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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 Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative to Expand its
Designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier
Docket No: _____

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Enclosed via e filing 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 Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary T. Buley

Mary T. Buley
Consultant on behalf of Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative

**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 Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative for Expansion as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier MPUC Docket No.: _____

ORIGINAL FILING

Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies (“GVT”) requests the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) for an expansion of its designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) through areas awarded to GVT in the Federal Communications Commission (“FC”) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction where the Commission has not designated GVT 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 Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative 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:	Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative 206 Vance Ave S. PO Box 259 Erskine, MN 56535
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 Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative

**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 Garden Valley
Telephone Cooperative for Expansion to its
Designation as a Eligible Telecommunications
Carrier

MPUC Docket No.: _____

SUMMARY OF FILING

Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative ("GVT") 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 GVT 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 Garden Valley Telephone MPUC Docket No.: _____
Cooperative for Expansion of its Designation as a
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

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

On July 2, 2018 the Commission approved GVT's petition as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the exchanges of Thief River Falls and Mahnommen. In this petition GVT requests expansion of its ETC service area for certain census blocks awarded to GVT in the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction 1 (Auction 904). GVT was awarded a total of \$279,214.00 in support for 492 locations.

In support of its Petition, GVT states as follows:

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

Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative
206 Vance Ave S.
PO Box 259
Erskine, MN 56535

GVT 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

- B. The name and title of the officer or representative of GVT authorizing this petition is, Tim Brinkman, CEO, 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 (“Expanded Proposed Service Area”) for which ETC designation is sought, is set forth in a map attached as [Exhibit 1](#).
- E. GVT’s Petition for expansion of its designation as a ETC for the Proposed RDOF Census Blocks A 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:

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

1. GVT's Regulatory Authority – The Commission originally granted GVT CLEC authority to provide local exchange service in 2017 in Docket No. P409/SA-17-175.
2. GVT's Facilities and Commitment to Serve –The areas awarded to GVT as a part of the FCC RDOF Auction will be served with fiber to the premise (FTTP) in both ILEC and CLEC territories. GVT is committed to provide service to all customers making a reasonable request for service. GVT certifies that it will: (a) provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Service Area where GVT’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 GVT’s current network facilities if service can be provided at reasonable cost by constructing network facilities.
3. GVT's Basic Universal Service Offering - GVT will provide voice telephony in the Expanded Service Area. The services GVT offers meet the Basic Local Service requirements under [Minn. Rule 7812.0600](#). GVT has the ability and the intention to provide the voice telephony services required by [47 CFR § 54.101\(a\)](#)¹:
 - 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;
 - 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 designation as ETC. GVT’s tariffs address customer eligibility provisions and the availability of subsidies under the Lifeline program² and the Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan³. The applicable sections of GVT’s tariff are attached as [Exhibit 2](#). GVT is committed to providing the supported services

¹ [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.

² GVT Local Exchange Tariff Section 5, page 6

³ GVT Local Exchange Tariff Section 5, page 7 and 8

throughout the Expanded 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. GVT'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. GVT's Advertising Plan - GVT currently advertises its services through several different channels of general distribution, including brochures, direct mail, GVT Directory, bill messages, welcome booklets, social media ads on Facebook and Instagram. GVT 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 GVT's web site: <https://www.gvtel.com>.
5. GVT's 10-Year Plan for Use of Universal Service Support - GVT will receive Universal Service Support and Lifeline support to the extent it serves customers eligible for that program.
6. GVT's Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations. GVT's network will remain functional in emergency situations:

Commercial power outage: The central office serving GVT'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 fiber optic ring, which if cut will be automatically rerouted.

GVT complies with the Commission's Rules in Chapter [7810](#) 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. GVT's Satisfaction of Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards – GVT, is subject to, and complies with, the Commission's Rules pertaining to service quality and consumer protection. GVT's tariff has specific provisions outlining the following terms addressing consumer protection issues:
 - Deposit and guarantee requirements⁴
 - Customer Billing⁵
 - Appropriate handling of customer complaints and billing disputes⁶
 - Disconnection and notice requirements⁷

⁴ GVT Local Exchange Tariff, Section 3, page 6 and 7

⁵ GVT Local Exchange Tariff, Section 3, page 11

⁶ GVT Local Exchange Tariff, Section 3, page 11

⁷ GVT local Exchange Tariff, Section 3, page 17

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

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

8. Public Interest - Designation of GVT as a ETC in the Proposed Expanded 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 – GVT believes its service offerings are superior to that received by the ILECs' customers in the Service Area. GVT 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 ILECs.

GVT 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 offered to GVT's customers for universal service offerings are within the range of the FCC 2021 Annual Urban Rate Survey rates.⁸ GVT's basic voice service offerings can be found in its Local Exchange Services⁹ tariff. GVT will provide the benefit of Lifeline discounts to qualifying subscribers.
11. Commitment to Service Quality - As noted in Paragraph E.7 above, GVT 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 - GVT requests that the Commission certify its use of support effective as of the date of GVT's ETC designation for the Proposed Expanded Service Area.

CONCLUSION

13. GVT 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 GVT as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the expanded RDOF Service Area. In so doing, the Commission will ensure that consumers in the

⁸ WC Docket 10-9, Announcement from the Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics issued 11-30-20.

⁹ GVT Local Exchange Tariff, Section 2, page 4

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 expanded Service Area will benefit and the public interest will be served if GVT's Petition is approved.

Therefore, GVT respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Approve Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative petition as a ETC for receipt of federal universal service 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 GARDEN
VALLEY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

VERIFICATION

The undersigned, Tim Brinkman, CEO of Garden Valley Telephone 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,

Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative

By: /s/ Tim Brinkman
Tim Brinkman
CEO

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

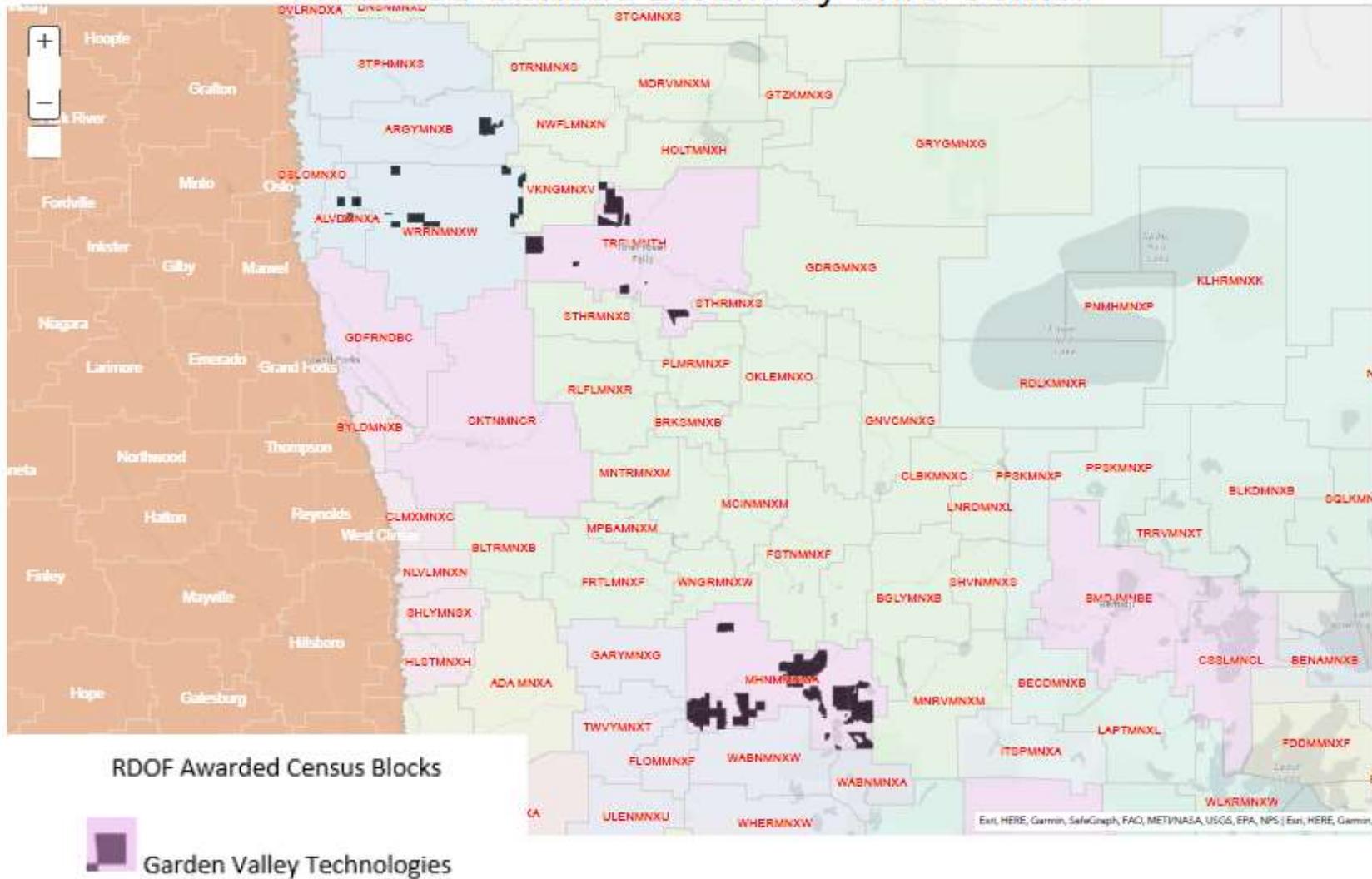
In the Matter of the Petition of Garden Valley Telephone
Cooperative for Expansion of its Designation as an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier

MPUC Docket No.: _____

I, Mary T. Buley, state that on January 27th, 2021 I caused copies of the attached Notice regarding the filing of Garden Valley Telephone 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) Executive Secretary	Linda Chavez (efile) Minnesota Department of Commerce
Tim Brinkman (email) Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative	Jason Topp CenturyLink
Mark Klinkhammer (e-mail) Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative	Scott Bohler Citizens Minnesota

Garden Valley Technologies 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

TARIFF	Section	3
	Page	6
GENERAL RULES	Revision	1

DEPOSITS

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 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.
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

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.

- CONTINUED -

Deposit and Guarantee Requirements (cont.)

TARIFF	Section	3
	Page	7
GENERAL RULES	Revision	1

DEPOSITS
--Continued--

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.

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.

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.

Customer Billing
Customer Complaint and Disputes

TARIFF

Section 3
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Revision 1

GENERAL RULES

SUBSCRIBER BILLING

- A. The subscriber is responsible for all charges in conjunction with the services furnished him including collect toll messages which have been accepted at the subscriber's telephone.
- B. Monthly recurring charges are billed in advance and toll charges are billed in arrears. Special billing arrangements may be established for services provided to governmental agencies.
- C. Bills are due when rendered unless otherwise specified on the bill and may be paid at the business office of the Company in Erskine or by mail.
- D. Retroactive billing adjustments (credits) will not be made for a period exceeding three years.
- E. For billing purposes, each month is presumed to have thirty days.
- F. For termination of service for non-payment, see "Termination of Service by Company."
- G. In the event a billing dispute is not resolved, the Company will follow applicable Public Utilities Commission rules for review and disposition of the matter.

Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies - Erskine, Minnesota 56535

Effective Date: 03-21-18

Disconnection and notice requirements

TARIFF	Section	3
	Page	17
GENERAL RULES	Revision	2

TERMINATION OF SERVICE BY COMPANY

- A. The Company may refuse to furnish, or may terminate the service and remove its equipment under the following circumstances:
 - 1. Unauthorized attachment of equipment - see "Provision of Equipment."
 - 2. Unlawful purposes - see "Use of Service for Unlawful Purposes."
 - 3. Abuse or fraud - see "Abuse or Fraudulent Use of Service."
 - 4. Violation of any of the regulations governing the furnishing of service.

- B. The Company may terminate service for non-payment of local exchange service charges including any FCC-approved end user charges, as follows:
 - 1. Payment of telephone bills are due in the Erskine office as stated in "Subscriber Billing" within twenty days after the date of the bill.
 - 2. If full payment is not received in the Erskine office, a subscriber's telephone service shall become subject to disconnect procedures as follows:
 - a. The subscriber is given notice - all bills with delinquent amounts are mailed out under a certificate of mailing and have a final notice included informing them of the date by which payment must be made to avoid disconnect.
 - b. Service is terminated without further notice if the full amount of the arrears portion of the bill is not received as stated above, and is not contingent upon reaching the subscriber by telephone.

- C. Receipt of a non-sufficient funds (NSF) check is not considered as payment of an account. The account is considered delinquent and is still subject to disconnect procedures as stated in this section of the Tariff.
 - 1. A \$25.00 handling charge will be added to all subscriber accounts who pay with a NSF check.

- D. If service has been terminated because of the above regulations for non-payment, the entire local exchange service portion of the bill must be paid before service will be reinstated. Upon reinstatement a security deposit may be required, see "Deposits." For the charges for reconnection, see "Reconnection After Disconnection for Non-Payment."

Lifeline and MN TAP

TARIFF

Section 5
Page 6
Revision 5

SPECIAL SERVICES

LIFELINE AND MINNESOTA TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PLAN (TAP)

Definition

Lifeline is the local service offering that is available to low income consumers, for which such consumers pay reduced charges as a result of the federal support described in 47 C.F.R. § 54.403 and Sections 6 and the Funding and Rates sections below, and that includes the services required to be provided for federal universal service support eligibility under 47 C.F.R. § 54.101. The Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) provides for additional state credits against the recurring monthly rates for the provision of local residential service for eligible residential subscribers.

Garden Valley Telephone Association Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies (T) offers both Lifeline Assistance and Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan in both its ILEC and CLEC service areas.

Eligibility for the Federal Lifeline Credit

A. To qualify for the Federal Lifeline Credit, the customer must have income below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or must be currently eligible for:

- Medicaid (T)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) (T)
- Veterans Pension Benefit or Survivors Pension (T)

B. Eligibility will be established by the Company obtaining from a customer a document signed by the customer certifying under penalty of perjury that the customer receives benefits from one of the above programs and identifying the program or programs from which the customer receives benefits. On the same document, a qualifying low-income customer must also agree to notify the Company if the customer ceases to participate in the program or programs.

C. When the Company is notified by the customer that the customer no longer participates in such a program, 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.

C. Qualifying applicants for Lifeline may initiate service without their 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.

Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies- Erskine, Minnesota 56535
Effective Date: 1-17-2020

Lifeline and MN TAP (cont.)

TARIFF

Section 5
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Revision 4

SPECIAL SERVICES

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

Eligibility for the State TAP Credit

- A. Customers eligible for the Federal Lifeline Credit are automatically eligible for the state TAP credit.

Application of the Federal Lifeline and State TAP Credits

- A. Customers Eligible for Lifeline and State TAP Credit - These customers are eligible for a Lifeline credit of \$9.25 and a state TAP credit of up to \$3.50. 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 meeting the qualifications of 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101. The state TAP credit shall be applied to further reduce the rates charged for residential General Services. The state TAP credit can not exceed one-half the weighted average basic local service rate excluding the federal End-User Common Line Charge.

Regulations

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

Funding

- A. 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.

--CONTINUED--

Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies- Erskine, Minnesota 56535

Effective Date: 03-21-18

Lifeline and TAP

TARIFF

Section 5
Page 7
Revision 4

SPECIAL SERVICES

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

Eligibility for the State TAP Credit

- A. Customers eligible for the Federal Lifeline Credit are automatically eligible for the state TAP credit.

Application of the Federal Lifeline and State TAP Credits

- A. Customers Eligible for Lifeline and State TAP Credit - These customers are eligible for a Lifeline credit of \$9.25 and a state TAP credit of up to \$3.50. 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 meeting the qualifications of 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101. The state TAP credit shall be applied to further reduce the rates charged for residential General Services. The state TAP credit can not exceed one-half the weighted average basic local service rate excluding the federal End-User Common Line Charge.

Regulations

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

Funding

- A. 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.

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Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies- Erskine, Minnesota 56535

Effective Date: 03-21-18

Lifeline and Tap (cont.)

TARIFF

Section 5
Page 8
Revision 4

SPECIAL SERVICES

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

Rates

- A. 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.

Tribal Lifeline –Tribal Lands Support Reduction

- A. Additional Federal Lifeline support of up to \$25.00 is available for residents of Tribal Lands. Tribal Lands are defined as lands adjacent or contiguous to reservations that generally have been considered tribal lands for purposes of other federal programs targeted to federally recognized Indian tribes.
- A. Residents of Tribal Lands who qualify for Lifeline based on the requirements listed previously are eligible for the additional Tribal Lands Support Reduction. Residents of Tribal Lands who do not meet those requirements are eligible for the Tribal Lands Support Reductions if they participate in one of the following programs:
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
 - Tribally Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
 - Tribal Head Start (only households that meet the income qualifying standard)
 - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- B. The following applies for those eligible residents of Tribal Lands who qualify only for the Tribal Lands Support Reductions. The Company must obtain the customer's signature on a document in which the eligible customer certifies, under penalty of perjury, that such customer receives benefits from at least one of the programs mention in "B" and lives on or near a reservation. In addition to identifying the program or programs from which that customer receives benefits, the customer must also agree to notify the Company if that customer ceases to participate in the qualifying program or programs.
- D. The Tribal Lands Support Reduction applies to the one-party local residential rate, including any mileage, zonal, or other nondiscretionary charges associated with basic residential service.

(T)
(T)
(T)

Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies- Erskine, Minnesota
56535

Effective Date: 1-17-2020

Link Up

TARIFF	
Section	5
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Revision	3
SPECIAL SERVICES	
<u>LINK-UP SERVICE CONNECTION PROGRAM</u>	
<u>Definition</u>	
<p>The Link-Up Service Connection Program is a federally sponsored lifeline assistance program designed to make telephone service accessible to low-income residential households who are currently not on the public switched network and who are residents of Tribal Lands (as defined by Section 5 Page 8 Paragraph A). Through this program, the service connection charge for the initial installation of the main access line, as described in Section 4, Pages 3 & 4, will be discounted to the applicant at a rate of 100 percent, not to exceed \$100.00.</p>	
<u>Eligibility Requirements</u>	
<p>A. This discount applies on a single line at the principal place of residence for the applicant.</p>	
<p>B. The consumer can receive the benefit of the Link-Up Service Connection Program for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which Link-Up assistance was provided previously.</p>	
<p>C. An applicant may defer payment of the service connection charges. Payment may be deferred up to 12 months with a payment schedule of equal payments for up to \$200.00 assessed for commencing service. Interest will not be charged on deferred payments. These charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.</p>	
<p>D. Applicant meets income requirements under criteria "E" or "F" below.</p>	
<p>E. Applicant can show current participation in one of the following assistance programs to Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Medicaid - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) - Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance - Tribal 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)
--CONTINUED--	
<hr/> Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies- Erskine, Minnesota 56535	
Effective Date: <u>1-22-2020</u>	

Link-Up (cont):

TARIFF

Section 5
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Revision 2

SPECIAL SERVICES

LINK-UP SERVICE CONNECTION PROGRAM--Continued--

Proof of eligibility must accompany the completed application form. Proof of eligibility can be made either in person at Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies business office or by mailing a copy of the applicant's proof of participation and enclosing that with a completed application to Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies business office.

- F. Applicant can show household income level of 135 percent or less of the federal poverty level. Household income is defined as total gross income from all sources for all members of the applicant's household.

The applicant must show verification of income requirements by showing previous calendar year's completed federal tax return(s) or proof that their household income level was below the federal level necessitating they file a tax return for the previous calendar year.

Eligibility Determination

- A. In determining an applicant's eligibility, the eligibility criteria "A" through "F" listed above need to be fulfilled.
- B. Applicants will be able to self-certify criteria "A", "B", and "C".
- C. Criterion "E" or "F" must be certified by the applicant's local exchange company.

--CONTINUED--

Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies- Erskine, Minnesota 56535

Effective Date: 03-21-18

Link-Up (cont.)

TARIFF

Section 5
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Revision 2

SPECIAL SERVICES

LINK-UP SERVICE CONNECTION PROGRAM--Continued--

Credit and Collections

- A. Credit Reference: The credit verification procedures used for all applicants who apply for service with Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies will also be used for applicants who apply for service under the Link-Up program.
- B. Deposits: The deposit standards used for all applicants who apply for service with Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies will also be used for applicants who apply for service under the Link-Up program.
- C. Collection Standards: Once service has been established for a Link-Up applicant, he or she will be expected to adhere to the same bill payment policies expected of any other Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies customer.

Garden Valley Telephone Company d/b/a Garden Valley Technologies- Erskine, Minnesota 56535

Effective Date: 03-21-18

Basic Rates:

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2.2 Rates

ILEC Exchanges: Bagley, Beltrami, Brooks, Clearbrook, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Gatzke, Gonvick, Goodridge, Grygla, Gully, Lengby, Leonard, Maple Bay, McIntosh, Mentor, Minerva, Oklee, Plummer, Red Lake Falls, St Hilaire, Shevlin, Winger

	Monthly Rates ⁽²⁾
BUSINESS: One Party	\$ 22.50
RESIDENCE: One Party	\$ 22.50

CLEC Exchanges⁽¹⁾

Class of Service	Monthly Rates Zone 1 ⁽²⁾	Monthly Rates Zone 2 ⁽²⁾	Monthly Rates Zone 3 ⁽²⁾
BUSINESS: One Party service package	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
RESIDENCE: One Party service package	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00

All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when on statement due date.

Note 1: CLEC Exchanges Served include those listed in tables on Pages 1-3 preceding.

Note 2: All rates include EAS as shown on pages 5-22 following.

(M) ILEC rates and CLEC Zone 1 rates were previously listed by exchange in this section.

List of RDOF Census Blocks

Block_id	State	County
270879401001017	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001018	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001019	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001020	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001021	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001023	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001024	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001025	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001027	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001028	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001034	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001044	MN	Mahnomen
270879401001045	MN	Mahnomen
270879401002038	MN	Mahnomen
270879401002142	MN	Mahnomen
270879401002143	MN	Mahnomen
270879401002147	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001025	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001026	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001039	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001048	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001049	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001050	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001054	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001057	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001058	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001069	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001083	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001089	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001091	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001092	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001093	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001096	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001097	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001144	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001145	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001148	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001154	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001202	MN	Mahnomen
270879403001256	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002095	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002103	MN	Mahnomen

Exhibit 3
RDOF Census Block IDs

270879403002105	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002106	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002107	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002108	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002116	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002122	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002128	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002129	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002130	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002135	MN	Mahnomen
270879403002170	MN	Mahnomen
270890802003012	MN	Marshall
270890802003045	MN	Marshall
270890802003046	MN	Marshall
270890802003049	MN	Marshall
270890802003063	MN	Marshall
270890802003077	MN	Marshall
270890802003106	MN	Marshall
270890802003108	MN	Marshall
270890802003109	MN	Marshall
270890802003112	MN	Marshall
270890802003113	MN	Marshall
270890802003136	MN	Marshall
270890802003165	MN	Marshall
270890802003166	MN	Marshall
270890802003169	MN	Marshall
270890802003171	MN	Marshall
270890802003174	MN	Marshall
270890802003177	MN	Marshall
270890802003178	MN	Marshall
270890802003190	MN	Marshall
270890802003231	MN	Marshall
270890804002008	MN	Marshall
270890804002075	MN	Marshall
270890804002079	MN	Marshall
270890804002092	MN	Marshall
270890804002096	MN	Marshall
270890804002104	MN	Marshall
270890804002137	MN	Marshall
270890804002150	MN	Marshall
270890804003069	MN	Marshall
270890804003075	MN	Marshall
271130901001159	MN	Pennington
271130901001172	MN	Pennington
271130901002013	MN	Pennington
271130901002016	MN	Pennington

Exhibit 3
RDOF Census Block IDs

271130901002023	MN	Pennington
271130901002025	MN	Pennington
271130901002151	MN	Pennington
271130901002155	MN	Pennington
271130901002169	MN	Pennington
271130903001055	MN	Pennington
271130903001081	MN	Pennington
271130903001115	MN	Pennington
271130903002010	MN	Pennington
271130903002030	MN	Pennington
271130903002031	MN	Pennington
271130903002033	MN	Pennington
271130903002069	MN	Pennington
271130904001009	MN	Pennington
271190204001010	MN	Polk
271190204001022	MN	Polk
271190204001023	MN	Polk
271190204001025	MN	Polk
271190204001042	MN	Polk
271190204001049	MN	Polk
271190204001066	MN	Polk
271190204001075	MN	Polk
271190204001086	MN	Polk
271190204001087	MN	Polk
271190204001088	MN	Polk
271190204001106	MN	Polk
271190204001145	MN	Polk
271190204001147	MN	Polk
271190204001148	MN	Polk
271190204001156	MN	Polk
271190204001170	MN	Polk
271190204001211	MN	Polk
271190204001223	MN	Polk
271190204001226	MN	Polk
271190204001227	MN	Polk
271190204001230	MN	Polk
271190204001256	MN	Polk
271190204001304	MN	Polk
271190204001309	MN	Polk
271190204001323	MN	Polk
271190204001348	MN	Polk
271190204001357	MN	Polk
271190204001368	MN	Polk
271190204001386	MN	Polk
271190204002001	MN	Polk
271190204002003	MN	Polk

Exhibit 3
RDOF Census Block IDs

271190204002007	MN	Polk
271190204002021	MN	Polk
271190204002026	MN	Polk
271190204002027	MN	Polk
271190204002028	MN	Polk
271190204002029	MN	Polk
271190204002030	MN	Polk
271190204002037	MN	Polk
271190204002044	MN	Polk
271190204002045	MN	Polk
271190204002047	MN	Polk
271190204002050	MN	Polk
271190204002051	MN	Polk
271190204002052	MN	Polk
271190204002053	MN	Polk
271190204002078	MN	Polk
271190204002080	MN	Polk
271190204002085	MN	Polk
271190204002094	MN	Polk
271190204002099	MN	Polk
271190204002107	MN	Polk
271190204002116	MN	Polk
271190204002126	MN	Polk
271190204002129	MN	Polk
271190204002140	MN	Polk
271190204002144	MN	Polk
271190204002151	MN	Polk
271190204002152	MN	Polk
271190204002160	MN	Polk
271190204002164	MN	Polk
271190204002171	MN	Polk
271190204002175	MN	Polk
271190204002183	MN	Polk
271190204002188	MN	Polk
271190204002190	MN	Polk
271190204002195	MN	Polk
271190204002196	MN	Polk
271190204002198	MN	Polk
271190204002200	MN	Polk
271190204002202	MN	Polk
271190204002203	MN	Polk
271190204002204	MN	Polk
271190204002206	MN	Polk
271190204002209	MN	Polk
271190204002210	MN	Polk
271190204002211	MN	Polk

Exhibit 3
RDOF Census Block IDs

271190204002212	MN	Polk
271190204002214	MN	Polk
271190204002216	MN	Polk
271190204002217	MN	Polk
271190204002218	MN	Polk
271190204002219	MN	Polk