



TC05-058

RECEIVED  
500 S. G. P.O. Box 136  
Abercrombie, ND 58001  
JUN 16 2005  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

June 10, 2005

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission issued an order requiring all ETC's in South Dakota to provide the following information:

1. The ETC's lifeline and link-up forms and promotional material;
2. A description of how the ETC advertises lifeline and link-up, including the form of advertisement and how often it advertises;
3. How the ETC is implementing the new certification procedures; and
4. How the ETC is implementing the new verification procedures.

The following is Red River Telecom's response to this request:

1. Please see the enclosed documents.
2. Red River Telecom uses its directory and bill inserts to advertise. A new directory comes out once a year and a bill insert is done once a year as well.
3. Red River Telecom has made changes to its lifeline link-up application form to include the new criteria. We have become familiar with the new FCC requirements and are ready to implement certification procedures when and if we have a lifeline or link-up customer in the state of South Dakota.
4. We have become familiar with the new FCC requirements and are ready to implement verification procedures when and if we have a lifeline or link-up customer in the state of South Dakota.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

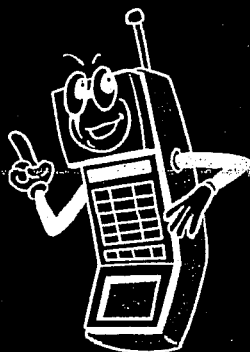
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jack J. Plecity'.

Jack J. Plecity  
Office Manager  
Red River Telecom, Inc



## COVER PHOTO:

The cover photo was submitted by Ron Strand, Abercrombie Exchange. He captured fall colors in a field north of Galchutt, ND.



# STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Red River Rural Telephone Association is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Jeffrey J. Olson, General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

## CONSUMER RIGHTS

### How To Complain

Your RED RIVER RURAL TELEPHONE ASS'N. and RED RIVER TELECOM, INC. service representative has a basic responsibility to answer your questions and resolve your problems. If you're not satisfied, feel free to ask for a supervisor or the manager. If you are still not satisfied, you have the right to file a formal or informal complaint with the Public Service Commission of North Dakota, the Public Utilities Commission of Minnesota or the Federal Communications Commission. Their addresses and phone numbers are:

**North Dakota Public Service Commission**  
State Capitol Building  
Bismarck, ND 58505  
1-701-328-2400

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**  
160 East Kellogg Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
1-651-296-7124

**Federal Communications Commission**  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DIRECTORY

## TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Lifeline program provides reduced local phone bills for qualified low-income customers.

The Link-up program provides reduced installation charges for qualified low-income customers.

For questions on eligibility, call your local telephone company or your county social services office.

# LIFELINE/LINK UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Telephone Number (if you have existing service): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone service **MUST** be in applicant's name.)

Telephone Number where you can be reached or receive messages: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I am applying for: \_\_\_\_\_ Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Link Up (telephone connection charge discount)
2. I am currently receiving assistance benefits from at least one of the following programs (*check all that apply*):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance).  
\_\_\_\_\_ Food Stamps program.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Security Income (SSI).  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8).  
\_\_\_\_\_ Low Income Home Energy Assistance.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.  
\_\_\_\_\_ National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

3. Or,

\_\_\_\_\_ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.  
(Documentation is required.)

Number of people in my household: \_\_\_\_\_

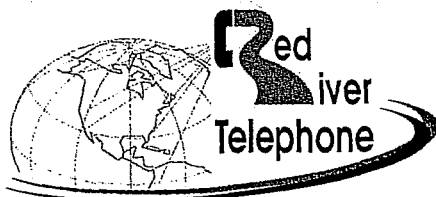
**I agree to notify the telephone company when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.**

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OR PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline/Link Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line. I further authorize the local phone company, the county social service, and the Department of Human Services to use my social security number and to communicate about my enrollment or eligibility in programs shown above and agree that they may share the type of information provided above in order to verify my enrollment status.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Send the completed application to Red River Telephone, PO Box 136, Abercrombie, ND 58001.  
Call 701-553-8309 if you have any questions on completing the application.*



522 INSERT  
ANNUALLY

Minnesota Residents Only

The federal Lifeline plan and Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offer eligible persons up to \$10.88/month credit on their phone bill. You are eligible if you receive one of the types of assistance listed below.

Eligible persons should complete and return the following certification to the telephone office to receive credit.

**LIFELINE ELIGIBILITY FORM**

I certify under penalty of perjury that I currently receive benefits from the following program(s) :  Medicaid  Food Stamps  
 Supplemental Security Income  Minnesota Family Investment Program  Federal Public Housing Assistance  
 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program  Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
 National Free School Lunch Program  Low Income - at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

(Proof of income will be required)

*I further agree to notify Red River Telephone or Telecom immediately if I cease to participate in the program(s).*

Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be same name as on telephone bill) (Must be same name as on telephone bill)

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Telephone Assistance Programs Offered

The Federal **Lifeline** Plan is a federally funded program which provides a monthly telephone credit of up to \$10.00 for income eligible customers. Qualified Minnesota residents can receive additional state assistance.

Eligible telephone customers must participate in one or more of the following programs: (1) Medicaid (2) Food Stamps (3) Supplemental Security Income (Social Security) (4) Federal Public Housing Assistance (5) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (6) Minnesota Family Investment Program (7) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (8) National Free School Lunch Program. A customer may also be eligible under income guidelines. Income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

**Minnesota** residents can complete the Lifeline form on the reverse side to self-certify your eligibility for this assistance program. Return the completed form to P.O. Box 136, Abercrombie, ND 58001.

**North Dakota** residents can contact your county social service office if you participate in one of the programs listed above. Social services will provide you with a Lifeline form for you to sign and send to Red River Telephone or Telecom. Residents can also contact Red River Telephone for assistance in determining eligibility.

*If you have any questions, call Red River Telephone at 701-553-8309, 811 toll-free or your county social service office.*