



**BEFORE THE
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE STUDY AREA: VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE -391680 AND WESTERN TELEPHONE CO. -391688 FOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL SERVICE SUPPORT))))))))))	CONFIDENTIAL RESPONSES TO STAFF’S DATA REQUESTS (FIRST SET) TC17-052
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Venture Communications Cooperative (“Venture” or the “ Company”), by and through its attorney, responds to Staff’s Data Requests (First Set) as follows:


- 1-1. In the Lifeline/Linkup Assistance Application on website listed for both SAC 391680 and SAC 391688 on the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising Outreach Annual Reports, the Company Code is already pre-filled out to SAC 391680. How does the company differentiate between the customers who are in SAC 391688?**

Response: The customers in the following exchanges are for SAC 391688: Cresbard, Faulkton, Orient. Our company rep knows this so puts those customers in under SAC 391688. All other customers are entered as SAC 391680.

- 1-2. In the Lifeline/Linkup Assistance Application on Venture’s website, under the eligibility box, the sentence instructs the customer to check all the programs that a customer is enrolled in. As a customer only needs to prove that they qualify for one of the programs, why is the company asking for all?**

Response: In some cases, we have to go back to a customer for additional documentation or the documentation they submit doesn’t qualify them for the program they checked. If they check more than one qualifying program, it allows us to give them some guidance as to other documentation they could provide us to meet the documentation requirements. For example, many customers will check Medicaid coverage when they actually subscribe to Medicare. If they also check SNAP, we can help them with that documentation.

- 1-3. In regard to the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising Outreach Annual Report, what newspaper(s) or media of general distribution were used? Provide the date(s) of publication as well as a copy of the advertisement used.**

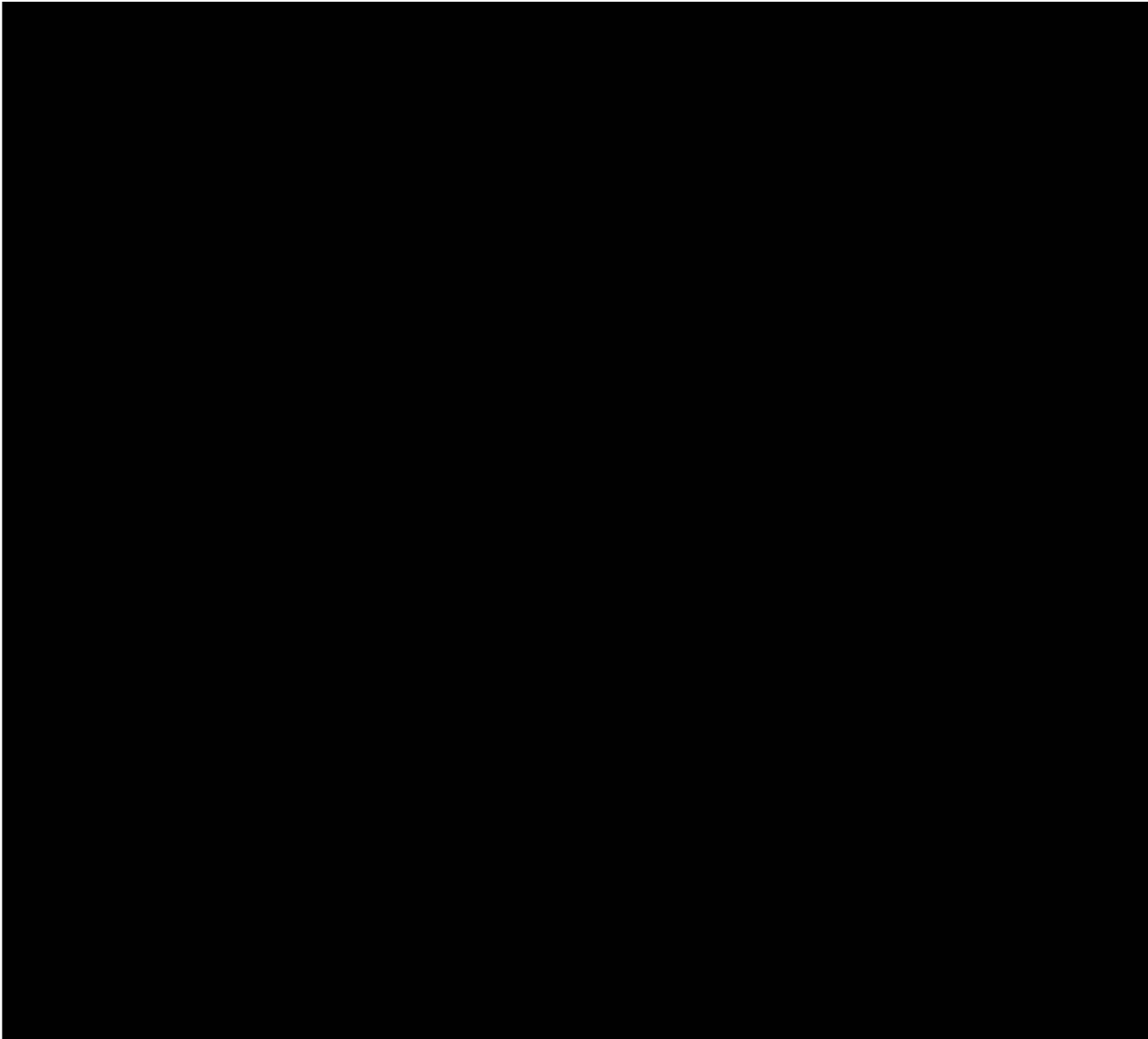


Response: 1/12/2016 - Inserted the annual Lifeline Linkup article in the January 2016 newsletter

7/29/2016 - Emailed the yearly press release (See Exhibit A) for Lifeline to the following newspapers:

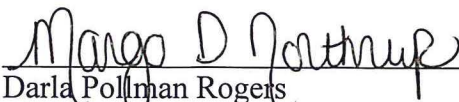
Onida Watchman;
Bowdle Pioneer;
Roscoe Hosmer Independent;
Langford Bugle & Britton Journal;
Rosholt Review;
True Dakotan – Wessington Springs;
Faulk Co Record;
The Selby Record;
Sisseton Courier;
Potter County News;
Highmore Herald;
Miller Press;
West Beadle Cty Echo;
The Hoven Review; and
Sota Iya Ye Yapi (tribal paper)





Dated this 18 day of August, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of Confidential Responses to Staff's Data Requests (First Set) was sent by electronic notice to the following:

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Dated this 18 day of August, 2017.


Margo D. Northrup