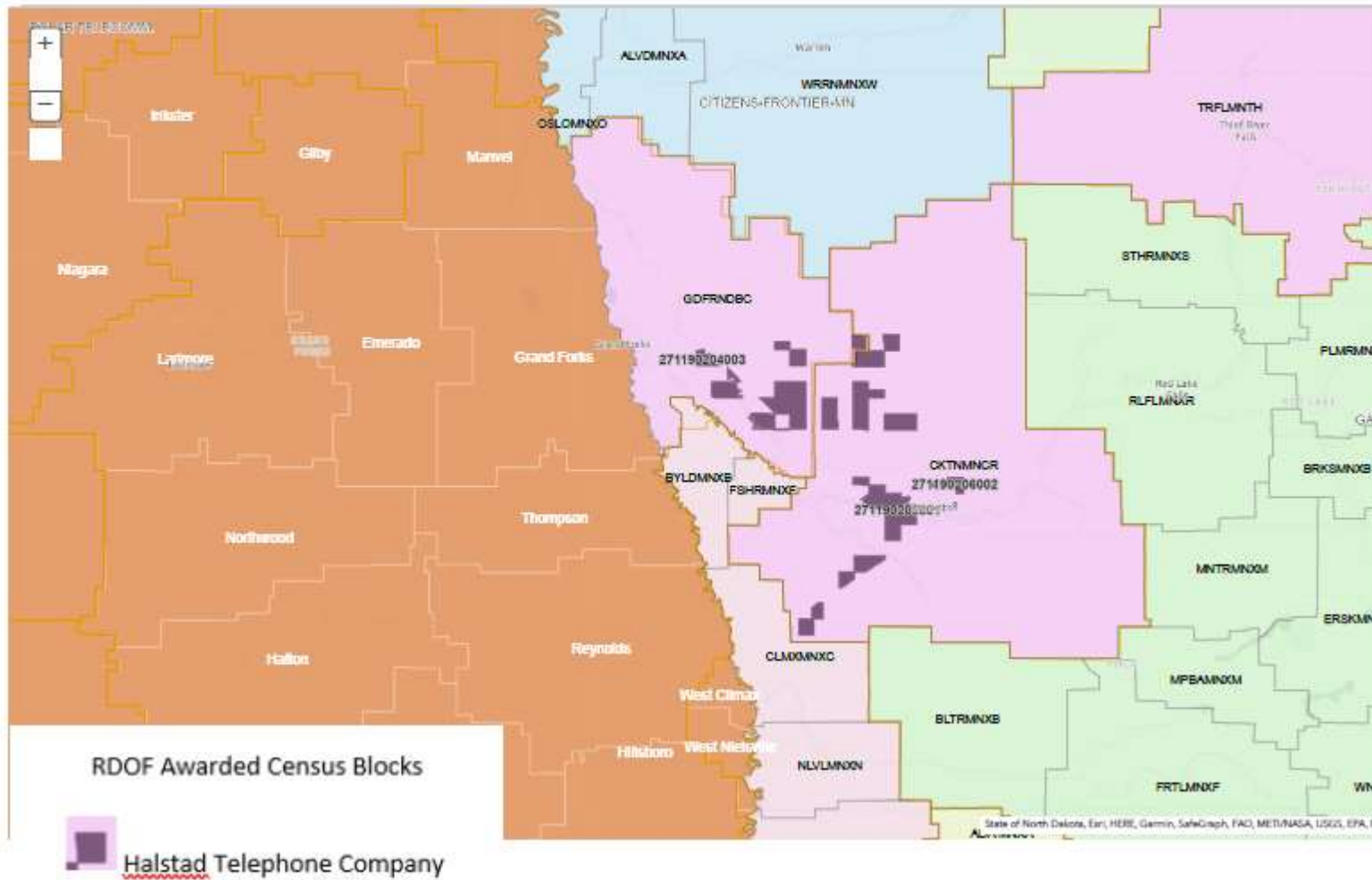
AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

In the Matter of the Petition of Halstad Telephone Company for Expansion of its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier MPUC Docket No.: _____

I, Mary T. Buley, state that on January 27th, 2021 I caused copies of the attached Notice regarding the filing of Halstad Telephone Company's application for expanded designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to be filed using eService, email or mailed by United States first class mail postage prepaid thereon, to the following persons:

Will Seuffert (efile) Executive Secretary	Linda Chavez (efile) Minnesota Department of Commerce
Mark Forseth (e-mail) Halstad Telephone Company	Jason Topp CenturyLink

Halstad Telephone Company Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Awarded Census Blocks by Wire Center



The tariff pages following address:

- [Deposit and guarantee requirements](#)
- [Customer Billing](#)
- [Customer Complaints and Billing Disputes](#)
- [Disconnection and notice requirements](#)
- [Lifeline and MN TAP](#)
- [Link-Up](#)
- [Basic Local Service Rates](#)

Deposit and Guarantee Requirements

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

Section 2
Page 10

GENERAL REGULATIONS

9. CREDIT POLICY

A. Deposit and Guarantee Requirements

The Company may require a deposit or guarantee of payment from any customer or applicant who has not established good credit with the Company. Deposit or guarantee of payment requirements as prescribed by the Company must be based upon standards which bear a reasonable relationship to the assurance of payment. The Company may determine whether a customer has established good credit with the Company, except as herein restricted:

- 1) A customer, who within the last 12 months has not had customer's service disconnected for nonpayment of a bill and has not been liable for disconnection of service for nonpayment of a bill, and the bill is not in dispute, shall be deemed to have established good credit.
- 2) A Company shall not require a deposit or a guarantee of payment based upon income, home ownership, residential location, employment tenure, nature of occupation, race, color, creed, sex, marital status, age, national origin, or any other criteria which does not bear a reasonable relationship to the assurance of payment or which is not authorized by Minnesota statute.
- 3) The Company shall not use any credit reports other than those reflecting the purchase of utility services to determine the adequacy of a customer's credit history without the permission in writing of the customer. Any credit history so used shall be mailed to the customer in order to provide the customer an opportunity to review the data. Refusal of a customer to permit use of a credit rating or credit service other than that of a utility shall not affect the determination by the Company as to that customer's credit history.
- 4) Qualifying applicants for Lifeline Service may initiate service without paying a deposit if they voluntarily elect to have Toll Blocking on their line. Toll Blocking will be provided at no charge to Lifeline customers.

B. Deposit

- 1) When required, a customer may assure payment by submitting a deposit. A deposit shall not exceed an estimated two months' gross bill or existing two months' bill where applicable. All deposits shall be in addition to payment of an outstanding bill or a part of such bill as has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Company, except where such bill has been discharged in bankruptcy. The Company shall not require a deposit or a guarantee of payment without explaining in writing why that deposit or guarantee is being required and under what conditions, if any, the deposit will be diminished upon return. The deposit shall be refunded to the customer after 12 consecutive months of prompt payment of all bills to that Company. The Company may, at its option, refund the deposit by direct payment or as a credit on the bill. With notice any deposit of a customer shall be applied by the Company to a bill when the bill has been determined by the Company to be delinquent. The Company shall issue a written receipt of deposit to each customer from whom a deposit is received and shall provide a means whereby a depositor may establish a claim if the receipt is unavailable.

Effective: 3-1-08

Deposit and Guarantee Requirements (cont.)

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

Section 2
Page 11

GENERAL REGULATIONS

9. CREDIT POLICY (Continued)

B. Deposit (Continued)

- 2) Interest shall be paid on deposits in excess of \$20 at the rate set by the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce as required by Minnesota Statute 325E.02. The interest rate may be found on the Department of Commerce website at www.commerce.state.mn.us. Interest on deposits shall be payable from the date of deposit to the date of refund or disconnection. The Company may, at its option, pay the interest at intervals it chooses but at least annually, by direct payment, or as a credit on bills.
- 3) Upon termination of service, the deposit with accrued interest shall be credited to the final bill and the balance shall be returned within 45 days to the customer.

C. Guarantee of Payment

- 1) The Company may accept, in lieu of deposit, a contract signed by a guarantor satisfactory to the Company whereby payment of a specified sum, not exceeding the deposit requirement is guaranteed. The term of such contract shall be for no longer than 12 months, but shall automatically terminate after the customer has closed and paid the account with the Company, or at the guarantor's request upon 60 days' written notice to the Company. Upon termination of a guarantee contract or whenever the Company deems same insufficient as to amount or surety, a cash deposit or a new or additional guarantee may be required for good cause upon reasonable written notice to the customer.
- 2) The service of any customer who fails to comply with these requirements may be disconnected upon notice as prescribed in Minnesota Rules. The Company shall mail the guarantor copies of all disconnect notices sent to the customer whose account he has guaranteed unless the guarantor waives such notice in writing.

10. CUSTOMER BILLING

- A. Regular bills will be issued periodically (monthly, quarterly). For billing purposes each month is presumed to have thirty days.
- B. Special bills for long distance telecommunications service may be issued at any time when charges are unusually high and the Company is uncertain as to the customer's ability to pay such charges.
- C. Services which are charged for at monthly rates are billed in advance for one month's service.
- D. Services which are charged for at other than monthly rates are billed in arrears, except when payment for messages is made by cash deposit in the coin telephone.
- E. Detail call information, such as the time at call was made, duration and destination may be provided for long distance telecommunications message services billed by the Company.
- F. Retroactive billing adjustments will not be made for a period exceeding two years.

11. PAYMENT FOR SERVICE

- A. The customer is responsible for the payment of rates and charges for all services furnished including, but not limited to, calls originated or accepted at a customer's service location.

Effective: 3-1-08

Customer Billing

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

Section 2
Page 11

GENERAL REGULATIONS

9. CREDIT POLICY (Continued)

B. Deposit (Continued)

- 2) Interest shall be paid on deposits in excess of \$20 at the rate set by the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce as required by Minnesota Statute 325E.02. The interest rate may be found on the Department of Commerce website at www.commerce.state.mn.us. Interest on deposits shall be payable from the date of deposit to the date of refund or disconnection. The Company may, at its option, pay the interest at intervals it chooses but at least annually, by direct payment, or as a credit on bills.
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- 2) The service of any customer who fails to comply with these requirements may be disconnected upon notice as prescribed in Minnesota Rules. The Company shall mail the guarantor copies of all disconnect notices sent to the customer whose account he has guaranteed unless the guarantor waives such notice in writing.

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Effective: 3-1-08

Customer Complaint and Disputes

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

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GENERAL REGULATIONS

11. PAYMENT FOR SERVICE (Continued)

- B. Bills are due when rendered and may be paid at any of the Company's public business offices or other authorized payment locations.
- C. Charges for a message originated or accepted at a coin telephone shall be paid by cash deposit in the coin telephone unless arrangements for billing have been made.
- D. Non-sufficient Fund or No Account Checks

When a customer pays the monthly bill with a non-sufficient fund or no account check, a charge (see Section 6, page 2) will be made to that customer to cover the administrative costs incurred in handling the transaction.

- E. Customer Complaints and/or Billing Disputes

Customer inquiries or complaints regarding service or accounting may be made in writing or by telephone to the Company at:

Halstad Telephone Company
P.O. Box 55
345 Second Avenue West
Halstad, MN 56548
(218) 456-2125

Any objection to billed charges should be reported promptly to the Company. Adjustments to Customers' bills shall be made to the extent that records are available and/or circumstances exist which reasonably indicate that such charges are not in accordance with approved rates or that an adjustment may otherwise be appropriate. Where overbilling of a subscriber occurs, due either to Company or subscriber error, no liability exists which will require the Company to pay any interest, dividend or other compensation on the amount overbilled.

If after an investigation and review by the Company a disagreement remains as to the disputed charges, the customer may file a complaint, in writing or by telephone, to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission at:

121 Seventh Place East
Suite 350
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147
(800) 657-3782

12. FAILURE TO PAY FOR SERVICE

- A. Regular Monthly Bills

- 1) A customer is considered to be delinquent in the payment of a regular monthly bill when the sum due is not received on or before the tenth calendar day following the day the bill is either mailed or delivered by other means.
- 2) When a customer is delinquent in the payment of a regular monthly bill, the Company may disconnect the service not sooner than five days after mailing or delivery of written notice of intention to disconnect.

- B. Special Bills

- 1) A customer is delinquent in the payment of a special bill when the sum due is not paid upon presentation.

Effective: 3-1-08

Disconnection and notice requirements
See Previous page for Section 2, page 12

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

Section 2
Page 13

GENERAL REGULATIONS

13. RESTORAL OF SERVICE

- A. If a customer's service is restored after having been disconnected in accordance with this Tariff and a Company service order to terminate such service has not been completed when such service is restored, the customer will be required to pay Service Charges specified in Section 6 of this Tariff. Monthly service rates will not apply for the period between the disconnection and reconnection.
- B. When a customer's service has been disconnected in accordance with this Tariff and the service has been terminated through the completion of a Company service order, service will be re-established only upon the basis of an application for new service.

14. TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The customer has no proprietary right in a telephone number; and the Company may change the telephone number of a customer whenever, in the conduct of its business, it deems it necessary to do so.

15. DIRECTORIES

The Company will furnish to its customers, without charge, its directory as necessary for the efficient use of the service. Copies of other directories may be provided at a nominal charge.

16. OWNERSHIP OF FACILITIES

Facilities furnished by the Company remain the property of the Company until transferred or abandoned.

17. ACCESS TO FACILITIES

The customer shall provide employees and agents of the Company access to Company facilities, at all reasonable times.

18. REARRANGEMENT, REPAIR, MAINTENANCE, DISCONNECTION AND REMOVAL OF FACILITIES

- A. All facilities owned by the Company will be maintained by it, except where such facilities are situated, in the judgment of the Company, in hazardous or inaccessible locations.
- B. Customers may not rearrange, disconnect, remove or otherwise tamper with, or permit others to rearrange, disconnect, remove or tamper with any facilities owned by the Company, except with the Company's written consent, or as specified elsewhere in this tariff.

Effective: 3-1-08

Lifeline and MN TAP

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

Section 5
Page 21
Revision 1

GENERAL SERVICES

INTERCEPT SERVICE

- A. Intercept Service is a recorded message that identifies on a disconnected number the new number that has been assigned.
- B. In the event of a directory listing error or if the Company initiates a number change after the directory is published, the Company will intercept all calls to the listed number for a reasonable period of time and will provide the correct listing to directory information.
- C. If a customer requests Intercept Service, it will be placed for 60 days. If the customer desires the service be placed on a number for a longer period, a \$1.00 charge per month will apply.

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 Federal End User Common Line Charge and a reduction of local service charges. The Federal Lifeline Credit shall be applied first to reduce the Federal End User Common Line Charge, with any remaining federal credit to be applied to reduce rates for residential service. The state TAP credit shall be applied to further reduce the rates charged for residential services. (T)
(N)
|
(N)
(D)
|
(D)
 - b. Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) will not be billed to Lifeline customers. (T)
 - 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.

Effective: 10-1-13

Lifeline and MN TAP (cont.)

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

Section 5
Page 22
Revision 1

GENERAL SERVICES

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

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
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - * Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs

(T)
|
(T)
(D)
(D)

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 (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribally Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Tribal Head Start (only households that meet the income qualifying standard)

(T)
|
(T)

- 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.

Effective: 2-17-20

Lifeline and MN TAP

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

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Revision 1

GENERAL SERVICES

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

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.

5. Regulations (T)
 - 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 by the plan.

6. Funding (T)

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 (T)

State TAP Surcharge

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 appropriate government agency.

	<u>Monthly Rate</u>		
State TAP Credit	Note 1	(C)	
Federal Lifeline Credit	Note 2	(C)	

Note 1: The State TAP Credit is the effective rate ordered by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Information regarding the Credit rate can be accessed at the Minnesota Department of Commerce Web site at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/> (C)

Note 2: The Federal Lifeline Credit is the effective rate ordered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Information regarding the Credit rate can be accessed at the FCC Web site at: <http://www.fcc.gov/> (C)

Effective: 10-1-13

Basic Local Service Rates

HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY
HALSTAD, MINNESOTA

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

Rates

Exchange

Class of Service	Monthly Rates				
	Bygland and Fisher	Climax M.N. and West Climax N.D.	Halstad M.N. and West Halstad N.D.	Nielsville M.N. and West Nielsville N.D.	Shelly M.N. and West Shelly N.D.
BUSINESS:					
One Party and Coin	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50
Trunk Hunting Rate	9.50	9.50	8.25	8.00	8.00
Coin Supervision	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
RESIDENCE:					
One Party	18.00(l)	18.00(l)	18.00(l)	18.00(l)	18.00(l)

All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

Effective: 6-1-16

List of RDOF Census IDs

271190204003001
271190204003003
271190204003038
271190204003049
271190204003054
271190204003056
271190204003063
271190204003081
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