

**State of South Dakota  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc.	)	
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	)	
Application for Expanded Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier For The Purpose of Receiving Federal Universal Service Support	)	Docket No. TC21-003

**VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
AMENDED APPLICATION FOR EXPANDED DESIGNATION AS AN  
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

The prior Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the Purpose of Receiving Federal Universal Service Support (Application) filed under Valley Communications, Inc dba Valley FiberCom (Valley FiberCom) in Docket No. TC21-003 shall hereby be amended to an Application by Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. (Valley or Company) for expansion of its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC). Valley makes this application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for expanded designation as an ETC pursuant to the original Application, with the exception of the following changes or amendments to the relevant sections as noted below:

**I. Company Background**

Valley Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. was incorporated in South Dakota in 1952 and 28 years later updated its name to Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc. In 1958, Valley’s service area was expanded with the acquisition of Western Mutual Telephone Company serving the Leola area and Hosmer Telephone Company serving the Hosmer area. In 1994, Valley formed its wholly-owned subsidiary, Valley Cable & Satellite Communications, Inc., to provide non-regulated satellite TV services. In 2007, Valley Cable & Satellite Communications, Inc. changed its name to Valley Communications, Inc., and in 2018 it applied for a DBA business name to be known as Valley FiberCom in its expansion as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) with construction of its fiber network in the towns of Volga, Lake Preston, Arlington, and De Smet and surrounding areas.

Both Valley and its subsidiary are experienced in managing funding awards and building out fiber networks. Valley and Valley FiberCom have been awarded a South Dakota Connect Broadband Grant as well as USDA's ReConnect I and ReConnect II to serve Kingsbury County, a large portion of Moody County, and a section of Brookings County, along with the Flandreau Santee Sioux Reservation. In December 2020, Valley was awarded the Census Blocks listed in Exhibit A in the FCC's RDOF Auction 904. Valley and its subsidiary have common management and the Valley FiberCom staff familiar with and experienced in fiber network structure and administration will also be leading the development of Valley's FTTP expansion in the RDOF awarded service area requested herein.

Valley's Name, Address and Telephone Number are:

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc.  
Jeff Symens, General Manager  
102 Main St.  
PO Box 7  
Herreid, SD 57632  
Phone: (605) 437-2615

All inquiries concerning this application should be made to:

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## **XI. Financially and Technically Capable of Providing Lifeline**

In addition to its financial capabilities as described, Valley has been building and operating FTTP networks since 2008 and as of 2016 Valley's network was deemed 100% fiber. Valley has seasoned operations and technical staff that have been with the company for years, and the same staff will be used for the RDOF expansion.

## **XII. Lifeline Service Plans to Eligible Consumers**

Valley plans to offer the following Lifeline supported Voice and Internet service plans:

**Voice:**

- VoIP phone Service or TDM voice service for approximately \$18.00
- Unlimited LD is available to residential market for approximately \$25.00/month
- Long Distance rates are set at \$.05/minute if used

**Broadband Internet:**

- 50/50 Mbps for \$49.99
- Additional Tiers and pricing are available up to Gigabit speeds

Additional information regarding Valley service plans including Internet practices can be found at: <https://www.valleytel.net/broadband-internet/>

**XIV. Designation of the Company as an ETC Is in the Public Interest**

Expanded designation of the Company as an ETC is in the public interest. Valley has been deploying state of art FTTP services to its CLEC customers since 2008. As noted in the original Application, with the funding won in the FCC RDOF Auction 904 Valley intends to further deploy FTTP services to the census blocks in Exhibit A to provide these communities access of up to Gigabit speeds and better voice service while supplying Lifeline-eligible customers a greater choice of providers for accessing telecommunications services not available to such customers today.

**XVI. Conclusion**

WHEREFORE, Valley respectfully requests designation as an ETC for all the purposes listed in the census blocks in Exhibit A. Valley requests the Commission review and approve this amended application for expanded ETC designation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mikaela Burma*

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