



October 29, 2020

Mr. Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Response to Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Request for Initial Comments in
MN PUC Docket No. P999/CI-20-747

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Enclosed via e-filing are the initial comments for Northern Telephone Company, Study Area
Code 361500 as a High Cost ETC pursuant to the Commission's Order No. P999/CI-20-747.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at roxih@interstatetelcom.com or by
phone at 320/848-6641.

Sincerely,

/s/Roxanne K. Hacker

Roxanne K. Hacker
Regulatory Consultant

Enclosures:

Cc: Shane Young

Northern Telephone Company

Initial Comments as a High Cost ETC in Minnesota PUC Docket No. P999/CI-20-747

1. Current Number of Lifeline Customers as of 9/30/20:

- a. Study Area Code 361500 Total Lifeline customers = 5
- b. Non-tribal service areas Lifeline customers = 5
- c. Tribal service areas Lifeline customers = 0

2. How Lifeline Services are Advertised:

Northern Telephone Company advertises Lifeline Services:

- Lifeline Program availability is printed in our tariff and is sent to all customers via a bill insert and posted on community billboards. Northern Telephone does not have a website, nor do we publish a phone directory. Because our study area is so small, there is not a local newspaper.

3. Provide Samples of Lifeline Advertising:

- Exhibit 1– Lifeline information from customer notice and billboards.

4. Does the High Cost ETC have any other observations about Lifeline:

No Comment

Annual Notice to Residential Customers for Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) and the Federal Lifeline Program

You may be eligible for assistance in paying your telephone bill if you receive benefits from certain low-income assistance programs. For more information or an application, please contact:

Northern Telephone Company
13448 County Road 25
Wawina, MN 55736
(218) 488-6565
Office@northern.tel

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offers a monthly credit of \$7.00 on your landline telephone service. You may receive the TAP credit on one landline per household.

The federal Lifeline Program offers a monthly discount of \$7.25 on some landline telephone service plans. Lifeline also offers discounts on some wireless telephone service plans and some broadband internet service plans. You may receive the Lifeline discount on one telephone service per household. The federal Lifeline Program incorporates the broadband discount (not applicable to TAP).

If you live on Tribal lands, you may qualify for additional discounts. Tribal lands Link Up offers a one-time credit of up to \$100 on installation or activation charges. Tribal lands Lifeline offers a monthly credit of up to \$34.25 on your landline or wireless telephone service plan. The telephone or broadband service must be in your name. You must show proof that you or a member of your household participates in at least one of the following programs or is income eligible:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Medicaid/Medical Assistance (MA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit Programs
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance living on Tribal lands
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) living on Tribal lands
- Tribally-administered Head Start (for those meeting income-qualifying standards) living on Tribal lands
- Tribally-administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF) living on Tribal lands

If you do not participate in any of the programs listed above, you may qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the 2019 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines: (The federal poverty guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.)

Household Size	Income
1	\$16,862
2	\$22,829
3	\$28,796
4	\$34,763
5	\$40,730
6	\$46,697
7	\$52,664
8	\$58,631
For each additional person, add	\$5,967