

Docket Number: TC21-064
Subject Matter: Staff's Data Request 1 **Redacted Public Version**
Request to: Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative Inc. (Golden West)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: 7/20/21
Responses Due: 8/3/21

1.1. What steps and efforts have been undertaken to cooperate with the necessary Tribal permitting authority to help aid in the number of unfulfilled service requests? What is the location of the unfulfilled service requests?

Response: Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative (“Golden West”) always strives to cooperate with each of the Tribal governments and their respective consent and approval processes. Golden West has attached the general procedures it follows for constructing a service drop on Tribal land (see Confidential Attachment 1.1). The document describes any variations necessary to the procedures on the Rosebud, Pine Ridge, and Lower Brule Reservations. There are many steps in these processes that can cause delays in a Tribal resident getting service, including the customer not having a home site lease in place with the BIA, failure of the resident to respond to correspondence or pay necessary fees to the BIA, time lag in receiving necessary approvals/signatures from various offices, etc. Golden West continues to engage Tribal officials when approvals are delayed in their offices. However, transparency of Tribal internal processes is lacking, which hinders Golden West’s ability to expedite the permits.

[REDACTED]

1.2. For the progress report of the previous plan year, provide maps detailing progress towards meeting planned targets.

Response: See Confidential Attachment 1.2.

1.3. Provide a narrative to accompany that filed two-year plan indicating the specific geographic areas where the improvements will be made.

Response: 2022 FTTH Projects: Golden West is tentatively planning upgrades in [REDACTED]

2023 FTTH Projects: Golden West is tentatively planning upgrades in [REDACTED]

Plant Maintenance: Golden West estimated approximately [REDACTED] per year company-wide for years 2022 and 2023. Plant maintenance items include work order activity, DC power and battery replacements, subscriber carrier and transmission cards for growth and replacement, and

¹ Golden West is working with Tribal authorities to secure necessary right-of-way to construct FTTH on Tribal lands, but it is unknown if Golden West will be Granted right-of-way approval by Tribal authorities.

² All 2022 and 2023 FTTH construction is dependent on adequate supply chain for materials and contractor availability.

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miscellaneous fiber distribution equipment. The approximate breakdown by study area for 2022 is as follows:³

[REDACTED]

Other Projects: Golden West included [REDACTED] across all study areas for 2022 and [REDACTED] for 2023 for miscellaneous road moves and projects.

Network Projects: For year 2022, Golden West is tentatively planning on spending approximately [REDACTED] as follows:

[REDACTED]

Other items in the 2022 estimates include [REDACTED] including:

[REDACTED]

\$ [REDACTED]

For 2023 Network Projects, Golden West is tentatively planning on spending approximately [REDACTED] allocated as follows:

[REDACTED]

³ As it is difficult to predict where the plant maintenance work will be needed, Golden West attempts to estimate this at the study area level, rather than by each exchange.