

**Docket Number:** TC20-035  
**Subject Matter:** First Data Request  
**Request to:** West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC or Company)  
**Request from:** South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff  
**Date of Request:** July 2, 2020  
**Responses Due:** July 16, 2020

- 1-1. At the August 21, 2019 Commission meeting, Mr. Colgan Huber stated WRCTC would be 100 percent FTTH by the end of 2019. Confirm that this 100 percent FTTH buildout is complete. **West River Cooperative Telephone Company was 99.892% FTTH at the end of 2019. There was a significant setback due to the amount of rain received at the beginning of the construction season, so the company fell short of the 100% FTTH goal. However, WRCTC is 100% FTTH in 2020.**
- 1-2. Reconcile the amounts provided in the “Year 2019 Federal Universal Service Receipts” section of Exhibit A with the amounts shown on the USAC website for 2019. **Please refer to the “2019 USAC Reconciliation File”. Although \$5,081,627 was disbursed from the Universal Service Fund in 2019, \$314,809 was associated with prior period adjustments and refunded Budget Control Mechanism payments not associated with 2019 activity. We used the remaining support that was applicable to 2019 USF activity which was \$4,776,788.**
- 1-3. Explain, at the wire center level, the difference between the planned 2019 capital additions of \$1,267,000 as shown in Revised Exhibit B in docket TC18-051 and the actual \$720,189 as shown in Exhibit A in docket TC20-035.
  - **Investment made in 2018 was \$745,563 more than projected in previous PUC filings, so less investment was needed in 2019.**
  - **FTTH projects in Meadow were projected to cost \$498,000 in 2019 but was finished in 2018 instead.**
  - **Most of the investment that was made in 2019 were for the FTTH project in the Bison exchange.**
  - **In 2019, we budgeted for possible plant buildout projects that never materialized. These were comprised of possible cell phone tower sites and other proposed customer locations. Those items totaled \$350,000.**
  - **In 2019, we budgeted to finish the Sorum Exchange FTTH build out project. Due to weather in 2019, this project was delayed until 2020, which is now done. This was approximately \$48,500**
  - **In 2019, we budgeted for the installation of virtual workstations for employees. This project didn’t start until the very end of 2019 and it is still on going. This was approximately 65,000.**
  - **In 2019, we budgeted for the potential purchase of Smart Technology equipment to be used to sell smart/home products or services to our members. We did not identify any possible products or services in 2019 to purchase for this purpose. This was approximately \$80,000.**
  - **These total approximately \$543,500 of expenditures that we budgeted for but did not spend.**

- **\$71,500 of the first 2019 projection was for General Support Assets which are not included in the 2019 data request in Exhibit A.**

- 1-4. Explain, at the wire center level, the difference between the planned 2021 capital additions of \$245,000 as estimated in Revised Exhibit B in docket TC19-032 and the \$680,000 as estimated in Exhibit B in docket TC20-035. **Please see “1-4. Differences” document.**
- 1-5. Refer to the Annual Report For the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2019 provided as part of Exhibit D.
- a. Noting that the number of subscribers at the various DSL speeds in section 3 on page 1 equals the 2,376 subscribers listed under “Fiber” and that WRCTC listed only 19 lines with access to DSL in section 4 on page 2, is it accurate to say WRCTC’s subscribers are being double counted as both DSL and fiber in section 3 on page 1? How many, if any, customers actually subscribe to DSL service? **DSL refers to broadband over copper and we have 19 subscribers and 2,376 Fiber subscribers as of year- end 2019. A revised Annual Report was submitted on July 15, 2020 reflecting the correct subscribers.**
  - b. Reconcile the 2,376 fiber subscribers with the 2,604 broadband customers claimed in the “Annual ETC Certification Filing”. **2,604 was the latest broadband count in May since we were illustrating the company’s position in the present tense. That number included customers that had IPTV since that is transported via broadband. 2,376 is the number of year end 2019 internet customers, not including IPTV connections.**
  - c. Reconcile the 2,968 ILEC access lines provided in section 5 on page 2 with the 2,858 access lines claimed in the “Annual ETC Certification Filing”. **2,968 lines were pulled from West River’s billing records as of December 2019 and were accurately reported on the “South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Annual Report”. 2,858 was pulled from the latest loop report using similar sources used for the December 2019 counts to illustrate the company in the present tense. Lines decreased due to an increase in CBOL subscribers.**
  - d. File a corrected annual report online at <https://puc.sd.gov/WebForms/AnnualReport.aspx>. **A revised Annual Report was filed with the PUC on July 15, 2020.**