Mary T. Buley 612.621.8306 - Direct mbuley@otcpas.com

# **Olsen** Thielen

Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

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January 21st, 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 Roseau Electric Cooperative for Expansion of its Designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Docket No:\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Enclosed via efiling 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 Roseau Electric Cooperative.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary T. Buley

Mary T. Buley Consultant on behalf of Roseau Electric Cooperative

# STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

In the Matter of the Petition of Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. for Expansion as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier MPUC Docket No.:

# **ORIGINAL FILING**

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Roseau") requests the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") for an expansion of its designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (" ETC") through areas awarded to Roseau in the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction where the Commission has not designated Roseau as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

The filing includes the following attachments:

- Attachment 1One paragraph summary of the filing in accordance with Minn.Rules pt. 7829.1300.
- Attachment 2 Petition to expand Roseau'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:  | Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.<br>1107 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street N.E.<br>Roseau, MN 56751 |
|---|---|
| Date of Filing  | January 21st, 2020  |
| Controlling Statute for Time in Processing the Filing | Minn. Rules pt. <u>7811.1400</u> , 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 Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

In the Matter of the Petition of Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. for Expansion to its Designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier MPUC Docket No.:\_\_\_\_\_

# **SUMMARY OF FILING**

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc ("Roseau") 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 Roseau as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

# STATE OF MINNESOTA BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

MPUC Docket No.:

In the Matter of the Petition of Roseau Electric Cooperative Inc. for Expansion of its Designation as a L Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

# PETITION FOR EXPANSION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER

Roseau is an electric power cooperative serving approximately 6,400 customers in Roseau, Beltrami and Lake of the Woods Counties in northern Minnesota. Roseau petitioned and received from Minnesota Public Utilities ("Commission") CLEC authority for facility based and resale authority in Docket No. P6996/NA-18-676 on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. In 2018 Roseau was awarded CAF II money to provide broadband and local services in specific CAF II census blocks. Roseau was granted ETC Authority by the Commission in Docket No. 18-679.<sup>1</sup> In this petition Roseau requests expansion of its ETC service area for certain census blocks awarded to Roseau in the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction 904. The list of RDOF census blocks is provided in Exhibit 3. Roseau was awarded 266 locations and universal high cost support of \$122,8150.00

In support of its Petition, Roseau states as follows:

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

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc 1107 3<sup>rd</sup> Street N.E Roseau, MN 56751

Roseau 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Order Approving Request for ETD Status Support in Certain Census Blocks, Docket No. P6996/M-18-679, P999/CI-18-634, February 8, 2019.

- B. The name and title of the officer or representative of authorizing this petition is Tracey Stoll, 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 <u>Exhibit 1</u>.
- E. Roseau'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:

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

- 1. <u>Roseau's Regulatory Authority</u> –Roseau was granted authority by the Commission to provide facility based and resold local exchange service and interexchange service as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) in P6996/NA-18-676 for the exchanges of Roseau and Warroad. The Commission also approved Roseau's petition for ETC designation in for its awarded CAF II Census Blocks in Docket No. 18-679 and Docket No. 18-634.
- 2. <u>Roseau's Facilities and Commitment to Serve</u> Roseau will provide broadband and voice telephone over the RDOF installed fiber-optic facilities to customer premises. Roseau committed to provide service to all customers making a reasonable request for service. Roseau certifies that it will: (a) provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Service Area where Roseau'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 Roseau's current network facilities if service can be provided at reasonable cost by constructing network facilities.
- <u>Roseau's Basic Universal Service Offering</u> Roseau will provide voice telephony and broadband services in the Expanded Proposed Service Area. The services Roseau offers meet the Basic Local Service requirements under <u>Minn. Rule 7812.0600</u>. Roseau has the ability and the intention to provide the voice telephony services required by <u>47 CFR § 54.101(a)<sup>2</sup></u>:
  - Voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent;
  - Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>FCC Connect America Order 11-161 rel. November 18, 2011</u> at  $\P$  76-81 discusses the changes to <u>47 CFR §</u> <u>51.101</u> and the required voice service offerings.

- 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 Proposed expanded Service Area upon its expanded designation as an ETC for the RDOF Census blocks. Roseau's tariffs address customer eligibility provisions and the availability of subsidies under the Lifeline program<sup>3</sup> and the Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan<sup>4</sup>. The applicable sections of Roseau's tariff are attached as Exhibit 2. Roseau 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. Roseau'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. <u>Roseau's Advertising Plan</u> Roseau currently advertises its services through direct mail, company newsletters and its website. Roseau will advertise the availability of its universal service offering throughout the expanded RDOF 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 Roseau's web site: <u>https://www.roseauelectric.coop/north-stream-fiber</u>.
- 5. <u>Roseau's 10-Year Plan for Use of Universal Service Support</u> Roseau will receive Universal High Cost Service Support and lifeline support to the extent it serves customers eligible for that program.
- 6. <u>Roseau's Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations</u>. Roseau's network will remain functional in emergency situations:

Commercial power outage: The central office serving Roseau'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 diversely routed, which if cut will be automatically rerouted.

Roseau complies with the Commission's Rules in Chapter <u>7810</u> establishing minimum standards on various operational matters, such as 7810.3900 (Emergency Operations); 7810.4900 (Adequacy of Service); and 7810.5300 (Dial Service Requirements).

7. <u>Roseau's Satisfaction of Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards</u> – Roseau, is subject to, and complies with, the Commission's Rules pertaining to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Roseau Local Exchange Tariff Section 5, page 36 and 37

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Roseau Local Exchange Tariff Section 5, page 37.1

service quality and consumer protection. Roseau's tariff has specific provisions outlining the following terms addressing consumer protection issues:

- Deposit and guarantee requirements<sup>5</sup>
- Customer Billing<sup>6</sup>
- Appropriate handling of customer complaints and billing disputes<sup>7</sup>
- Disconnection and notice requirements<sup>8</sup>

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

# DESIGNATING ROSEAU AS AN ETC IN THE PROPOSED EXPANDED SERVICE AREA WILL SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

- 8. <u>Public Interest</u> Designation of Roseau as an ETC in the Expanded Proposed Service Area is in the public interest since it affords qualifying customers a choice of service providers while retaining the Lifeline benefit.
- 9. <u>Superior Service Offering</u> Roseau believes its service offerings are superior to that received by the ILECs' customers in the Expanded Proposed Service Area. Roseau proposed network will be Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) in the Proposed Service Area which offers a technically superior network to that of the ILECs.

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

- <u>Affordability</u> The local exchange services offered to Roseau's customers for universal service offerings are within the range of the annual urban rate survey. Roseau's basic service offerings rates are identified in its Local Exchange Services<sup>9</sup> tariff. Roseau will provide the benefit of Lifeline discounts to qualifying subscribers.
- 11. <u>Commitment to Service Quality</u> As noted in Paragraph E.7 above, Roseau 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. <u>Request for Certification</u> - Roseau requests that the Commission certify its use of support effective as of the date of Roseau's ETC designation for the Proposed Expanded Service Area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Roseau Local Exchange Tariff, Section 2, page 10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Roseau Local Exchange Tariff, Section 2, page 11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Roseau Local Exchange Tariff, Section 2, page 12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Roseau Local Exchange Tariff, Section 2, pages 16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Roseau Local Exchange Tariff, Section 10, page 3

# **CONCLUSION**

13. Roseau 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 <u>47 USC § 214(e)</u>, the Commission should designate Roseau 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 Roseau's Petition is approved.

Therefore, Roseau respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Designate Roseau Electric Cooperative as an ETC for receipt of federal universal high cost 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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

CONSULTANT FOR ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERTIVE

# VERIFICATION

The undersigned, Tracey Stoll, General Manager of Roseau Electric Cooperative, 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,

Roseau Electric Cooperative

By: <u>/s/ Tracey Stoll</u> Tracey Stoll General Manager

# **AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

In the Matter of the Petition of Roseau Electric Cooperative for Expansion of its Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

MPUC Docket No.:

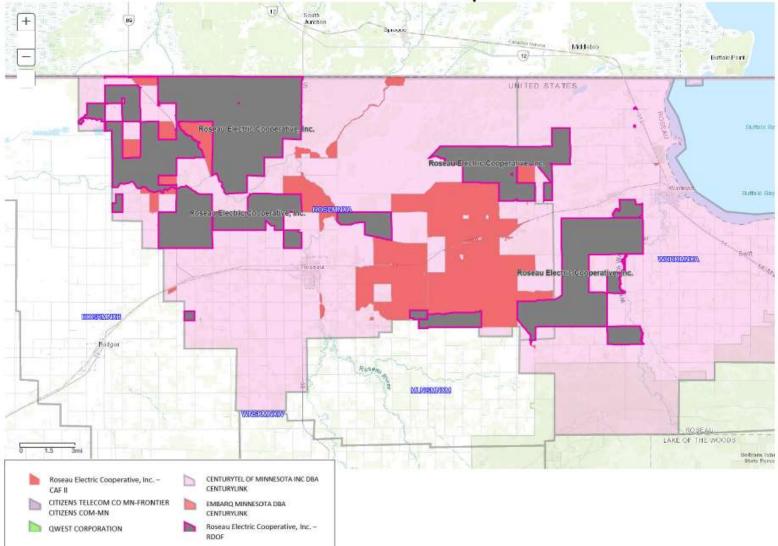
I, <u>Mary T. Buley</u>, state that on <u>January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021</u> I caused copies of the attached Notice regarding the filing of Roseau Cooperative's application for expanded designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to be filed using eService, email or mailed by United States first class mail postage prepaid thereon, to the following persons:

| Will Seuffert (efile)       | Linda Chavez (efile)             |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Executive Secretary         | Minnesota Department of Commerce |
| Tracey Stoll (e-mail)       | Jason Topp (email)               |
| Roseau Electric Cooperative | CenturyTel d/b/a CenturyLink     |

Roseau Electric RDOF MAP

Exhibit 1 Expanded ETC Service Area

# Roseau Electric 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**

ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ROSEAU, 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:

- A customer, who within the last 12 months has not had his 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 this chapter.
- 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 Company shall not affect the determination by the Company as to that customer's credit history.
- 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

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. A 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. Each 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: 3-1-19

## **Customer Billing**

ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ROSEAU, MINNESOTA Section 2 Page 11

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

# 9. CREDIT POLICY (Continued)

B. Deposit (Continued)

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 <u>www.commerce.state.mn.us</u>. 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.

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

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.

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.
- E. Detail call information, such as the time at which made, duration and destination may be provided for long distance telecommunications message service.
- F. Retroactive billing adjustments will not be made for a period exceeding three 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.

## **Customer Complaint and Disputes**

| ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. |
|-----------------------------------|
| ROSEAU, MINNESOTA                 |

Section 2 Page 12

#### 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. Reserved for Future Use.
- 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:

PO Box 100 Roseau, Minnesota, 56751 (218) 463-1543

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

# Disconnection and notice requirements

ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ROSEAU, MINNESOTA

Section 2 Page 16

#### GENERAL REGULATIONS

# 24. TERMINATION OF SERVICE (Continued)

- 3) In the case of special equipment for which the minimum contract period is in excess of one month at the same location, such proportion of the sum of the cost of the equipment and of its installation, plus the cost of removal, less the salvage value of the equipment removed, as the unexpired portion of the minimum contract period bears to the full minimum contract period.
- B. Service may be terminated after the expiration of the minimum contract period, upon the Company being notified in advance and upon payment of all charges due to the date of termination of the service.
- C. Telecommunications service will not be disconnected on any Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, or at any time when the company's business offices are not open to the public, except where an emergency exists.

## 25. DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE

- A. The company may discontinue service to a customer without notice under the following conditions:
  - In the event of tampering with the company's equipment;
  - In the event of a condition determined to be hazardous to the customer, to other customers of the company, to the company's equipment, the public, or to employees of the company; or
  - In the event of a customer's use of equipment in such a manner as to adversely affect the company's equipment or the company's service to others.
- B. The company may discontinue telecommunications service to a customer under the following conditions after giving customer five (5) days' (excluding Sundays and legal holidays) notice:
  - 1) For failure of the customer to pay a bill for service when due;
  - 2) For failure of the customer to meet the company's deposit and credit requirements;
  - For failure of the customer to make proper application for service;
  - For customer's violation of any of the company's rules on file with the Commission;
  - For failure of the customer to provide the company reasonable access to its equipment and property;
  - For customer's breach of the contract for service between the company and the customer;
  - For a failure of the customer to furnish such service, equipment, and/or rights-of-way necessary to serve said customer as shall have been specified by the utility as a condition of obtaining service; or
  - When necessary for the utility to comply with any order or request of any governmental authority having jurisdiction.

# Lifeline and MN TAP

# ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ROSEAU, MINNESOTA

Section 5 Page 36

## GENERAL SERVICES

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

The Lifeline Assistance program (Lifeline), 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 provides for a federally-funded discount credit to a low-income residential customer's telephone, mobile or broadband service charges. Monthly Lifeline discounts provided in connection with the Company's local telephone service will first be applied against the the subscribers Federal End User Common Line Charge. Any remaining Lifeline discount amount will then be applied against changes for the Subscribers local phone service.
  - b. Federal Universal Service Fund End User Charge will not be billed to Lifeline customers.
  - c. Local service for Lifeline subscribers may not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges.
    - 1). Toll Restriction Service will be provided to Lifeline subscribers at no charge.
    - Lifeline subscribers are not required to accept Toll Restriction Service as a condition to avoid disconnection of local service for non-payment of toll.
    - 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.
  - Partial payments from Lifeline subscribers will be applied first to local service charges and then to toll charges.
- 2. Eligibility Requirements
  - a. Lifeline will be provided for one (1) eligible service per household, at the subscriber's principal place of residence, to those individuals who meet the eligibility requirements.
  - b. The applicant has income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in one of the following programs:
    - Medicaid/Medical Assistance
    - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (fka Food Stamps)
    - Supplemental Security Income
    - Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
    - Veterans Pension Benefit Program

# Lifeline and MN TAP (cont.)

ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ROSEAU, MINNESOTA

Section 5 Page 37

# GENERAL SERVICES

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

2. Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

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

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

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

- 4. Eligibility for the State TAP Credit
  - a. The state TAP credit is only available to residential subscribers who meet the eligibility requirements for the Federal Lifeline Assistance discount credit in 2 above.
  - b. The customer must reside in Minnesota or have moved to Minnesota and intend to remain.

# Lifeline and MN TAP

ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ROSEAU, MINNESOTA

Book 2 Section 5 Page 37.1

# GENERAL SERVICES

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

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

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

7. Rates

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

|                         | Monthly Rat |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| State TAP Credit        | Note 1      |
| Federal Lifeline Credit | Note 2      |

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: <a href="http://mn.gov/commerce/">http://mn.gov/commerce/</a>

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: <u>http://www.fcc.gov/</u>

# **Basic Local Service Rates**

ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ROSEAU, MINNESOTA

Section 10 Page 3

# GENERAL EXCHANGE PRICE LIST

# LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE SERVICE BUNDLE (cont.)

II. Rates

| Class of Service        | <u>Monthly Local Service Rates</u><br><u>Roseau And Warroad</u><br><u>Exchanges (1,2)</u> |
|-------------------------|---|
| BUSINESS:<br>One Party  | \$32.50   |
| PBX Trunk               | 32.50   |
| RESIDENCE:<br>One Party | 20.00   |

(1) A \$10 Surcharge applies to Business Rates and a \$15 Surcharge applies to Residence rates when Service is provided over loop facilities leased from Century Tel. Co. of Minnesota

(2) All local service lines may include the Custom Calling and CLASS features from the table below at no extra charge:

| 3WC 3 way calling               | CFW call forward                     | LSC long list speed calling            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| ACB automatic call back         | CNAM calling name delivery           | PIN personal identification number     |
| AR 2 automatic recall           | CNB calling number delivery blocking | RAG ring again                         |
| CCWT cancel call waiting        | CND calling number delivery          | SCA selective call acceptance          |
| CFB call forward busy           | COT customer originated trace        | SCF selective call forward             |
| CFD call forward don't answer   | CWT call waiting                     | SCR selective call rejection           |
|                                 | DRR distinctive ringing on revertive | SDR selective distinctive ringing/call |
| CFRA call forward remote access | calls                                | waiting                                |

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

# List of RDOF Census Blocks IDs