

*Letters filed
under Desktop - misc
Tribal*

December 14, 2012

Charles W. Murphy, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
P O Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as part of a recent Order reforming the federal universal service mechanisms related to telecommunications and information services, has adopted new requirements that are intended to facilitate engagement between telecommunications companies serving Tribal Lands. The FCC's new "Tribal Engagement" provisions are intended to improve communications and foster a greater understanding between service providers and Tribal entities of the factors necessary to deploy and sustain telecommunication services on Tribal lands. The ultimate aim is to benefit Tribal government leaders, carriers/service providers, and consumers living on Tribal lands by providing greater connectivity to 21st century economic opportunities, education, health care, and public safety. *See FCC Public Notice, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Wireline Competition Bureau Issue Further Guidance on Tribal Engagement Obligation Provisions of the Connect America Fund, DA 12-1165, released July 19, 2012.*

Although the FCC's rules related to Tribal Engagement still await approval by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and will not legally take effect until that occurs, West River Cooperative Telephone Company would, as soon as possible, like to begin discussions with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in a manner consistent with the pending FCC rules. Accordingly, we would request a meeting with the Tribe. The purpose of this meeting will, generally, be to exchange information related to the deployment and provisioning of communications services on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

West River Cooperative Telephone Company, Bison, SD serves 68 customers in an approximately 333 square mile area in Corson County, SD and Sioux County, ND.

West River provides Broadband service to its members that reside within the confines of the Standing Rock Reservation over fiber-to-the-home and fiber-in-the-loop systems. (See enclosed map).

Presently 41 of the 68 customers subscribe to West River's Broadband service for a penetration rate of 60.3%.

West River also provides information on the Tribal Lifeline and Link Up Programs to all new customers and on its website.

Standing Rock Telecom. Comm.

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December 14, 2012

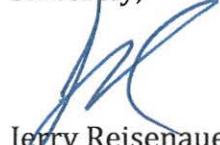
West River does not serve any anchor institutions within the confines of the Standing Rock Reservation.

In regard to this requested meeting, it is important that at least some of the individuals attending the meeting are "decision-makers." As noted in the FCC's July 19th Public Notice providing further guidance, "this engagement cannot be merely between sales and marketing individuals on one side and administrative staff or advisors on the other. The perspectives on needs, expectations, priorities, and abilities that would formulate meaningful exchange often can come only from those with the requisite authority to make decisions."

In hopes of soon proceeding with Tribal Engagement on these matters related to the provisioning of communications services on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, we ask at this time that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe respond with the name and contact information for a Tribal representative who could assist in scheduling and arranging a meeting with the appropriate Tribal government staff and leaders to discuss the items referenced above. This information may be provided to the undersigned by calling (605) 244-5213, or through an e-mail directed to jreisenauer@wrctc.com.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We look forward to working with you to further foster the development of the tribal areas we serve.

Sincerely,



Jerry Reisenauer, General Manager

JR:gj

Enclosures

December 14, 2012

Mr. Kevin Keckler, Sr. Tribal Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Government
P O Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Mr. Keckler:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as part of a recent Order reforming the federal universal service mechanisms related to telecommunications and information services, has adopted new requirements that are intended to facilitate engagement between telecommunications companies serving Tribal Lands. The FCC's new "Tribal Engagement" provisions are intended to improve communications and foster a greater understanding between service providers and Tribal entities of the factors necessary to deploy and sustain telecommunication services on Tribal lands. The ultimate aim is to benefit Tribal government leaders, carriers/service providers, and consumers living on Tribal lands by providing greater connectivity to 21st century economic opportunities, education, health care, and public safety. *See FCC Public Notice, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Wireline Competition Bureau Issue Further Guidance on Tribal Engagement Obligation Provisions of the Connect America Fund, DA 12-1165, released July 19, 2012.*

Although the FCC's rules related to Tribal Engagement still await approval by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and will not legally take effect until that occurs, West River Cooperative Telephone Company would, as soon as possible, like to begin discussions with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in a manner consistent with the pending FCC rules. Accordingly, we would request a meeting with the Tribe. The purpose of this meeting will, generally, be to exchange information related to the deployment and provisioning of communications services on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

West River Cooperative Telephone Company, Bison, SD serves eight customers in an approximately 57.4 square mile area in Ziebach County

West River provides Broadband over a fiber-to-the-home system on the Reservation (See enclosed map).

Presently seven of the eight customers subscribe to West River's Broadband service for a penetration rate of 87.5%.

West River purchases a business license from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on an annual basis.

Mr. Kevin Keckler

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December 14, 2012

West River also provides information on the Tribal Lifeline and Link Up Programs to all new customers and on its website.

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In hopes of soon proceeding with Tribal Engagement on these matters related to the provisioning of communications services on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, we ask at this time that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe respond with the name and contact information for a Tribal representative who could assist in scheduling and arranging a meeting with the appropriate Tribal government staff and leaders to discuss the items referenced above. This information may be provided to the undersigned by calling (605) 244-5213, or through an e-mail directed to jreisenauer@wrctc.com.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We look forward to working with you to further foster the development of the tribal areas we serve.

Sincerely,



Jerry Reisenauer, General Manager

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Enclosures

December 14, 2012

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P O Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

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