

Attachments

SAC: 361389

State: MN

Farmers Mutual Tel

Form 481 Line No 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

South Dakota:

1. Farmers Mutual Tel - MN (Company) will provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Company's designated service area where the Company's network already passes the potential customers premises, and

2. The Company will provide service, within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within the Company's designated service area but outside the Company's existing network coverage, if the service can be provided at reasonable cost by:
 - a. Modifying or replacing the requesting customer's equipment.
 - b. Adjusting network or customer facilities.

3. Service Quality Standards

The Company:

- Provides voice grade access to the public switched network.
- Provides flat rated local exchange service with no addition charge to end users.
- Provides access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organization, such as 911 and enhanced 911.
- Provides toll blocking and toll limitation services.
- Advertises the availability of its services and the charges using media of general distribution.
- Maintains a business office providing customers with access to a customer service representative either in person or via a local telephone call or toll-free telephone number during normal business hours.
- Directs after hour calls to the Company's help desk.
- Directs trouble reports to the on-call technician.
- Tracks all service orders to ensure they are completed in a timely manner.
- Measures its service connection and service interruption performance on a regular basis.
- Trains employees to:
 - Answer all incoming calls promptly.
 - Respond to all inquiries for information promptly and courteously.
 - Investigate thoroughly all customer complaints.
 - Be knowledgeable about products and service offerings so they can assist the customer with selecting the best service option.
- Has a process for periodic inspection, testing and preventive maintenance of its equipment to permit the rendering of safe, adequate and continuous service at all times.

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South Dakota: (Cont'd)

4. Consumer Protection Rules

The Company has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with applicable consumer protection rules which include compliance with the Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) rules. The operating procedures include:

- Appointment of a compliance officer.
- A manual detailing the specific procedures for protecting consumer information.
- Employee training on an annual basis.
- A disciplinary process for improper use of consumer information.

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Minnesota:

In addition to the items noted above for South Dakota, as required by MN. Rule "7812.0700 Minnesota General Service Quality Requirements. Subpart 1" the local services provided by Farmers Mutual Tel are provided under internal company operating procedures and publicly available tariffs which are in compliance with applicable Minnesota Public Utility Commission orders and rules including:

7810.0100 DEFINITIONS.
7810.0200 SCOPE.
7810.0300 STATUTORY AUTHORITY.

RECORDS AND REPORTS

7810.0400 RETENTION OF RECORDS.
7810.0500 DATA TO BE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION.
7810.0600 REPORT TO COMMISSION ON SERVICE DISRUPTION.
7810.0900 LOCATION OF RECORDS.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS

7810.1000 INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMER AND PUBLIC.
7810.1100 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES.
7810.1200 RECORD OF COMPLAINT.

CUSTOMER BILLING; DEPOSIT AND GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS

7810.1400 CUSTOMER BILLING.
7810.1500 DEPOSIT AND GUARANTEE REQUIREMENTS.
7810.1600 DEPOSIT.
7810.1700 GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT.

DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE; SERVICE DELAY

7810.1800 PERMISSIBLE SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS WITH NOTICE.
7810.1900 PERMISSIBLE SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.
7810.2000 NONPERMISSIBLE REASONS TO DISCONNECT SERVICE.
7810.2100 MANNER OF DISCONNECTION.
7810.2200 RECONNECTION OF SERVICE.
7810.2300 NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.
7810.2400 BILL DISPUTES.
7810.2500 ESCROW PAYMENTS.
7810.2600 WAIVING RIGHT TO DISCONNECT; EMERGENCY STATUS.
7810.2800 DELAY IN INITIAL SERVICE OR UPGRADE.

DIRECTORIES

7810.2900 CONTENT OF DIRECTORIES.
7810.3000 DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE.
7810.3100 CHANGES OR ERROR OF LISTED NUMBER.

ENGINEERING

7810.3200 CONSTRUCTION OF TELEPHONE PLANT.
7810.3300 MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.
7810.3900 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

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Minnesota: (cont'd)

INSPECTIONS, TESTS, SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

7810.4100 ACCESS TO TEST FACILITIES.

7810.4300 ACCURACY REQUIREMENTS.

7810.4900 ADEQUACY OF SERVICE.

7810.5000 UTILITY OBLIGATIONS.

7810.5100 TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

7810.5200 ANSWERING TIME.

7810.5300 DIAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.

7810.5400 INTEROFFICE TRUNKS.

7810.5500 TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

7810.5800 INTERRUPTIONS OF SERVICE.

7810.5900 CUSTOMER TROUBLE REPORTS.

7810.6000 PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

7810.6100 SAFETY PROGRAM.

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Farmers Mutual Tel

Form 481 Line No. 610 Description of Functionality in Emergency Situations

Farmers Mutual Tel:

- Established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from failures of lighting or power service, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness of operators or from fire, storm, or acts of God including provisions for emergency power that meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:
 - A minimum of four hours of battery service in each central office.
 - A permanently installed power unit in exchanges exceeding 5000 lines.
 - Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and which can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.

- Has informed employees as to the procedures to be followed, including reasonable rerouting of traffic around damaged facilities and the deployment of emergency power, in the event of emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telecommunications service.

SAC: 361389

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Farmers Mutual Tel

Form 481 Line No. 1010 Descriptive document for Voice Services Rate Comparability

Line 1010 – Description of Voice Services Rate Comparability: Provide a detailed description of how your pricing of fixed voice services is no more than two standard deviations above the applicable national average urban rate for voice service, as published annually by the Wireline Competition Bureau, as required in 47 C.F.R. § 1.354(b).

On February 14, 2017, the Wireline Competition Bureau announced results of the Urban Rate Survey for Voice Services as part of FCC Public Notice DA 17-167. Referenced in this public notice are the results required to meet the rate comparability as noted:

“Based on the survey results, the reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services is \$49.51.³

³ Id. at 17694, para. 84.”

As required Farmers Mutual Tel hereby certifies that its current fixed voice services for residential subscribers as defined in the USF/ICC Transformation Order is below \$49.51.

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Farmers Mutual Tel

Form 481 Line No. 1030 Descriptive document for Broadband Service Rate Comparability

Line 1030 – Description of Broadband Service Rate Comparability: Provide a detailed description of how your pricing of a Broadband service meeting the Commission’s Public Interest Obligations is no more than the applicable benchmark, as published annually by the Wireline Competition Bureau, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(12).

On February 14, 2017, the Wireline Competition Bureau announced the results of the Urban Rate Survey for Broadband Service as part of FCC Public Notice DA 17-167. Referenced in this public notice are the results required to meet the rate comparability as noted:

Based on the survey results, the reasonable comparability benchmark calculations for broadband services can be calculated at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/urban-rate-survey-data>.

As required Farmers Mutual Tel hereby certifies that it offers a Broadband service to residential subscribers at pricing that is no more than the applicable benchmark rate.

SAC: 361389
 State: MN
 Farmers Mutual Tel
 Form 481 Line No. 1210 Lifeline Plans Terms and Conditions

Lifeline Terms and Conditions

1. Farmers Mutual Tel (Company) offers lifeline program-supported service to qualified low-income residential consumers for one lifeline service per eligible household. The lifeline program provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline. Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll Blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing the option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

Lifeline Program Eligibility Information

Program Based Eligibility

Consumers are eligible for Lifeline if they, one of their dependents or their household participate in one of the following qualifying assistance programs:

Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 Medicaid
 Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 Veteran's Pension or Survivor Benefits

Lifeline applicant must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means.

Acceptable documentation of program-based eligibility includes: current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying program; notice letter of participation in a qualifying program; program participation documents; or another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying program.

Income Based Eligibility

2. In addition, consumers are eligible for Lifeline if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines – 135%

Household Size	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$ 16,281
2	21,924
3	27,567
4	33,210
5	38,853
6	44,496
7	50,139
8	55,782
For Each Additional Person, Add	5,643

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes: prior year's state, federal or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; social security statement of benefits; Veterans Administration statement of benefits; retirement/pension statement of benefits; unemployment/workmen's compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice of letter participating in General Assistance; or a divorce decree or child support award or other official document containing income information.

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Lifeline Terms and Conditions (Continued)

Lifeline Program Eligibility Information (Continued)

Recertification of Lifeline Eligibility

Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility annually. Failure to properly recertify a recipient's continued eligibility for the Lifeline program will result in termination of the Lifeline recipient's monthly Lifeline discount and de-enrollment from the Lifeline Program.

Additional Lifeline Program Information

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline, wireless or broadband 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.

2. The Company's flat rate plans include unlimited local exchange calling including usage to designated nearby local exchange areas. The flat rate plans do not include any toll usage. The rates for any toll usage are determined by the rate plans of the Toll Provider(s) that are selected by lifeline end users.
3. The Company has met and will meet the requirements of eligible telecommunications carrier advertising. This includes:
 - a. A full description of available services in the Company's Official telephone directory, including the process to be used by customers to qualify for lifeline and link-up service.
 - b. Advertising of the available universal service in media of general circulation in the Company's designated service area. Availability may be advertised in newspapers, company newsletters, company or civic internet sites, bill stuffer, direct mailings, or other means intended to convey availability throughout the designated service area.
4. The specific Company terms and conditions for the Companies Lifeline Plans are set forth in pages included in Exhibit 1, attached.

Minnesota:

Rates:

The Company's Local service rates that serve as its Lifeline Plans are filed in Compliance with the regulatory requirements of Minn. Rules Ch. 7810 and Minn. Rules pt. 7812.0600.

Lifeline Terms and Conditions:

The Company will adhere to Lifeline Terms and Conditions above as well as Minnesota Administrative Rule "7817.0400 - Eligibility for Telephone Assistance Credits" which states:

Minnesota Administrative Rule 237 Chapter 7817.0400

Subpart 1. Information provided. Each local service provider shall annually mail a notice of the availability of the telephone assistance plan to each residential subscriber in a regular billing. If a subscriber has chosen to receive the regular billing other than through U.S. mail, the local service provider shall send the notice in a regular billing using the delivery method chosen by the subscriber for delivery of the regular billing. The notice must state the following: YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE IN PAYING YOUR TELEPHONE BILL IF YOU RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM CERTAIN LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OR MEET CERTAIN INCOME LIMITS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT

_____ (*local service provider*). On request, the local service provider shall mail to a person an application form developed by the commission and the Department of Commerce, and a brochure that describes the telephone assistance plan's eligibility requirements and application process.

Subpart 2. Application process. On completing and signing the application certifying under penalty of perjury that the information provided by the applicant is true and that the statutory criteria for eligibility are satisfied, the applicant must return it to the local service provider for enrollment in the telephone assistance plan. An application may be made by the subscriber, the subscriber's spouse, or a person authorized by the subscriber to act on the subscriber's behalf.

Subpart 4. Eligibility criteria. To be eligible for a telephone assistance credit the applicant must:

- A. be a subscriber who resides in Minnesota or has moved to Minnesota and intends to remain; and
- B. be eligible for the federal Lifeline telephone service discount.

Subpart 7. Applicant and recipient responsibilities. Each applicant and each recipient shall provide current information to the local service provider about permanent changes that affect the applicant's or recipient's eligibility.

Subpart 8. Local service provider responsibilities.

- A. A local service provider shall begin providing telephone assistance credits to an applicant in the earliest possible billing cycle but not later than the second billing cycle following submission of a completed application demonstrating eligibility. If certified, the local service provider shall notify the applicant by, for example, placing telephone assistance credits on the bill.
- B. If an applicant is denied eligibility, the local service provider shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, of the right to appeal, and of the right to reapply.

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Form 481 Line No. 1210 Lifeline Plans Terms and Conditions

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

The rates for Local Exchange Service are subject to the conditions set forth herein and the General Regulations governing provision of service. The General Regulations are set forth in Section 2 of this tariff book.

Local Exchange Service

- A. The Local Exchange Service Rates in this section are for service only and do not include any terminal equipment beyond the point of demarcation.
- B. The rates applicable to Local Exchange Service are composed of a Line Access Rate component plus (where applicable) an Extended Area Service component.
- C. Service Upgrades
 - 1) All services have been upgraded to business individual line and residence individual line service.
 - 2) The rates shown on the rate schedule will be applied.
- D. Extended Area Service
 - 1) Establishment and discontinuance of EAS will be contingent upon Commission authorization.
 - 2) Extended Area Service rate component.
 - a) EAS is a premium-type service offering made by the Company to certain exchanges, under specific conditions.
 - b) The Extended Area Service rate component, where applicable, is included in the Local Exchange Service Rate.
- E. Taxes
 - 1) Applicable taxes levied by state, county and local taxing authorities are in addition to the rates set forth in this tariff. (See also General Regulations, Section 2).

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

Class of Service	Monthly Charges			
	Access Line Charge	EAS Additive	Total	
<u>Bellingham and Marietta Exchanges</u>				
Business:				
One Party - Access	\$ 18.00		\$ 18.00	(l)
Key System Line - Access	18.00		18.00	(l)
Basic Coin Telephone Service	18.00		18.00	(l)
Residence:				
One Party - Access	\$ 18.00		\$ 18.00	(l)
School Classroom Service: *				
One Party - Access	\$ 18.00		\$ 18.00	(l)
<u>Cerro Gordo Exchange</u>				
Business:				
One Party - Access	\$ 18.00	\$ 3.16	21.16	(l)
Key System Line - Access	18.00	3.16	21.16	(l)
Basic Coin Telephone Service	18.00	3.16	21.16	(l)
Residence:				
One Party - Access	\$ 18.00	\$ 3.16	\$ 21.16	(l)
School Classroom Service: *				
One Party - Access	\$ 18.00	\$ 3.16	\$ 21.16	(l)
<u>EAS Additive:</u>				
Facility Cost	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.16	
Lost Access Revenue	2.00	2.00	2.00	
Total	<u>\$ 3.16</u>	<u>\$ 3.16</u>	<u>\$ 3.16</u>	

* School classroom service is one party flat rate local exchange access line service offered to public schools that conduct classes within the range of kindergarten through 12th grade pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 237.065. This additional service is available to ensure access to telephone service from each classroom and other areas within the school, as determined by the school board. Existing service provided to all areas of the school prior to the effective date of this tariff will be billed at the current rates. Upon approval by the school board, this service must be installed in all remaining classrooms within the school and other areas within the school, as determined by the school board, within the time period specified by the company. This service is not available in areas within the school where telephone service is used for business administrative purposes of the schools.

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

Extended Area Service (EAS)

Exchange

EAS to Exchange

Bellingham
Bellingham
Bellingham
Cerro Gordo
Cerro Gordo
Marietta
Marietta

Cerro Gordo
Marietta
Odessa
Bellingham
Marietta
Bellingham
Cerro Gordo

School District Extended Area Service (EAS)

Cerro Gordo
Cerro Gordo
Boyd (Citizens)
Dawson (Frontier)

Boyd (Citizens)
Dawson (Frontier)
Cerro Gordo
Cerro Gordo

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Farmers Mutual Tel offers service to customers in South Dakota in the Marietta Exchange at the same rates as referenced in the MN Tariff pages included in this filing.

Residential Local Service - \$18.00

Business Local Service - \$18.00

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State: MN
Farmers Mutual Tel
Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

Farmers Mutual Tel hereby certifies that throughout 2016, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, and currently, it is taking reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream broadband service at with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas as determined in an annual survey, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

SAC: 361389
State: MN
Farmers Mutual Tel
Form 481 Line No. 3017 RUS Annual Report

DOCUMENT REDACTED IN ITS ENTIRETY

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