

KC 125

DOCKET NO.

In the Matter of

IN THE MATTER OF FILING BY GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER

Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

DATE	MEMORANDA
12/1 97	Filed and Indexed;
12/4 97	T.C. Not Filing;
12/15 97	Order for, and Notice of Hearing,
12/17 97	Exhibits, Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order and Notice of Entry of Order,
12/17 97	Wackett's Case.
12/30 97	Exhibits and Tentative Plan for Great Plains.
12/31 97	Revised Page to Exhibit and Tentative Plan for Great Plains.



Great Plains Communications • 1635 Front St., Box 500 • Blair, NE 68008 • 402-426-9511

TC97-188

December 1, 1997

Mr. William Bullard, Jr.
Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre SD 57501 5070

RECEIVED

DEC 03 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAX Received DEC 01 1997

Dear Mr. Bullard:

Great Plains Communications, Inc. is enclosing a request for designation as an "eligible telecommunications carrier" ("ETC"). Great Plains Communications has assumed universal service obligations for the area it serves and meets the criteria for ETC designation in accordance with federal regulations, except of the requirement for "toll control" service. Great Plains Communications, along with others in the industry, is in the process of examining the "toll control" issue. It is certain that the provision of this service as outlined in the applicable FCC rules will require a better understanding of the FCC's intent relative to "toll control" than exists now. Due to the time needed in studying and providing the "toll control" service, Great Plains is also enclosing herewith a request for a temporary waiver of the "toll control" service requirement.

Great Plains Communications has received ETC status from the state of Nebraska. We are enclosing a copy of the Nebraska Public Service Commission ETC order.

Please contact Rodney Thiemann at (402) 426-6433 if you have any questions regarding these requests.

Sincerely,

S. Michael Jensen
Vice President/General Manager

jao
Enclosure

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF

THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

RECEIVED

DEC 03 1997

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF)
 GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, INC FOR)
 DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE)
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)

REQUEST FOR ETC
 DESIGNATION
 DOCKET TC97-

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
 UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAX Received DEC 01 1997

Great Plains Communications, Inc. ("Great Plains") pursuant to 47 United States Code ("U.S.C.") Section 214(e) and 47 Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR") Section 54.201 hereby seeks from the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") within the local exchange area that constitutes its service area. In support of this request, Great Plains offers the following:

1. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) it is the Commission's responsibility to designate local exchange carriers ("LECs") as ETCs, or in other words, to determine which LECs have assumed universal service obligations consistent with the federal law and should be deemed eligible to receive federal universal service support. At least one eligible telecommunications carrier is to be designated by the Commission for each service area in the State. However, in the case of areas served by rural telephone companies, the Commission may not designate more than one LEC as an ETC without first finding that such additional designation would be in the public interest. Under 47 CFR § 54.201, beginning January 1, 1998, only telecommunications carriers that have received designation from the Commission to serve as an eligible telecommunications carrier within their service area will be eligible to receive federal universal service support.

2. Great Plains is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges:

North Cody, South Dakota	(605) 822
North Crookston, South Dakota	(605) 429
North Kilgore, South Dakota	(605) 969
North Gordon, South Dakota	(605) 288



Great Plains, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange area.

Great Plains also provides local exchange telecommunications services in Nebraska and has received ETC designation from the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

3. Great Plains, in accordance with 47 CFR § 54.101, offers the following local exchange telecommunications services to all consumers throughout its service area:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- Local exchange service including an amount of local usage free of per minute charges under a flat rated local service package;
- Single party service;
- Dual tone multi-frequency signaling;
- Access to emergency services such as 911 or enhanced 911 public services;
- Access to operator services;
- Access to interexchange service;
- Access to directory assistance; and
- Toll blocking service to qualified low-income consumers.

As noted above, Great Plains does provide toll limitation service in the form of toll blocking to qualifying consumers; however, the additional toll limitation service of "toll control" as defined in the new FCC universal service rules (47 CFR § 54.400(3)) is not provided. Great Plains is not aware that any local exchange carrier in South Dakota has a current capability to provide such service. The FCC gave no indication prior to the release of its universal service order (FCC 97-157) that toll control would be imposed as an ETC service requirement and, to our information and belief, as a result, LECs nationwide are not positioned to make the service immediately available. In order for Great Plains to provide the service, additional usage tracking and storage capabilities will have to be installed in its local switching equipment. At minimum, the service requires a switching software upgrade and at this time Great Plains is investigating and attempting to determine whether the necessary software has been developed and when it might become available.

Accordingly, Great Plains is faced with exceptional circumstances concerning its ability to make the toll control service available as set forth in the FCC's universal service rules and must request a waiver from the requirement to provide such service. At this time, a waiver for a period of one year is requested. Prior to the end of the one year period, Great Plains will report back to the Commission with specific information indicating when the necessary network upgrades can be made and the service can be made available to assist low income customers. The Commission may properly grant a waiver from the "toll control" requirement pursuant to 47 CFR 54.101(c).

Additionally, Great Plains currently offers Link Up service, but does not currently offer Lifeline service within its exchanges. While providing Lifeline and Link Up services is not a precondition which must be met before ETC status can be granted by the Commission, the provision of these services is a requirement that must be met before a carrier can receive federal universal service support. Great Plains will offer Lifeline service as required by the FCC rules, 47 CFR 54.400 - 54.417, beginning January 1, 1998.

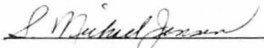
4. Great Plains has previously and will continue to advertise the availability of its local exchange services in media of general distribution throughout the exchange areas served. Prior to this filing, Great Plains has not generally advertised the prices charged for all of the above-identified services. It will do so going forward in accordance with any specific advertising standards that the Commission may develop.

5. Based on the foregoing, Great Plains respectfully requests that the Commission:

- a) grant a temporary waiver of the requirement to provide "toll control" service, and
- b) grant an ETC designation to Great Plains covering all of the local exchange area that constitutes its present service area in the State.

Dated this 1st day of December, 1997

Great Plains Communications, Inc.



S. Michael Jensen, Vice President/General Manager

DEC 03 1997

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-1604
of the Nebraska Public Service)
Commission on its own Motion to) Eligible Telecommunica-
Designate Telecommunications) tion Carriers Named
Carriers Eligible to Receive)
Federal Universal Service Support.) Entered: October 15, 1997

BY THE COMMISSION:

This docket was opened August 12, 1997, to designate telecommunications carriers eligible to receive universal service support and to define the service areas for which carriers shall receive support. Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Order, Commor Carrier Docket CC-96-45, Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) must be designated by January 1, 1998. Interested parties were allowed to submit initial comments on this issue by September 12, 1997. Reply comments were due on or before September 30, 1997. Initial comments were received from Aliant Communications, AT&T of the Midwest, Cox Nebraska Telcom, GTE Midwest, MCI, the Nebraska Independent Telephone Association, the Nebraska Telephone Association, Sprint-United, Sprint PCS, and US West Communications. All parties, except Sprint-United and the Nebraska Telephone Association, submitted reply comments.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Upon reviewing the comments filed herein, we make the following determination:

1. All Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) operating in Nebraska on February 8, 1996, should be designated an ETC. There was consensus among all commenters that this designation was in the public interest. The carriers designated as ETCs are attached hereto in Exhibit A.

2. We find a rural carrier's study area should be its service area. There was no opposition by commenters that it was appropriate to designate a rural carrier's study area as its service area. However, we agree with commenters such as Aliant, Sprint-United, AT&T, and MCI that a carrier's study area should be contiguous. If a rural ETC serves a non-contiguous study area, the carrier should have multiple study areas. This designation better

EXHIBIT

2

Application No. C-1604

PAGE TWO

targets where high cost support is needed and does not pose a barrier to competitive entry into rural areas.

3. The Commission finds on an interim basis that Census Block Groups (CBGs) should be utilized to designate non-rural carriers service areas. As stated by most commenters, CBGs are small and do not favor or hinder any particular carrier or technology. While Census Blocks are smaller than CBGs and may better target high cost support, we are not convinced at this time that Census Blocks should be utilized. Ultimately, we believe a non-rural carriers' service area should be identified using the capability of the cost model that Nebraska selects. While Nebraska has until February 6, 1998, to select its cost model, it must designate non-rural service areas on or before December 31, 1997. Therefore, we conclude at the present time, CBGs best identify the service areas of Nebraska's non-rural carriers.

4. As recommended by numerous commenters, we do not limit ETC designation to just incumbent LECs. All carriers, including wireless providers that satisfy the criteria set forth in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and in FCC rules, may be designated an ETC.

5. We believe that to be designated as an ETC, no criteria other than that set forth by the FCC and the Act should be required. This finding is made solely for the purpose of being eligible for federal universal service support. The decision not to specify other criteria should not be considered as precedent when criteria for the state universal service fund is developed.

6. Carriers not operating in Nebraska as of February 8, 1996, must petition the Commission to be designated an ETC and must demonstrate that all relevant criteria has been met.

7. If after February 8, 1996, any ETC purchases, acquires by merger or by other related transactions the service area of another carrier, the buyer should be designated an ETC for the acquired area. Further, the purchased area should be added to the buyer's existing service area. If the acquired service area is not

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. C-1604

PAGE THREE

contiguous to the existing service area, the acquired area should be treated as a separate study area, as described above.

8. We do not designate at this time service areas for other carriers, such as competitive LECs or wireless providers. When a petition is presented to the Commission by such a provider to obtain ETC status, the appropriate service areas of non-ILECs will be defined. It must be demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that designation is in the public interest.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the carriers listed on Exhibit A attached hereto, be and hereby are, designated as eligible telecommunications carriers pursuant to Federal Communications Commission Order, Common Carrier Docket CC-96-45.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the designated service areas for non-rural carriers be, and hereby are, Census Block Groups until otherwise determined.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 15th day of October, 1997.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

Anne C. Bugle
//s//Lowell C. Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis

Robert H. Logsdon
Executive Director

Exhibit A
Rural ETCs in Nebraska

Arapahoe Telephone Company
Arlington Telephone Company
Benkelman Telephone Company
Blair Telephone Company
Cambridge Telephone Company
Clarks Telecommunications Company
Consolidated Telco, Inc.
Consolidated Telephone Company
Cozad Telephone Company
Curtis Telephone Company
Dalton Telephone Company
Diller Telephone Company
Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company
Elsie-Mutual Telephone Company
Eustis Telephone Exchange
Glenwood Telephone Membership Corp.
Great Plains Communications
Hamilton Telephone Company
Hartington Telecommunications Co.
Hartman Telephone Exchanges
Hemingford Cooperative
Henderson Cooperative Telephone
Hershey Cooperative Telephone
Home Telephone Company of Nebraska
Hooper Telephone Company
K & M Telephone Company
Keystone - Arthur Telephone Company
Nebraska Central Telephone Co.
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company
NebCom, Inc.
Pierce Telecommunications, Inc.
Plainview Telephone Company
Rock County Telephone Company
Sodtown Telephone Cooperative
Southeast Nebraska Telephone
Stanton Telecom, Inc.
Three River Telco
Wauneta Telephone Company

Non-Rural ETCs in Nebraska

Aliant Communications, Inc.
GTE of the Midwest, Inc.
United Telephone Company
US West Communications, Inc.

South Dakota
Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol 500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (800) 332-1782
Fax: (605) 773-3809

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FILINGS

These are the telecommunications service filings that the Commission has received for the period of:

11/20/97 through 12/04/97

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five days of this filing.

DOCKET NUMBER	TITLE/STAFF/SYNOPSIS	DATE FILED	INTERVENTION DEADLINE
REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY			
TC97-187	Application by TotalTel, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/KC) "Applicant is a switch-based reseller which intends to offer 1+ direct dialing, 800 toll free, and travel card (no prepaid calling cards) service through the resale of telephone services provided by facilities-based interexchange carriers."	11/25/97	12/19/97
TC97-189	Application by Consolidated Communications Networks, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/CH) Applicant seeks authority to provide "Diald Domestic Message Telecommunications Services, and Calling Card Service."	12/03/97	12/19/97
REQUEST FOR ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY STATUS			
TC97-188	Great Plains Communications, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 C.F.R. 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange area that constitutes its service area in South Dakota. Great Plains Communications, Inc. is the facilities based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota: (605) 822 North Cody, (605) 429 North Crookston, (605) 969 North Kilgore, and (605) 288 North Gordon. Great Plains Communications, Inc., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications service in the above exchange area. (Staff: HB/KC)	12/01/97	12/12/97

Important Notice: The Commission is compiling a list of internet addresses. If you have an internet address please notify the Commission by: E-mailing it to Terry Norum at: terryn@pucc.state.sd.us Faxing the address to the Commission at: 605-773-3809

TC 97-188

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF
THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

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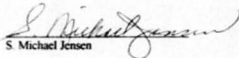
DEC 09 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF
GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER

)
) AFFIDAVIT
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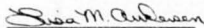
S. Michael Jensen, being first duly sworn on his oath deposes and says that he is the Vice President/General Manager of Great Plains Communications, Inc., a Nebraska Corporation, applicant in Docket TC97-188, that he has read the foregoing initial Eligible Telecommunications Carrier application and further states the applicant presently provides single party service to all customers, and the same are true to his own best knowledge, information, and belief.


S. Michael Jensen

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) SS
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON)

The foregoing statement was acknowledged before me this 8th day of December, 1997,
by S. Michael Jensen, Vice President/General Manager of Great Plains Communications, Inc., a
Nebraska Corporation, on behalf of the Corporation.

(Notary Seal)


Notary Public



ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER REQUEST

Company: Great Plains Communications, Inc.

Docket Number: TC97-188

<u>47 C.F.R. 54.101(a)</u>	Application 12/1/97	Supplemental Response 12/9/97
1. voice grade access to public switched network	Yes	
2. local usage	Yes	
3. dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equal	Yes	
4. single party service or its functional equivalent	Yes	to all subscribers
5. access to emergency services	Yes	
6. access to operator services	Yes	
7. access to interexchange service	Yes	
8. access to directory assistance	Yes	
9. toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers	-toll blocking -toll controll not provided, request one year waiver	
<u>47 C.F.R. 54.405 and 54.411</u> make available Lifeline and Link Up services to qualifying low-income consumers	-currently offers Link Up but not Lifeline service -will offer Lifeline service beginning 1/1/98 in accordance with 54.400 - .417	
<u>47 U.S.C. 214(e)(5)</u> designate service area [by NXX]	Yes	
<u>47 U.S.C. 214(e)(1)(B)</u> advertise services exchange wide	will do so going forward in accordance with specific advertising standards developed by PUC	

affidavit by S. Michael
Jensen

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY GREAT)	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE
PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR)	OF HEARING
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)	TC97-188

On December 1, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request from Great Plains Communications, Inc. requesting designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

On December 4, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 12, 1997, to interested individuals and entities.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31, including 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-11, and 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) through (5).

The issues at the hearing shall be as follows: (1) whether the above captioned telecommunications company should be granted designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and (2) what service areas shall be established by the Commission.

A hearing shall be held at 1:30 P.M., on Wednesday, December 17, 1997, in the Public Utilities Commission Cactus Conference Room, State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. It shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission may either grant or deny the request of the above captioned telecommunications company requesting designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and the Commission shall establish service areas for an eligible telecommunications carrier. The Commission's decision may be appealed to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issues of whether the above captioned telecommunications company should be granted designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and the Commission shall establish service areas for an eligible telecommunications carrier.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of December, 1997.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By <u>William Kaelbo</u></p> <p>Date <u>12/15/97</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
--

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
Commissioners Burg, Nelson and
Schoenfelder

William T. Bullard, Jr.
WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.
Executive Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY GREAT)	FINDINGS OF FACT,
PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR)	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE)	ORDER AND NOTICE OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)	ENTRY OF ORDER
)	TC97-188

11

111

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), a common carrier that is designated as an ETC is eligible to receive universal service support and shall, throughout its service area, offer the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services. The carrier must also advertise the availability of such services and the rates for the services using media of general distribution.

IV

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated the following services or functionalities as those supported by federal universal service support mechanisms: (1) voice grade access to the public switched network; (2) local usage; (3) dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equal; (4) single party service or its functional equivalent; (5) access to emergency services; (6) access to operator services; (7) access to interexchange service; (8) access to directory assistance; and (9) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a).

V

As part of its obligations as an ETC, an ETC is required to make available Lifeline and Link Up services to qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. § 54.405; 47 C.F.R. § 54.411.

VI

Great Plains Communications offers voice grade access to the public switched network to all consumers throughout its service area. Exhibit 1.

VII

Great Plains Communications offers local exchange service including an amount of local usage free of per minute charges to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

VIII

Great Plains Communications offers dual tone multi-frequency signaling to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

IX

Great Plains Communications offers single party service to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

X

Great Plains Communications offers access to emergency services to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

XI

Great Plains Communications offers access to operator services to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

XII

Great Plains Communications offers access to interexchange services to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

XIII

Great Plains Communications offers access to directory assistance to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

XIV

One of the services required to be provided by an ETC to qualifying low-income consumers is toll limitation. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(9). Toll limitation consists of both toll blocking and toll control. 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(d). Toll control is a service that allows consumers to specify a certain amount of toll usage that may be incurred per month or per billing cycle. 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(c). Toll blocking is a service that lets consumers elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls. 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(b).

XV

Great Plains Communications offers toll blocking to all consumers throughout its service area. Exhibit 1.

XVI

Great Plains Communications does not currently offer toll control. *Id.* In order for Great Plains Communications to provide toll control, additional usage tracking and storage capabilities will have to be installed in its local switching equipment. Great Plains Communications is attempting to determine whether the necessary software has been developed and when it might become available. *Id.*

XVII

Great Plains Communications stated that it is faced with exceptional circumstances concerning its ability to make toll control service available and requested a one year waiver from the requirement to provide such service. *Id.* Prior to the end of the one year period, Great Plains Communications will report back to the Commission with specific information indicating when the network upgrades can be made in order to provide toll control. *Id.*

XVIII

With respect to the obligation to advertise the availability of services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism and the charges for those services using media of general distribution, Great Plains Communications stated that it advertises the availability of its local exchange services in media of general distribution throughout its service area. However, Great Plains Communications has not generally advertised the prices for these services. *Id.* Great Plains Communications stated its intention to comply with any advertising standards developed by the Commission. *Id.*

XIX

Great Plains Communications does not currently offer Lifeline service but does offer Link Up service discounts in its exchanges. *Id.* Great Plains Communications will offer the Lifeline and Link Up service discounts in all of its service area beginning January 1, 1998, in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400 to 54.417, inclusive. *Id.*

XX

The Commission finds that Great Plains Communications currently provides and will continue to provide the following services or functionalities throughout its service area: (1) voice grade access to the public switched network; (2) local usage; (3) dual tone multi-frequency signaling; (4) single-party service; (5) access to emergency services; (6) access to operator services; (7) access

to interexchange service; (8) access to directory assistance; and (9) toll blocking for qualifying low-income consumers.

XXI

The Commission finds that pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c) it will grant Great Plains Communications a waiver of the requirement to offer toll control services until December 31, 1998. The Commission finds that exceptional circumstances prevent Great Plains Communications from providing toll control at this time due to the difficulty in obtaining the necessary software upgrades to provide the service.

XXII

The Commission finds that Great Plains Communications intends to provide Lifeline and Link Up programs to qualifying customers throughout its service area consistent with state and federal rules and orders.

XXIII

The Commission finds that Great Plains Communications shall advertise the availability of the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism and the charges therefor throughout its service area using media of general distribution once each year. The Commission further finds that if the rate for any of the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism changes, the new rate must be advertised using media of general distribution.

XXIV

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(5), the Commission designates Great Plains Communications's current study area as its service area.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

I

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-31, and 47 U.S.C. § 214.

II

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2), the Commission is required to designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of section 214(e)(1) as an ETC for a service area designated by the Commission.

III

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), a common carrier that is designated as an ETC is eligible to receive universal service support and shall, throughout its service area, offer the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services. The carrier must also advertise the availability of such services and the rates for the services using media of general distribution.

IV

The FCC has designated the following services or functionalities as those supported by federal universal service support mechanisms: (1) voice grade access to the public switched network; (2) local usage; (3) dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equal; (4) single party service or its functional equivalent; (5) access to emergency services; (6) access to operator services; (7) access to interexchange service; (8) access to directory assistance; and (9) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a).

V

As part of its obligations as an ETC, an ETC is required to make available Lifeline and Link Up services to qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. § 54.405; 47 C.F.R. § 54.411.

VI

Great Plains Communications has met the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a) with the exception of the ability to offer toll control. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c), the Commission concludes that Great Plains Communications has demonstrated exceptional circumstances that justify granting it a waiver of the requirement to offer toll control until December 31, 1998.

VII

Great Plains Communications shall provide Lifeline and Link Up programs to qualifying customers throughout its service area consistent with state and federal rules and orders.

VIII

Great Plains Communications shall advertise the availability of the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism and the charges therefor using media of general distribution once each year. If the rate for any of the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism changes, the new rate shall be advertised using media of general distribution.

IX

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(5), the Commission designates Great Plains Communications's current study area as its service area.

X

The Commission designates Great Plains Communications as an eligible telecommunications carrier for its service area.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Great Plains Communications's current study area is designated as its service area; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Great Plains Communications shall be granted a waiver of the requirement to offer toll control services until December 31, 1998; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Great Plains Communications shall follow the advertising requirements as listed above; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Great Plains Communications is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier for its service area.

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Order was duly entered on the 17th day of December, 1997. Pursuant to SDCL 1-26-32, this Order will take effect 10 days after the date of receipt or failure to accept delivery of the decision by the parties.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17th day of December, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By

Date

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner



Great Plains Communications • 1635 Front St., Box 500 • Blair, NE 68008 • 402-426-9511

TC97-188

December 29, 1997

RECEIVED

DEC 30 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. Bill Bullard
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Mr. Bullard:

We are enclosing a copy of Great Plains Communications' Lifeline and Link Up Plans which are consistent with the criteria included in South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's Docket TC97-150 (also enclosed) and in 47 CFR 54.400 - 54.417.

Please call Loretta Calabro of TELECOM Consulting Resources, (402) 398-0062, with any questions you may have on this matter.

Yours truly,

Rodney L. Thiemann
Revenue Requirements Manager

jao
Enclosures

LIFELINE AND LINK UP PLAN OF GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS

Great Plains Communications, Inc. submits this plan pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.401(d). Great Plains Communications has been designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("SDPUC") and, as such, must make Lifeline and Link Up service available to qualifying low-income consumers as set forth in the Commission's Final Order and Decision; Notice of Entry of Decision dated November 18, 1997, issued in Docket TC97-150 (In the Matter of the Investigation into the Lifeline and Link Up Programs), which is attached as Exhibit A, and consistent with the criteria established under 47 CFR §§ 54.400 to 54.417, inclusive.

A. General

1. The Lifeline and Link Up programs assist qualified low-income consumers by providing for reduced monthly charges and reduced connection charges for local telephone service. The assistance applies to a single telephone line at a qualified consumer's principal place of residence.
2. A qualified low-income consumer is a telephone subscriber who participates in at least one of the following public assistance programs:
 - a. Medicaid
 - b. Food Stamps
 - c. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - d. Federal Public Housing Assistance
 - e. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP)
3. A qualified low-income consumer is eligible to receive either or both Lifeline and Link Up assistance.
4. Great Plains Communications will advertise the availability of Lifeline and Link Up services and the charges therefore using media of general distribution and in accord with any rules that may be developed by the SDPUC for application to eligible telecommunications carriers.
5. In addition, Great Plains Communications, as required by the Final Order and Decision; Notice of Entry of Decision of the SDPUC (Exhibit A), will indicate in its annual report to the SDPUC the number of subscribers within its service area receiving Lifeline and/or Link Up assistance. In addition, this information will be provided to the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").

6. Information as to the number of consumers qualifying for Lifeline and/or Link Up assistance cannot currently be provided by Great Plains Communications because it has no access to the government information necessary to determine how many of its telephone subscribers are participating in the above referenced public assistance programs. Without this information, Great Plains Communications cannot provide, at this time, even a reasonable estimate of the number of its subscribers who, after January 1, 1998, will be receiving Lifeline and/or Link Up service. Information as to the number of its low-income subscribers qualifying for Lifeline and/or Link Up can be provided after applications for Lifeline and Link Up assistance have been received by Great Plains Communications.

7. In accord with the SDPUC's Final Order and Decision; Notice of Entry of Decision, Great Plains Communications will make application forms available to all of its existing residential customers, to all new customers when they apply for residential local telephone service, and to other persons or entities upon their request.

B. Lifeline

1. Lifeline service means a retail local service offering for which qualified low-income consumers pay reduced charges.

2. Lifeline service includes voice grade access to the public switched network, local usage, dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent, single-party service or its functional equivalent, access to emergency services, access to operator services, access to interexchange service, access to directory assistance, and toll limitation.

3. Qualified low-income subscribers are required to submit an application form in order to receive Lifeline service. In applying for Lifeline assistance, the subscriber must certify under penalty of perjury that they are currently participating in at least one of the qualifying public assistance programs listed in Section A.2, above. In addition, the subscriber must agree to notify Great Plains Communications when they cease participating in the qualifying public assistance program(s).

4. The total monthly Lifeline credit available to qualified consumers is \$5.25. Great Plains Communications shall provide the credit to qualified consumers by applying the federal baseline support amount of \$3.50 to waive the consumer's federal End-User Common Line charge and applying the additional authorized federal support amount of \$1.75 as a credit to the consumer's intrastate local service rate. The federal baseline support amount and additional support available, totaling \$5.25, shall reduce Great Plains Communications' lowest

tariffed (or otherwise generally available) residential rate for the services listed above in Section B.3. Per the attached SDPUC Final Order and Decision; Notice of Entry of Decision, the SDPUC has authorized intrastate rate reductions for eligible telecommunications carriers making the additional federal support amount of \$1.75 available. The SDPUC did not establish a state Lifeline program to fund any further rate reductions. (Exhibit A, Findings of Fact VII and VIII; and Conclusions of Law II and III).

5. Great Plains Communications will not disconnect subscribers from their Lifeline service for non-payment of toll charges unless the SDPUC, pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.401(b)(1), has granted the company a waiver from the non-disconnect requirement.

6. Except to the extent that Great Plains Communications has obtained a waiver from the SDPUC pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.101(c), the company shall offer toll limitation to all qualifying low-income consumers when they subscribe to Lifeline service. If the subscriber elects to receive toll limitation, that service shall become part of that subscriber's Lifeline service.

7. Great Plains Communications will not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline service if the qualifying low-income consumer voluntarily elects toll blocking on their telephone line. However, one month's local service charges may be required as an advance payment.

C. Link Up

1. Link Up means:

(a) A reduction in the customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a consumer's principal place of residence. The reductions shall be 50 percent of the customary charge or \$30.00, whichever is less; and

(b) A deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service, for which the consumer does not pay interest. The interest charges not assessed to the consumer shall be for connection charges of up to \$200.00 that are deferred to a period not to exceed one year.

2. Charges assessed for commencing service include any charges that are customarily assessed for connecting subscribers to the network. These charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.

3. The Link Up program shall allow a consumer to receive the benefit of the Link Up program for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which the Link Up assistance was provided previously.

Great Plains Communications
P.O. Box 500
1635 Front Street
Blair, NE 68008
(888)343-8014

By Redney L. Thumman Revenue Requirements Mgr.
Name Position

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION)	FINAL ORDER AND
INTO THE LIFELINE AND LINK UP)	DECISION; NOTICE OF
PROGRAMS)	ENTRY OF DECISION
)	TC97-150

At its August 18, 1997, regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) voted to open a docket concerning the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Report and Order on Universal Service regarding the Lifeline and Link Up programs. In its Report and Order, the FCC decided that it would provide for additional federal support in the amount of \$1.75, above the current \$3.50 level. However, in order for a state's Lifeline consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support, the state commission must approve that reduction in the portion of the intrastate rate paid by the end user. 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a). Additional federal support may also be received in an amount equal to one-half of any support generated from the intrastate jurisdiction, up to a maximum of \$7.00 in federal support. 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a). A state commission must file or require the carrier to file information with the administrator of the federal universal service fund demonstrating that the carrier's Lifeline plan meets the criteria set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.401.

By order dated August 28, 1997, the Commission allowed interested persons and entities to submit written comments concerning how the Commission should implement the FCC's rules on the Lifeline and Link Up programs. In their written comments, interested persons and entities commented on the following questions:

1. Whether the Commission should approve intrastate rate reductions to allow consumers eligible for Lifeline support to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support?
2. Whether the Commission should set up a state Lifeline Program to fund further reductions in the intrastate rate paid by the end user?
3. Whether the Commission should modify the existing Lifeline or Link Up Programs?
4. Shall the Commission file or require the carrier to file information with the administrator of the federal universal service fund demonstrating that the carrier's Lifeline plan meets the criteria set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(d)?

By order dated October 16, 1997, the Commission set public hearings to receive public comment on the questions listed above. The hearings were held at the following times and places:

<u>RAPID CITY</u>	Monday, October 27, 1997, 1:00 p.m., Canyon Lake Senior Citizens Center, 2900 Canyon Lake Drive, Rapid City, SD
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PIERRE: Tuesday, October 28, 1997, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol Building, Room 412, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD

SIOUX FALLS: Wednesday, October 29, 1997, 9:00 a.m., Center for Active Generations, 2300 West 46th, Sioux Falls, SD

At its November 7, 1997, meeting, the Commission ruled as follows: On the first issue, the Commission authorized intrastate rate reductions to allow eligible consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support. With respect to the second issue, the Commission decided to not set up a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions at this time. On the third issue, the Commission eliminated the existing TAP program that requires U S WEST and carriers that have purchased U S WEST exchanges to fund a \$3.50 reduction of local rates to low income customers age 60 and over. The Commission further ruled that the South Dakota Link Up program follow the FCC rules. In addition, the Commission ordered that staff, in consultation with the carriers, develop a standard form for self-certification; that these forms be sent to all of their customers prior to January 1, 1998, and thereafter, to all new customers; and that the carriers make the forms available to any person or entity upon request. On the fourth issue, the Commission ruled that the carrier be required to file with the FCC the information demonstrating that the carrier's plan meets the applicable FCC criteria and that the carrier send an informational copy to the Commission. Further, that the carriers include in their annual report to the Commission the number of subscribers who receive Lifeline and Link Up support.

Based on the written comments and evidence and testimony received at the hearings, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I

The current state Lifeline program is referred to as the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP). The current state Link Up program is referred to as the Link Up America program. The Commission implemented these programs in the U S WEST exchanges pursuant to its Decision and Order dated February 17, 1988, issued in Docket F-3703, In the Matter of the Investigation into Implementation of a Telephone Assistance Plan for South Dakota Customers. Exhibit 1 at page 1. Subsequent buyers of U S WEST exchanges were required to also offer the TAP and Link Up America programs. Id. at pages 1-2.

II

The amount of TAP assistance is \$7.00, \$3.50 of which is federally funded, with the remaining \$3.50 funded by the local telecommunications carrier. Id. at page 3. Although U S WEST was originally allowed to charge a surcharge to fund the program, U S WEST subsequently gave up that right in Docket F-3647-8, In the Matter of the Public Utilities Commission Investigation into the Effects of the 1986 Tax Reform Act on South Dakota Utilities. Exhibit 5. In order to receive the TAP assistance, a member of the household

must be 60 years of age or older and participate in either the food stamp or the low-income energy assistance program. Exhibit 1 at page 2.

III

The Link Up America program provides assistance in an amount equal to one-half of the qualifying subscriber's telephone service connection charges up to a maximum of \$30.00. *Id.* at page 3. In order to receive Link Up assistance, a customer must be receiving either food stamps or low-income energy assistance, must not presently have local telephone service and must not have been provided telephone service at his or her residence within the previous three months, and must not be a dependent for federal income tax purposes (dependency criteria does not apply to those 60 years of age or older). *Id.* The Link Up program is funded entirely out of federal funds. *Id.*

IV

The FCC revised the current Lifeline and Link Up programs in CC Docket No. 96-45, *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, adopted May 7, 1997. Beginning January 1, 1998, the FCC found that the federal baseline Lifeline support will be \$3.50 per qualifying low-income consumer with an additional \$1.75 in federal support if the state commission approves a corresponding reduction in intrastate local rates. 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a). Additional federal Lifeline support in an amount equal to one-half the amount of any state Lifeline support (not to exceed \$7.00) is also available. *Id.*

V

The FCC further found that the federal support for Link Up will continue to be a reduction in the telecommunications carrier's service connection charges equal to one half of the carrier's customer connection charge or \$30.00, whichever is less. 47 C.F.R. § 54.413(b).

VI

Pursuant to the FCC's rules, if there is no state Lifeline or Link Up program, a consumer is eligible for support if the consumer participates in one of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps; Supplemental Security Income; federal public housing assistance; or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.409(b) and 54.415(b). In addition, if there is no state Lifeline or Link Up program, a customer must certify under penalty of perjury that the customer is receiving benefits from one of the programs listed above and agrees to notify the carrier if the customer ceases to participate in such program or programs. *Id.*

VII

The first issue is whether the Commission should approve intrastate rate reductions to allow consumers eligible for Lifeline support to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal

support. The Commission finds that it shall authorize intrastate rate reductions for eligible telecommunications companies providing local exchange service to allow eligible consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support. Thus, the total amount of federal support is \$5.25 per eligible customer.

VIII

The second issue is whether the Commission should set up a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions in the intrastate rate paid by the end user. The Commission finds it will not set up a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions at this time.

IX

The third issue is whether to modify or eliminate the existing Lifeline program or Link Up program. With respect to the existing Lifeline program, the Commission finds that it shall eliminate the existing TAP program that requires U S WEST and carriers that have purchased U S WEST exchanges to fund a \$3.50 reduction of local rates to low income customers age 60 and over. The Commission further finds that the South Dakota Lifeline and Link Up programs shall follow the FCC rules. See 47 U.S.C. §§ 54.400 to 54.417. The effect of following the FCC rules and not instituting further state funded reductions is that the FCC eligibility requirements and self-certification requirements will apply to the South Dakota Lifeline and Link Up programs. In addition, the Commission orders that the Commission staff, in consultation with the carriers, develop a standard form for self-certification. The carriers shall send these forms to each customer prior to January 1, 1998. The carriers shall also send a form to each of their new customers. Finally, the carriers shall make the forms available to any person or entity upon request.

X

The fourth issue is whether the Commission should file, or in the alternative, require the carrier to file information with the fund administrator. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(d). The Commission finds the carriers shall be required to file that information demonstrating that the carrier's plan meets the applicable FCC rules and that the carrier send an informational copy to the Commission. The carriers shall also be required to include in their annual report to the Commission the number of subscribers who receive Lifeline and Link Up support.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

I

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-1.1, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-11, 49-31-12.1, 49-31-12.2 and 12.4, and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400 to 54.417.

II

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a), the Commission authorizes intrastate rate reductions for eligible telecommunications companies providing local exchange service to allow eligible consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support.

III

The Commission declines to institute a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions at this time. The existing South Dakota Lifeline and Link Up programs shall be modified to follow the FCC rules found at 47 U.S.C. §§ 54.400 to 54.417, inclusive, on January 1, 1998. The Commission staff, in consultation with the carriers, shall develop a standard form for self-certification. The carriers shall send these forms to each customer prior to January 1, 1998. The carriers shall also send a form to each of their new customers. Finally, the carriers shall make the forms available to any person or entity upon request.

IV

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(d), the Commission finds the carriers shall be required to file that information demonstrating that the carrier's plan meets the applicable FCC rules and that the carrier send an informational copy to the Commission. The carriers shall also be required to include in their annual report to the Commission the number of subscribers who receive Lifeline and Link Up support.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission authorizes intrastate rate reductions for eligible telecommunications companies providing local exchange service to allow eligible consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission will not set up a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions at this time; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall eliminate the existing TAP program; that the South Dakota Lifeline and Link Up programs follow the FCC rules; that the Commission staff, in consultation with the carriers, develop a standard form for self-certification; that the carriers shall send these forms to all of their customers prior to January 1, 1998; that the carriers shall also send a form to each of their new customers; and that the carriers make the forms available to any person or entity upon request; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the carrier shall file with the FCC the information demonstrating that the carrier's plan meets the applicable FCC rules and that the carrier send an informational copy to the Commission. The carriers shall also include in their annual report to the Commission the number of subscribers who receive Lifeline and Link Up support.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of November, 1997.

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: <u>Vilma Kalls</u></p> <p>Date: <u>11/18/97</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
--

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner



1655 Front Street • P.O. Box 500 • Blair, Nebraska 68008 • 402-426-9511

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

December 19, 1997

Mr. William Bullard
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dear Mr. Bullard

Enclosed please find revised pages for the Great Plains Service Catalog in fulfillment of the requirements pertaining to the Link Up and Lifeline Assistance Plan.

Also enclosed is a new Service Catalog page regarding Coin Supervision Additive Service.

Please call me at 402-426-9511 if you have questions.

Sincerely

Kathy H. Tripp
Commercial Manager

Enclosures: Service Catalog Pages

2.1.5 Link Up Nebraska

A. Link up Nebraska is part of a national program designed to promote universal service for low-income households. If a subscriber qualifies for the Link Up Nebraska program, a 50% discount up to \$30 will be applied to the Service Connection Charges. Link Up allows for a deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service, for which the consumer does not pay interest. The interest charges not assessed shall be for connection only. Charges of up to \$200.00 may be deferred for a period not to exceed one year. The discount applies only on a single line at the subscriber's principal place of residence. The charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.

B. The following eligibility requirements apply:

The subscriber must be a participant in one of the following.

- 1) Medicaid
- 2) Food Stamps
- 3) Social Security Income (SSI)
- 4) Federal Public Housing Assistance
- 5) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

C. The benefit of Link Up may only apply one time per address per subscriber.

2.1.6 Lifeline

A. Lifeline is a retail local service offering for which qualifying low-income consumers pay reduced monthly charges. It is part of a national program designed to promote universal service for low-income households.

ISSUED: December 20, 1997 EFFECTIVE: January 1, 1998

BY: S. Michael Jensen, Vice President & General Manager
Box 500, Blair, Nebraska 68008

2.1.6 Lifeline (cont'd.)

B. Lifeline services include:

- 1) voice grade access to the public switched network
- 2) local usage
- 3) dual tone multifrequency signaling or its functional equivalent
- 4) single-party service or its functional equivalent
- 5) access to emergency services
- 6) access to operator services
- 7) access to interexchange service
- 8) access to directory assistance
- 9) toll limitation services

C. Lifeline monthly service reductions include:

- 1) the \$3.50 federal subscriber line charge (SLC) which is waived for Lifeline participants, and
- 2) a monthly reduction of the local service charges by an additional \$1.75.

D. Toll limitation service, in the form of toll blocking, is offered to qualifying consumers at no charge.

E. No service deposit will be collected in order to initiate Lifeline service, if the qualifying low-income consumer voluntarily elects toll blocking. If the qualifying low-income consumer does not voluntarily elect toll blocking, a service deposit may apply.

F. A Lifeline customer's local service will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges, however, a Lifeline customer's toll service may be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges.

ISSUED: December 20, 1997

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 1998

BY: S. Michael Jensen, Vice President & General Manager
Box 500, Blair, Nebraska 68008

GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
BLAIR, NEBRASKA

SERVICE CATALOG NO. 1
SECTION NO. 3
FIRST SHEET NO. 65

3.21.6 Coin Supervision Additive Service

The Company will provide Coin Supervision Additive Service to Payphone Service Providers who order local exchange service lines for the provision of pay telephone service and require central office coin supervision capability. Coin Supervision Additive Service provides the capability of central office line equipment to pass signals and/or tones for a local exchange service line to a trunk terminating at the Payphone Service Provider's operator service provider. The service allows the operator service provider to recognize coin deposits, return coins to users, and automatically ring back the originating line upon completion of a call. A monthly Coin Supervision Additive Service charge is assessed on a per line basis.

(N)

(N)

ISSUED: December 20, 1997 EFFECTIVE: January 1, 1998

By: S. Michael Jensen, Vice President & General Manager
Box 500, Blair, Nebraska 68008