

Docket Number: TC17-040
Subject Matter: Staff's Data Request 1
Request to: Valley Telephone Company
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: 7/27/17
Responses Due: 9/10/17

- 1.1. How were the 2016 Federal Universal Service Receipts that are located on Exhibit A determined? What type of allocation or calculation was used to derive them from the total company level?

Response: The Federal Universal Receipts are based off the disbursements from USAC. The allocation is based off the number of customers in SD divided by the number of customers served in both MN and SD.

- 1.2. Confirm that new customers receive information about Lifeline within 30 days of receiving service.

Response: All new customers receive a welcome packet from the company containing information including Lifeline services within 5 business days of receiving service.

- 1.3. Valley Tel Co stats in its Form 499 attachments, "As required Valley Tel Co hereby certifies that it offers a Broadband service to residential subscribers at pricing that is no more than the applicable benchmark rate"; In comparing broadband pricing located in Form 481 and the pricing benchmark as part of FCC Public Notice DA 17-167, how is Valley Tel Co in line with broadband service rate comparability for a comparable 10/1 service?

Response: The FCC benchmark for 10/1 unlimited service is \$77.98. In order to receive USF, the FCC also requires customers subscribe to phone service which has an FCC rate floor rate of \$18.00. Combined, the benchmark is \$95.98 for phone+internet. Valley Telephone offers a bundled rate package of both services for \$88.45 which is below the established benchmarks.