### SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2019

Company:	Kennebec Telephone Company Inc.
Address:	PO Box 158
	220 South Main
	Kennebec, SD 57544
Telephone number:	605-869-2220
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Company contact:	Rod Bowar
Study Area Code:	391668

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

$\checkmark$	Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)
$\checkmark$	Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up within 1 <sup>st</sup> 30 days of service.* (See attached letter.)
$\checkmark$	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
✓	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. www.kennebectelephone.com

✓ Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe): Provide Lifeline/ Link Up handouts at the following events: Kennebec Business Appreciation Night, Presho Farm & Home Show and various open houses. The handouts are available in the information rack at the Kennebec Telephone office as well. We also advertise it once a year in our monthly newsletter that gets distributed to all our customers

(see attached).

\*Required



# Do you qualify for Lifeline benefits?

Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone and broadband services. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program. To Qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- \*Medicaid
- \*Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- \*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- \*Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- \*Veteran's Pension and Survivor Benefit

A subscriber living on Tribal lands is eligible for Tribal Linkup and Tribal Lifeline. They may also qualify for Lifeline by participation in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following Tribal-specific federal assistance programs:

- \*BIA General Assistance
- \*Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- \*Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- \*Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guide-

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KTCl's voice and bundled broadband services are Lifeline-supported services. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline Program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year.

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household. A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine, imprisonment, or can be barred from the program.

The services described above are offered to all customers in KTCl's service area. If you have any questions regarding our service, please call our office at 869-2220. You are also welcome to visit our business office at 220 S Main Street in Kennebec, SD.

This notice is posted in accordance with South Dakota Public Utilities commission order IC97-092 and pursuant to 47 United State Section 214 € and 47 Code of Federal Regulations Sections.

## FCC BILLING NAME & ADDRESS RULE

The FCC requires our company, under certain circumstances, to release the Billing Name and Address (BNA) of telephone customers to telecommunications service providers. The main reason for releasing BNA information is to ensure proper billing for certain types of calls. For instance, calls such as collect, third number billed, or calling card calls may be carried by an interexchange carrier who is not your presubscribed interexchange carrier or who does not have a billing contract with our company. Under these circumstances, the carrier does not know who to bill the call to, and therefore, must request the BNA from our company in order to bill the call. We must provide the information to the requesting carrier.

BNA can also be released to telecommunications service providers for other reasons, such as verification for presubscription, servicing your account, to prevent fraud, or when you move from one location to another. If you have an unlisted or non-published telephone number, you have a choice. If you do not want your BNA released by our company for third party billed calls, collect calls, or calling card calls, we need affirmative notification from you within 30 days. If you provide us with such notification, your ability to make calling card calls or to receive collect calls or third number billed calls could be denied. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please call our office.

## **CUSTOMER ALERTS**

To cut down on telemarketing sales calls, you can write to Telephone Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association of America, Box 9014, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014. Ask to have your name removed from telemarketing lists. This will reduce, but not eliminate, solicitations. You may also call 1-888-382-1222 or visit www.donotcall.gov, to have your name placed on the Do-Not-Call List. Or call our office to have Telemarketing Call Screening added to your line.



NATIONAL DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

2. A "PIC FREEZE" will help protect you from being changed to another long distance carrier without your authorization. You may request a "PIC FREEZE" from Kennebec Telephone Co. Inc. When a "PIC FREEZE" has been processed for you, you must have this "PIC FREEZE" removed by KTCI when you decide to change long distance carriers. Please notify KTCI & your long distance carrier whenever you are canceling &/or changing from one long distance carrier to another. Failure to do so may result in higher rates, since, in all likelihood, you will not be placed on the particular calling plan that you desire. If you have questions regarding a "PIC FREEZE" please feel free to call our office at 869-2220.

#### NOTICE OF COMPLAINT PROCESS

Persons dissatisfied with telephone company procedures or policies relative to billing, establishment of credit, refusal of service, or disconnection of service, may appeal to the Public Utilities Commission, Capitol Building 1st Floor, 500 East Capitol Ave. Pierre, South Dakota, 57501, 1-800-332-1782 (Toll Free). For Interstate consumer issues you may contact the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th ST, SW, Washington, DC 20554, 1-888-225-5322 (Toll Free), 1-888-8365-5322 TTY (Toll Free)

Kennebec Telephone Company Inc. is a telecommunications company that provides basic & enhanced services with its service area.

Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service \$20.00/month Single Party Residence/Ag Service \$20.00/month

Single Party Residence/Business Service \$20.00/month

Single Party Business Service \$25.00/month

#### Local residence & business services include:

Voice grade access to the public telephone network
Flat-rated local exchange service free of per minute charges
Access to directory assistance service
Access to other operator services
Access to 911 emergency services
Access to interexchange (long distance) service
Dual tone multi-frequency signaling (touch tone) service



Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone and broadband services. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program. To Qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

\*Medicaid

\*Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)

\*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

\*Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

\*Veteran's Pension and Survivor Benefit

A subscriber living on **Tribal lands** and is eligible for **Tribal Linkup** and **Tribal Life-line**. They may also qualify for **Lifeline** by participation in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following Tribal-specific federal assistance programs:

\*BIA General Assistance

\*Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

\*Head Start ( if income eligibility criteria are met

\*Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

KTCI's voice and bundled broadband services are Lifeline-supported services.
Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline Program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year.

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household. A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully, make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine, imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

The services described above are offered to all customers in KTCl's service area. If you have any questions regarding our service, please call our office at 869-2220. You are also welcome to visit our business office at 220 S Main Street in Kennebec, SD.

This notice is posted in accordance with South Dakota Public Utilities commission order IC97-092 and pursuant to 47 United State Section 214 € and 47 Code of Federal Regulations Sections.

#### **Publisher's Affidavit of Publication**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )
)SS COUNTY OF LYMAN )
Connie Penny, of said county and state being duly sworn on her oath says: The Lyman County Herald is a weekly newspaper of general circulation and published in Presho, Lyman County, and State of South Dakota; and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; That said newspaper is a legal weekly, that it has a bonafide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said County of Lyman more than fifty-two successive weeks next prior to publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and maintained at the place of publication; That I, the undersigned am editor of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit; that the advertisement headed:
Life Lina Notice
a printed copy of which is hereto attached and published in the said newspaper for consecutive week(s).
The first publication of said notice in said newspaper aforesaid was on Wednesday, the day of
and the last publication on Wednesday, the
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3/ day of M64, 20/8  MICHAEL J. SPRENCE.  NOTARY PUBLIC - SOUTH DEALGIA, 20  My Commission expires  March 27, 2022

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## LIFELINE NOTICE KTC, Inc.

Lifeline Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone and broadband service. Toll blocking at no charge & reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- · Medicaio
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- · Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- · Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- · Veterans pension and Survivor Benefit

A subscriber who lives on Tribal lands and is an eligible resident of Tribal lands is eligible for Tribal Lifeline service if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following Tribal-specific federal assistance programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

KTCl's voice and broadband services are Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address & share income & expenses. By applying for and receiving the discount, subscribers agree to remain with their service provider for 60 days for voice services and 12 months for broadband services. Lifeline is a government benefit program, & consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

The services described above are offered to all consumers in Kennebec Telephone Company's service area. If you have any questions regarding our services, please call out office at 869-2220. You are also welcome to visit our business office at 220 S Main ST in Kennebec.

This notice is posted in accordance with South Dakota Public Utilities Commission order TC97-092 & pursuant to 47 United States Section 214 (e) & 47 Code of Federal Regulations Sections.

KENNEBEC TELEPHONE Co., INC. TM

Date

Name Address City, State, Zip

Re: Lifeline/Link Up Program

Dear:

Enclosed is an application for Lifeline/Link Up Assistance. If you are eligible please complete the form and return to us as soon as possible.

If you are not eligible please sign at the bottom of the form where it states information was provided to you and return it in the enclosed envelope.

If you have any questions please call 869-2220. Thank you.

Regards,

Crystal Brakke Marketing Assistant/CSR

**Enclosures**