

TC 00 - 136



U S WEST  
125 South Dakota Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57194



September 6, 2000

Mr. William Bullard, Executive Director  
Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Mr. Bullard:

Qwest Corporation has attached for filing with the Commission the following pages from our Exchange and Network Services Tariff:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Release</u>
1	14	7
5	Index 2	6
5	66	4
5	67	4
5	67.1	1
5	67.2	1
5	68	3
5	68.1	1

This filing complies with the FCC Twelfth Report and Order, CC Docket 96-45/FCC00-208, released June 30, 2000 expanding the Federal Lifeline and Link-Up programs for qualifying individuals living on tribal lands.

Tribal Lifeline provides additional Federal Lifeline support of up to \$25.00 in addition to the baseline Federal Lifeline support. The expanded Link-Up provides up to an additional \$70.00 of benefit for residents living on reservations that qualify for Tribal Lifeline.

Tribal Lifeline benefits bring the net rate to \$1.00 in South Dakota for residential flat rate service, which is the minimum rate allowed by the FCC order. Qwest is working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Social Services and tribal authorities to ensure qualifying consumers are notified of the program.

We would appreciate acknowledgment of this filing. A duplicate copy of this letter is attached for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Colleen E. Sevold  
Manager-Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

RECEIVED

SEP 07 2000

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION



TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEW SERVICES CLASSIFICATION FILING

- 1) Requested Classification:  Non-Competitive  
 Emerging Competitive  
 Fully Competitive
- 2) This service will be offered:  Intrastate, IntraLATA  
 Intrastate, InterLATA  
 Interstate
- 3) Detailed Description of Service: Tribal Lifeline service was mandated by the FCC. It enhances the Federal Lifeline and Link-Up programs for people living on tribal lands.
- 4) Reason for Change: Mandate from the FCC
- 5) Basis for Rates: Mandated by the FCC
- 6) Quantification of Customer Impact: Offered to customers living on tribal lands
- 7) Proposed Effective Date: October 1, 2000

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
Exchange and Network  
Services Tariff

SECTION I  
Page 14  
Release 7  
Effective: 10-1-2000

State of South Dakota  
Issued: 9-6-2000

1. APPLICATION AND REFERENCE

1.3 SUBJECT INDEX (Cont'd)

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Telephone Assistance Programs .....	5
Temporary Suspension And Restoral Of Service - Customer Initiated (Vacation Service) .....	2
Termination Liability/Waiver Policy .....	2
Termination Of Service - Company Initiated .....	2
Termination Of Service .....	2
Today's Trouble Today .....	3
Touch-Tone Calling Service .....	5
Transfer of Service Between Customers .....	2
Transmission of Messages .....	2
Tribal Lifeline .....	5
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(N)

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5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

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(N)

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Release 4

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5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (Cont'd)

5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. Lifeline Assistance

1. Description

The Lifeline Assistance Plan (Lifeline) assists qualified low-income applicants with reductions in their monthly local exchange service rate. The assistance applies for a single telephone line at the applicant's principal place of residence. Residents living on reservations can also qualify for the Federal portion of the Lifeline program based on terms and conditions for Tribal Lifeline.

(N)  
(N)

2. Eligibility Requirements

a. To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must participate in one of the following:

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, state supplemental assistance)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal public housing assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP)

3. Terms and Conditions

a. An applicant may request telephone assistance through completion of a form provided by the Company.

b. The Lifeline credit will apply to the following Local Exchange Service:

- Residence One-Party Flat Rate Service
- Residence One-Party Local Measured Service
- Residence Multiparty Flat Rate Service
- Hourly Usage Package Service

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5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A.3. (Cont'd)

- c. The Lifeline Assistance Plan credit will begin with the first billing date after the Company is notified by applicants who qualify for benefits or when new service is established by a qualifying customer.
- d. Nonrecurring charges will not apply to establish this program on existing service.
- e. This credit shall apply only to a customer's principal residence line.

4. Credit

	CREDIT USOC	MONTHLY CREDIT[1]	(T)
• Lifeline Assistance Plan Credit	ASGFX	\$6.10	

[1] The total monthly credit consists of the \$4.35 baseline FCC Lifeline support and an additional \$1.75 FCC Lifeline support. See Tribal Lifeline for expanded federal lifeline benefits available to residents living on reservations.

(C)  
(N)

# U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

## Exchange and Network Services Tariff

SECTION 5

Page 67.1

Release I

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Effective: 10-1-2000

### 5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

#### 5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

#### 5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

##### B. Tribal Lifeline

(N)

##### 1. Description

Tribal Lifeline provides additional lifeline support of up to \$25.00, in addition to the baseline Federal Lifeline support of \$6.10 for qualifying low-income individuals living on reservations as defined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regulations.

##### 2. Terms and Conditions

- a. Residents living on reservations are eligible for the Tribal Lifeline benefit if they participate in one or more of the following programs:
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance program,
  - Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program,
  - Head Start programs (only for those meeting its income-qualifying standard),
  - National School Lunch Program's free lunch program.
- b. The Company must obtain the customers 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 above, and lives on 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.
- c. Tribal Lifeline benefits apply to the primary flat local residential access line, outside the base rate area and touch-tone service charges, mileage charges, zone charges, or other non-discretionary charges associated with basic residential service. The benefit may not bring the basic local residential access line rate below \$1.00 per month.

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**5. EXCHANGE SERVICES**

**5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**  
**5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

B. Tribal Lifeline (Cont'd)

(N)

3. Monthly Credit[1]

	CREDIT USOC[2]	CREDIT AMOUNT
• Flat individual line (1FR)		
- Chamberlain	ASGFT	\$13.00
- Flandreau	ASGFT	13.00
- Pierre	ASGFT	13.80
- Morrystown/McIntosh		
- Base Rate Area	ASGFT	11.45
- Outside Base Rate Area	ASGFT	14.45
- Timber Lake		
- Base Rate Area	ASGFT	10.75
- Outside Base Rate Area	ASGFT	13.75

[1] The ASGFX credit of \$6.10 applies in addition to the Tribal Lifeline credit.

[2] The credit amount is calculated by adding the 1FR rate and any applicable outside the base rate area and touch-tone charges plus the \$4.35 subscriber line charge together. The ASGFX credit of \$6.10 is subtracted from the total and the remaining difference less \$1.00 which is the minimum Tribal Lifeline rate allowed, is the credit amount. For example: Tribal Lifeline customer in Timber Lake, outside the base rate area, (\$15.00 + \$1.50 + \$4.35 = \$20.85 - \$6.10 = \$14.75 - \$1.00) = \$13.75 credit.

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Exchange and Network  
Services Tariff

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Release 3

Effective 11-1-2000

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5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

C. Link-Up

1. South Dakota residents who are participating in one of the eligible programs listed below may also qualify for the FCC's Link Up Program. A 50% discount (USOC LNK) up to \$30.00 will be applied to access line nonrecurring charges to connect service at a new address. This discount applies only on a single line at the principal place of residence for the applicant.
2. The consumer shall 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 Link Up assistance was provided previously.

3. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must participate in one of the following:

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, state supplemental assistance)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal public housing assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP)

4. Application for Assistance

An applicant shall request telephone connection assistance through completion of a form provided by the Company.

5. Deferred Payments

An applicant may defer payment of the service connection charges. Payments may be deferred up to 12 months with a payment schedule of equal payments of up to \$200.00 assessed for commencing service. Interest will not be charged on deferred payments.

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
Exchange and Network  
Services Tariff

SECTION 5

Page 68.1

Release 1

Effective: 10-1-2000

State of South Dakota  
Issued: 9-6-2000

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

D. Expanded Link-Up Program

1. Description

Residents living on reservations who qualify for Tribal Lifeline, are eligible for an additional Expanded Link-Up benefit of up to \$70.00, in addition to the Link-Up Program. The additional benefit will apply towards 100% of the connection charges between \$60.00 and \$130.00 which are assessed to begin service at the principle residence of the eligible resident. Eligible charges include any charges customarily assessed to connect the subscriber to the network, including line extension charges, zone connection charges and special construction charges.

2. Nonrecurring Charge Credit

- Expanded Link-Up

CREDIT  
USOC

LNKEL

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
**WEEKLY FILINGS**  
For the Period of September 7, 2000 through September 13, 2000

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact  
Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing.  
Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**TC00-135**     **In the Matter of the Filing by Midcontinent Communications, Inc. for Approval of its Intrastate Switched Access Tariff and for an Exemption from Developing Company Specific Cost-Based Switched Access Rates.**

Midcontinent Communications has filed an intrastate switched access tariff concurrent with the rates, terms, and conditions of the Local Exchange Carrier Association (LECA) Tariff No. 1 as of January 1, 1999, with the exception of the switched access rates which are based on a statewide average. Midcontinent Communications has also requested an exemption from the requirement to develop intrastate switched access rates based on company specific costs.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 09/07/00  
Intervention Deadline: 09/29/00

**TC00-136**     **In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation for Approval of Revisions to its Exchange and Network Services Tariff.**

Qwest has filed for revisions to its Exchange and Network Services Tariff. These revisions are intended to comply with the FCC Twelfth Report and Order expanding the Federal Lifeline and Link-Up programs for qualifying individuals on tribal lands.

Staff Analyst: Keith Senger  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 09/07/00  
Intervention Deadline: 09/29/00

You may receive this listing and other PUC publications via our website or via internet e-mail.  
You may subscribe or unsubscribe to the PUC mailing lists at <http://www.state.sd.us/puc/>



October 29, 2000

RECEIVED

OCT 02 2000

Mr. William Bullard, Executive Director  
Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Docket TC00-136

FAX Received SEP 29 2000

Dear Mr. Bullard:

Please find enclosed changes to the following pages of our Exchange and Network Services Tariff:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Release</u>
5	67.1	1
5	68.1	1

These revisions are made to clarify language in the tariff as requested by the General Counsel, Rolayne Weist. No changes were made other than to further clarify language that was already in the tariff.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 605-335-4596.

Sincerely,

Colleen E. Sevold  
Manager-Policy & Law

Attachment



U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
Exchange and Network  
Services Tariff

SECTION 5

Page 67.1

Release 1

Effective: 10-1-2000

State of South Dakota  
Issued: 9-6-2000

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

B. Tribal Lifeline

1. Description

Tribal Lifeline provides additional lifeline support of up to \$25.00, in addition to the baseline Federal Lifeline support of \$6.10 for qualifying low-income individuals living on reservations as defined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regulations.

2. Terms and Conditions

- a. Residents living on reservations are eligible for the Tribal Lifeline benefit if they participate in one or more of the following programs:
  - Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, state supplemental assistance).
  - Food Stamps.
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
  - Federal public housing assistance.
  - Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP).
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance program.
  - Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program.
  - Head Start programs (only for those meeting its income-qualifying standard).
  - National School Lunch Program's free lunch program.
- b. 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 above, and lives on 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.
- c. Tribal Lifeline benefits apply to the primary flat local residential access line, outside the base rate area and touch-tone service charges, mileage charges, zone charges, or other non-discretionary charges associated with basic residential service. The benefit may not bring the basic local residential access line rate below \$1.00 per month.

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
Exchange and Network  
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SECTION 5

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Release 1

Effective: 10-1-2000

State of South Dakota  
Issued: 9-6-2000

5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

D. Expanded Link-Up Program

1. Description

Residents living on reservations who qualify for Tribal Lifeline, are eligible for an additional Expanded Link-Up benefit of up to \$70.00, in addition to the Link-Up Program. Therefore Link-Up benefits could total up to \$100.00. The additional benefit will apply towards 100% of the connection charges between \$60.00 and \$130.00 which are assessed to begin service at the principle residence of the eligible resident. Eligible charges include any charges customarily assessed to connect the subscriber to the network, including line extension charges, zone connection charges and special construction charges.

2. Nonrecurring Charge Credit

- Expanded Link-Up

CREDIT  
USOC

LNKEL

**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**  
Fax Number (605) 339-5390

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO:**

Fax Number 773-3809

Name Bill Bullman

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages to follow \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:**

Colleen Sevold  
Policy & Law  
125 S. Dakota Ave., 8th Floor  
Sioux Falls, SD 57194  
(605) 335-4596

Comments:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please report any transmission difficulties to:

Cathy Walker (605) 339-5022

Qwest Corporation  
125 South Dakota Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57194



October 3, 2000

Mr. William Bullard  
Executive Director  
Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Mr. Bullard:

RE: Docket TC00-136

Please find attached a revised page from our Exchange and Network Services Tariff. This docket is before the Commission today, October 3, 2000, for approval. The change made was to include the Sturgis exchange in the qualifying exchanges.

We have reviewed the list of Indian Allotments provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and this is the only Qwest exchange that was not included in the original filing that does have Indian Allotment land.

Please destroy the page previously submitted to the Commission and replace it with this page.

Sincerely,

Colleen E. Sevold  
Manager-Policy & Law

**U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**  
Exchange and Network  
Services Tariff

SECTION 5  
Page 67.2  
Release 1  
Effective: 10-1-2000

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Issued: 9-6-2000

**5. EXCHANGE SERVICES**

- 5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE  
5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
B. Tribal Lifeline (Cont'd)

3. Monthly Credit[1]

	CREDIT USOC[2]	CREDIT AMOUNT
• Flat individual line (IFR)		
- Chamberlain	ASGFT	513.00
- Flandreau	ASGFT	13.00
- Pierre	ASGFT	13.80
- Sturgis	ASGFT	13.00
- Morristown/McIntosh		
- Base Rate Area	ASGFT	11.45
- Outside Base Rate Area	ASOFT	14.45
- Timber Lake		
- Base Rate Area	ASGFT	10.75
- Outside Base Rate Area	ASOFT	13.75

[1] The ASGFX credit of \$6.10 applies in addition to the Tribal Lifeline credit.

[2] The credit amount is calculated by adding the IFR rate and any applicable outside the base rate area and touch-tone charges plus the \$4.35 subscriber line charge together. The ASGFX credit of \$6.10 is subtracted from the total and the remaining difference less \$1.00 which is the minimum Tribal Lifeline rate allowed, is the credit amount. For example: Tribal Lifeline customer in Timber Lake, outside the base rate area,  $(\$15.00 + \$1.50 + \$4.35 = \$20.85 - \$6.10 = \$14.75 - \$1.00) = \$13.75$  credit.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY QWEST ) CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF ) REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND ) NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF )	ORDER APPROVING REVISED TARIFF PAGES  TC00-136
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On September 7, 2000, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Qwest Corporation (Qwest) for approval of revisions to its Exchange and Network Services Tariff. The purpose of the filing is to comply with the FCC Twelfth Report and Order, CC Docket 96-45/FCC00-208, released June 30, 2000, expanding the Federal Lifeline and Link-Up programs for qualifying individuals living on tribal lands.

On September 14, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 29, 2000, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

The following tariff sheets were filed with regard to the Exchange and Network Services Tariff:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Release</u>
1	14	7
5	Index 2	6
5	66	4
5	67	4
5	67.1	1
5	67.2	1
5	68	3
5	68.1	1

At its duly noticed meeting on September 26, 2000, the Commission considered this matter. The matter was deferred so that Qwest could file revisions to clarify language in the tariffs. Qwest filed revisions on September 29, 2000, and October 3, 2000. At its duly noticed meeting on October 3, 2000, the Commission again considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the filing.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the above revisions to the Exchange and Network Services Tariff, subject to future amendments of the tariff. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the above-referenced Qwest revisions to its Exchange and Network Services Tariff, effective October 1, 2000, subject to future amendments of the tariff.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2000.

**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: Delaine Kelbo

Date: 10/12/00

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION**

Pam Nelson

PAM NELSON, Vice Chairman

Laska Schoenfelder

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner