

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2014**

Company: Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

Address: PO Box 158

220 South Main

Kennebec, SD 57544

Telephone number: 605-869-2220

Company contact: Rod Bowar

Study Area Code: 391668

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

X  Advertise in media of general distribution.\* (See attached advertisement(s).)

X  Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up.\* (See attached letter.)

X  Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.

X  Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. ([http://www.kennebectelephone.com/lifeline\\_32.html](http://www.kennebectelephone.com/lifeline_32.html))

X  Company's information posted on USAC website.

X  Other (describe): Provide Lifeline/ Link Up handouts at the following events: Kennebec Business Appreciation Night, Presho Farm & Home Show and various open houses. The handouts are also available in the information rack at the Kennebec Telephone office.

\*Required

# Publisher's Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )  
 )SS  
COUNTY OF LYMAN )

Connie Penny, of said county and state being duly sworn on her oath says: The Lyman County Herald is a weekly newspaper of general circulation and published in Presho, Lyman County, and State of South Dakota; and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; That said newspaper is a legal weekly, that it has a bonafide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said County of Lyman more than fifty-two successive weeks next prior to publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and maintained at the place of publication; That I, the undersigned am editor of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit; that the advertisement headed:

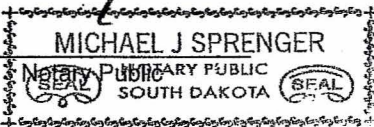
Life Line Rates

a printed copy of which is hereto attached and published in the said newspaper for 1 consecutive week(s).

The first publication of said notice in said newspaper aforesaid was on Wednesday, the 25 day of Sept A.D., 2013 and that the succeeding publications were severally  
Wednesday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013  
Wednesday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013  
Wednesday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013  
Wednesday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013  
Wednesday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013  
Wednesday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013  
Wednesday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013  
Wednesday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 2013

and the last publication on Wednesday, the 25 day of Sept, 2013, that the full sum of fees charged for publishing the same, to-wit; the sum of \$ 87.70 insures solely to the editor of The Lyman County Herald. That no agreement or understanding for any division thereof had been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whatsoever.

Connie Penny  
Michael J Sprenger



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of Sept, 2013

My Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

MICHAEL J. SPRENGER  
NOTARY PUBLIC - SOUTH DAKOTA  
My Commission Expires  
March 27, 2015

# Lifeline and Rates

**Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:**

Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc. provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service \$16.00/month  
Single Party Business Service \$25.00/month

Local residence and business service includes:

-Voice grade access to the public telephone network

-Single-party flat-rated local service free of per minute charges

-Dual tone multi-frequency signaling (touch-tone) service

-Access to directory assistance service

-Access to other operator services

-Access to 911 emergency services

-Access to interexchange (long distance) services

-Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers

Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

Medicaid

Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)

Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)

National School Lunch Program Free Lunch

Program

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

A subscriber who lives on Tribal lands and is an eligible resident of Tribal lands is eligible for Tribal Lifeline service if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following Tribal-specific federal assistance programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc.'s voice service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wire line or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Kennebec Telephone's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Kennebec Telephone's office at (605) 869-2220

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- Voice grade access to the public telephone network
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- Dual tone multi-frequency signaling (touch-tone) service
- Access to directory assistance service
- Access to other operator services
- Access to 911 emergency services
- Access to interexchange (long distance) services
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers

The Lifeline telephone assistance program is available for qualifying low-income subscribers. This program provides a monthly service discount on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (f/k/a the Food Stamps program); participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program; receive

Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Public Housing Assistance; receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; or have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available.

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## December Drawing

Winners:

Steve Perry Barb Brown  
Chris Madsen

Come into the office  
to get in on the fun!



Date

Name  
Address  
City, State, Zip

Re: Lifeline/Link Up Program

Dear:

Enclosed is an application for Lifeline/Link Up Assistance. If you are eligible please complete the form and return to us as soon as possible.

If you are not eligible please sign at the bottom of the form where it states information was provided to you and return it in the enclosed envelope.

If you have any questions please call 869-2220. Thank you.

Regards,

Crystal Brakke  
Marketing Assistant/CSR

Enclosures



August 16, 2013

*(Customer name and address)*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Under the Federal Communications Commission's rules, existing Lifeline customers are required to annually recertify their continued eligibility for Lifeline service.

Please complete the enclosed Lifeline Assistance Re-Certification form and return it to our office by September 17, 2013.

Failure to return the Lifeline Assistance Re-Certification form or failure to provide all of the information requested on the form will result in de-enrollment from the Lifeline program pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.405(e)(4) and loss of the monthly Lifeline credit that appears on your billing statement.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (605) 869-2220.

Sincerely,

Rod Bowar  
President/Manager

Enclosure

## consumer tips

You are protected by state and federal regulations that guide the way telephone companies do business. There are also things you can do to help protect your privacy and safety. Some consumer guidelines are listed here.

### Obscene or Harassing Phone Calls

#### If You Receive Obscene or Harassing Phone Calls

Stay calm and hang up the phone. Call your local telephone company for information on how to handle these types of phone calls.

It's against the law to make obscene or threatening phone calls. Telephone harassment is a crime. Penalties include imprisonment and/or a fine.

### Financial Assistance

Several programs provide financial help depending on your circumstances. The Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) provides money to qualified customers who need help with winter heating bills. Also, the major energy utility companies have their own financial assistance programs to help customers.

### Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program

CenturyLink participates in a program to make residential telephone service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. This program, established by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and in conjunction with the Federal Communications Commission, offers discounted basic local service to qualified customers. In addition, service deposits are generally waived for customers electing to place toll restriction on their lines. Monthly charges for toll restriction will be waived for customers requesting to have that restriction on their account.

### Who is Eligible for Telephone Assistance?

Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and the FCC. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs.

The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless telephone. A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable,

and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline telephone service can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you have questions or believe you may qualify for these benefits, please call your CenturyLink Residential Customer Service Representative at 1-800-244-1111 or visit [www.centurylink.com/TAP](http://www.centurylink.com/TAP).

### Pay Per Call Service Information

#### What 900 Numbers Are

Private companies offer a variety of informational programs using phone numbers that begin with "900."

There is a charge for calls to these numbers. Charges for "900" calls appear on the Interexchange Carrier page of your bill. "900" calls contain an introductory disclosure message specifying types of charges, time necessary to complete the call, and an option to disconnect without charge at the end of the introductory message.

The price and content of "900" services are the responsibility of the companies that provide the information.

#### How to Block Calls to "900" Numbers

Your local telephone company will assist you in blocking calls from your line to "900" numbers.

#### Other Questions about "900" Numbers

If you have a complaint or dispute about the "900" services, call the interexchange carrier. Services that contain illegal or sexually explicit material are not allowed. Nor is your telephone service disconnected for disputes about payment of "900" charges.

### Unwanted Sales & Survey Calls

If you receive unwanted sales and/or survey calls, please take the following steps:

- Be skeptical of offers that sound too good to be true; they usually are.
- Report companies using questionable sales practices to the Better Business Bureau or your State Attorney General's office at 800 300-1986.

- Disconnect computer-generated calls by hanging up your telephone for 12 to 15 seconds.
- Call your local telephone company to have your name removed – at no charge – from any lists that they may lease to other firms. Customers with non-listed or non-published numbers are never included on the lists.
- Do not give your telephone credit card number to anyone who calls and asks for the number.

### Billing Name & Address Disclosure

When you place a calling card call or accept a collect call or third-number billed call, your telephone company is required to provide your billing name and address to the telecommunications service provider that handled the call, if that provider requests. Your telephone company will continue to provide billing name and address information to telecommunications service providers for other account matters, such as customer service, servicing your account, to prevent fraud or when you move from one location to another.

### South Dakota Do-Not-Call Register

#### Sign-Up is Free

Register on line at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)

Or Call Toll Free ..... 888 382-1222  
TTY ..... 866 290-4236

If you have problems registering, please contact the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission at 800 332-1782 or [www.state.sd.us/puc](http://www.state.sd.us/puc).

### 8-1-1 Call Before You Dig

A call to 8-1-1 connects the caller with the state One-Call Notification System whereby the caller can request the location of underground facilities. State law requires that everyone planning to excavate (or otherwise disturb the ground) must first call the state one-call notification center at least two business days, but not more than 10 days, before the work is scheduled to start. Except in emergencies, requests to locate underground facilities made after 5 p.m. Local Time, or on weekends and holidays, will not be dispatched until 7 a.m. the next business day. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is a free call.