

Docket Number: TC21-082  
Subject Matter: Staff's Data Request 1  
Request to: Jefferson Telephone Company  
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff  
Date of Request: 7/22/21  
Responses Due: 8/5/21

1.1. Refer to Exhibit A - Progress Report: The description at the bottom of the document does not appear to have any language besides default prompt language. Per ARSD 20:10:32:54(2), provide the following:

- a. Provide an explanation regarding any network improvement targets that were not met, if applicable.

**Response:** Most network improvement targets were met. There was a small 2 mile piece of fiber that we had hoped to install to provide higher VDSL data speeds to a group of customers. The Company held off when it was decided to look at engineering a FTTH network instead.

- b. Explain how the universal service support was used to improve service quality, signal quality, coverage, and capacity.

**Response:** Support was used for capital expenditures, continuing to upgrade WIFI modems for customers, added additional data capacity and some additional VDSL data blades in the rural areas. Support is also used for staffing costs, repairs & maintenance, customer service, and other operating expenses that are incurred in the Jefferson area.

1.2. In what areas did Jefferson deploy cable and wire listed on the Exhibit A – Progress Report.

**Response:** These funds were used to install fiber to some local businesses, replace and improve customer drops and some relocations of network due to road construction projects.

1.3. Refer to Response to First Data Request in TC20-033, provide an update regarding any unserved areas.

**Response:** All locations can receive telephone service in the Jefferson Telephone territory. There are a few customers on the fringes that cannot receive high speed data or who receive it at very slow speeds. The plan is to replace all this area with FTTH in 2022 so that they can receive gigabyte speeds.

1.4. Refer to Exhibit B - Two Year Plan: Provide further detail on the network improvements and the Fiber to the Home Project listed in 2022 and 2023. Will Jefferson deploy fiber to its entire service area?

**Response:** Jefferson Telephone currently provides up to 1Gigabyte data speeds within the town of Jefferson. We will be replacing all cable plant in rural Jefferson with FTTH. After this is completed, all customers will have access to 1Gigabyte data speeds.

1.5. What is currently the plan to deploy high speed internet coverage to the unshaded portions of the map attached to Exhibit A?

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**Response:** Jefferson is planning on deploying FTTH in all of the unshaded portions of the map, which will provide 1gigabyte speeds. The plan is to have this completed in 2022 but depending on materials and contractors could stretch into 2023.

1.6. Regarding the Lifeline Advertising Outreach Annual Report, what newspaper(s) or media of general distribution did the company advertise the availability of Lifeline and Link-Up services? Also, provide the date(s) of publication.

**Response:** Lifeline Public Notices were published in North Sioux Times and Elk Point Courier Leader newspapers on August 6, 2020 and on July 29, 2021.