

**BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF) NORTHERN VALLEY) COMMUNICATIONS, L.L.C. FOR) CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE) OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE) SUPPORT.)	TC17-027 NORTHERN VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS, L.L.C.'S RESPONSES TO 1ST DATA REQUEST
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Northern Valley Communications, L.L.C. (NVC), for its responses to the 1st Data Request from Staff, states as follows:

Data Request No. 1-1: [REDACTED]

Response:
[REDACTED]

Data Request No. 1-2: Explain why the General and Administrative expense accounts listed on Exhibit A more than doubled from 2015 to 2016.

Response:
[REDACTED]

Data Request No. 1-3: At the bottom of Exhibit A it says that copper was used. Explain why NVC used copper and didn't use all fiber.

Response:
NVC has, by a wide margin, the most extensive fiber network in Aberdeen and Redfield. However, the oldest pieces of its network are copper. It is more economical to utilize and maintain the existing copper than to replace it with fiber.

Data Request No. 1-4: Were any network improvement targets not met in 2016?

Response:
No, all were met. [REDACTED]

Data Request No. 1-5: Confirm that new customers received information about Lifeline within 30 days of receiving service.

Response:

Confirmed.

Data Request No. 1-6: Explain why the Lifeline section in the Form 481 was not filled out and why no annual Lifeline report was filed for SAC 396340.

Response:

The Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) program is a high-cost program, not a Lifeline program. NVC does not do any Lifeline reporting under the RBE SAC.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2017.

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