



Your business  
is our business.

6849 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road  
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30328-1610  
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608  
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: lchase@jsitel.com

November 16, 2016

**VIA E-TARIFF SYSTEM**

Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk and Administrator  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
Synergy Business Park 101 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210

Re: *West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s Revisions to its General Subscribers Services  
Tariff*

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Enclosed for filing please find revisions to West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s General Subscriber Services Tariff. The tariff pages enclosed for review and approval are as follows:

Section 3 - 1 <sup>st</sup> Revised Page 10 1 <sup>st</sup> Revised Page 11 1 <sup>st</sup> Revised Page 12 1 <sup>st</sup> Revised Page 13
---

This tariff revision reflects changes to West Carolina's tariff to reflect recent federal changes to the Lifeline program, which will become effective December 2, 2016. The Commission recently granted the Petition of BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T South Carolina for an Order Adopting Recent Changes to the Federal Lifeline Program for the State of South Carolina. See Commission Directive dated November 9, 2016 in Docket No. 2016-367-C.

Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(B)(6) and West Carolina's alternative regulation plan, the enclosed tariff revision is presumed valid. The enclosed tariff has an effective date of December 2, 2016, to coincide with the effective date of the federal changes.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lans Chase  
Staff Director – Regulatory Affairs

cc: Lance Tade – West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
Christopher Rozycki – Office of Regulatory Staff  
James M. McDaniel – Office of Regulatory Staff

Headquarters: 7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310  
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121  
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

Echelon Building II, Suite 200  
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759  
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

547 South Oakview Lane  
Bountiful, UT 84010  
phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-5124

**SECTION 3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

3.6 Lifeline Program

3.6.1 General

- A. Lifeline Program is a non-transferable residential retail service offering for which qualifying low-income subscribers pay reduced charges, as provided for below. Lifeline Program enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges on supported services as defined in 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101 which meet the minimum standards as defined in 47 C.F.R. Section 54.408. (C)
- B. The Lifeline credit available to an eligible customer in South Carolina is equal to the total of federal support as established by the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. Section 54.403) and state support as established by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service, which includes the access line, the Subscriber Line Charge and local usage. (C)
- C. The Lifeline Program reduction to voice service shall apply only to residential one-party service. (C)
- D. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a Customer who is otherwise eligible for the Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such Customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications services.
- E. The Lifeline Program rate reduction does not apply to Service Connection Charges.
- F. The Lifeline Program rate will not be available on a retroactive basis.

**SECTION 3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

3.6 Lifeline Program (Continued)

3.6.2 Eligibility Requirements

- A. Subscribers are eligible for Lifeline Assistance if:
1. The subscriber's household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or
  2. The subscriber, or one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household, receives benefits from at least one of the following qualifying programs:  
  
Medicaid;  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps;  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI);  
Federal Public Housing Assistance;  
Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs.
  3. Other eligibility requirements may be established by the Federal Communications Commission.
- B. Until the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier has been implemented in South Carolina, each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must provide documentation of income-based or program-based eligibility and certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that s/he receives benefits under a program outlined in paragraph A. above, and must on that same document, agree to notify the Company if s/he ceases to participate in the program(s) or to meet income eligibility requirements. The certification form shall conform to the requirements described herein, and shall be made available upon request to any subscriber. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.
- C. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll limitation as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll limitation" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.

(D)(N)

(D)(N)

---

**SECTION 3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

3.6 Lifeline Program (Continued)

(D)

3.6.3 Restrictions

(D)

Only one Lifeline Assistance credit is available per household.

(C)

3.6.4 Recertification

Customers must recertify on an annual basis that they continue to qualify for the discounted service.

---

**SECTION 3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

3.6 Lifeline Program (Continued)

3.6.5 Credit and Collection

A. Credit References

The credit verification procedures used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company will also be used for applicants who apply for service under the Lifeline Program.

B. Deposits

Deposit requirements for voice-only will be waived for all applicants who qualify for Lifeline Service, as long as the applicants continue to qualify for Lifeline Service. (C)

3.6.6 Service Connection Charges

A. Service charges do not apply to eligible Customers with existing residential access line service when they convert to the Lifeline Program.

B. Service Connection Charges will apply when:

1. Existing eligible residential Local Exchange Service Customers also convert to a different grade of eligible residential service and/or Optional Calling Services at the time the Lifeline Program billing is initiated.

2. A Customer receiving Lifeline Program billing voluntarily elects to convert to telephone service arrangements which preclude Lifeline Program eligibility.

3. New residential applicants (those without existing service) eligible for the Lifeline Program will be subject to applicable Service Connection Charges. (C)

C. Any subsequent moves or changes after the initial connection to the Lifeline Program will be subject to the applicable Service Charges as outlined in Section 19 of this Tariff.