

Docket Number: TC21-077
Subject Matter: Staff's Data Request 1
Request to: Clarity Telecom, LLC dba Vast Broadband (Clarity)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: 7/21/21
Responses Due: 8/4/21

1.1. Did Clarity provide Lifeline information to customers via any bill inserts? If so, please provide.

Response: Yes. See bill inserts for East (Hurley) and West (Rapid City) regions, Confidential Attachment 1.1.

1.2. Did Clarity advertise Lifeline in any additional media of general distribution beyond the articles provided in its annual report? If so, please provide dates, and the media of general distribution.

Response: Lifeline information is available on our company website at:

<https://www.vastbroadband.com/lifeline-assistance.html>

1.3. Explain how Clarity spent the South Dakota Broadband grant money in 2020 and how Clarity plans to spend the money awarded for 2021.

Response: 2020 South Dakota Broadband Grant: The grant money was used to fund projects in Flyger, Volin, Monroe, and Copper Oaks. All locations were upgraded to 1GbE down/500 Mb up technologies. See Confidential Attachment 1.3 for additional details.

2021 South Dakota Broadband Grant: The grant money will be used to serve 214 unserved and underserved households and businesses. Clarity will provide high speed data in the form of FTTH in the counties of Turner and Yankton. The network would cover the townships of Walshtown, Marindahl, Mayfield, Salem, Spring Valley, and Childstown. In addition, the upgrades would include portions of rural Turner and Yankton Counties.

1.4 Clarity's filed 5-year plan in Exhibit B indicates a Project List for 2021-2026, yet no expenditures are listed for 2026. Provide an update to the plan indicating the planned expenditures for 2026.

Response: Please see Confidential Attachment 1.4 containing a revised Confidential Exhibit B for Study Area Code 391652 that includes planned expenditures for 2026.

1.4. Does Clarity have a current plan to extend additional facilities in the rural area of the Chancellor and Lennox exchanges? If so, provide estimated schedule and facilities planned for deployment.

Response: Since we have Hurley and Parker scheduled to buildout over the 5-year plan, the Lennox/Chancellor exchanges would start after 2026. We would estimate FTTH deployment in 2027 and 2028.