

Docket Number: TC16-022
Subject Matter: First Data Request
Request to: Valley Telephone Company
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: August 5, 2016
Responses Due: August 19, 2016

- 1-1. Provide the broadband subscription data that is part of the form 477.
Information is attached.
- 1-2. What was the estimated population served in the 2015 projects?
57 customers will be served when the project is fully operational – completion expected 3rd to 4th quarter 2016
- 1-3. In the Form 481 attachment for line 710 Broadband Price Offerings, the only price offering shown is for Minnesota. Are the price offerings the same for South Dakota?
Price offerings are the same company wide for Valley Telephone Company. Between both MN and SD Valley serves a total of 513 customers.
- 1-4. The attachment to the Form 481 regarding Lifeline references the 2014 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Confirm that the company is using this year's guidelines.
This was a mistake in the report. The Company uses an outside vendor for the lifeline application process, and has confirmed they use the correct year guidelines, and provide applicants with the necessary information needed to be eligible for the lifeline program.
- 1-5. For the customers on Lifeline, what are the charges for toll calls and how many minutes are part of their plan?
There is no special rate or minutes allocated for toll calls to lifeline customers. Only the monthly local service is impacted. Each customer can subscribe to a number long distance carriers of their choice.
- 1-6. Explain why the Company's information does not appear under South Dakota for Lifeline providers on USAC's website but it does for Minnesota.
I assume that USAC has it listed that way as the Central Office that serves both SD and MN customers is located in MN and the company only has one study area code.
- 1-7. Do new customers receive the welcome letter which describes the Lifeline program within 30 days of receiving service?
This practice was inadvertently missed for a short time but has since been rectified and customers do now again receive our welcome packet.