

March 30, 2012

Robin Ancona Director, Telecommunications Division Michigan Public Service Commission 6545 Mercantile Way P.O. Box 30221 Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Ancona:

RE: Hiawatha Telephone Company Tariff M.P.S.C. No. 1(R)

TAM Transmittal No. 2

Enclosed is one copy of Hiawatha Telephone Company's Tariff M.P.S.C. No. 1(R) revisions for filing with the Commission pursuant to Public Act 179 of 1991, as amended, MCL 484.2101 et seq.

The changes reflect Hiawatha's compliance with new federal Lifeline regulations.

Hiawatha's Tariff M.P.S.C. No. 1(R) can be viewed in its entirety at http://telecommich.org/news/?newsid=204.

The sheets that contain changes can be viewed at <a href="https://www.telecommich.org/Documents/HIAWATHA">www.telecommich.org/Documents/HIAWATHA</a> MPSC1RTAMtransmittal2.pdf.

The effective date of these changes is April 1, 2012.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact our office.

Yours truly,

Scott Stevenson

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President

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## LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE

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## LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE

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<sup>\*</sup> New or revised sheet

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#### LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE

#### LIFELINE SERVICE

### A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Lifeline Service applies discounts to monthly recurring rates for qualifying residential customers. These discounts are applied to existing tariffed rates and charges for residential telephone service.
- 2. In order to be eligible for Lifeline Service a residential customer's household income must be at or below 150% of the poverty level as determined by the United States Office of Management and Budget and as approved by the State Treasurer or the customer must participate in one of the following federal assistance programs:
  - a. Medicaid
  - b. Food stamps
  - c. Supplemental security income
  - d. Federal public housing assistance
  - e. Low-income home energy assistance program
  - f. National school lunch program's free lunch program
  - g. Temporary assistance for needy families.
- 3. Lifeline Service includes the services and functionalities enumerated in by the F.C.C. as follows: voice grade access to the public switched network; local usage; dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; single-party service or its functional equivalent; access to operator services; access to interexchange service; access to directory assistance; and toll blocking for qualifying customers.
- 4. Other services can be provided with the Lifeline Service at applicable rates and charges.

### **B. REGULATIONS**

- Regulations specified elsewhere in the Company's tariffs apply to Lifeline Service.
- 2. Lifeline Service is available only with residence services, excluding foreign exchange service. Lifeline Service is limited to one line per household at the customer's primary residence.
- 3. A miscellaneous service charge does not apply when Lifeline Service is added or discontinued to existing service when that is the only work being done.
- 4. a. A discount of 20% of the Basic Local Exchange rate or \$11.25, whichever is greater, on the monthly rate for Basic Local Exchange Service for Lifeline customers is applicable. For Lifeline customers 65 years of age or more, the discount will be 25% of the Basic Local Exchange rate or \$12.35, whichever is greater. The total discount shall not exceed 100% of all end-user common line charges and the Basic Local Exchange rate.
  - b. The credit will be applied in the following order: (1) The Interstate End User Access Charge, National Exchange Carriers Association, Inc. Tariff F.C.C. No. 5, Access Service. (2) The balance of the credit, if any, will be applied as a credit to the Basic Local Exchange rate.
  - c. The Company will provide, at the qualifying customer's option, toll blocking service at no charge. The Company defines toll blocking as a service provided by the Company that lets the customer elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from their telecommunications channel.
  - d. The Company will not require a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline Service if the qualifying customer voluntarily elects toll blocking service.
  - e. The Company will not disconnect Lifeline Service for non-payment of toll charges by qualifying customers.
- 5. The Lifeline plan will apply after receipt and processing of a completed Company or community/government provided application, including documentation indicating that the household income meets the eligibility standards established above.
- 6. Customers of Lifeline Service must notify the Company of any changes which would affect qualification. Reverification of eligibility will take place on an ongoing basis. When the customer is no longer eligible for Lifeline service, the Lifeline discount would be discontinued and regular tariff rates and charges would apply.

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Issued under the authority of the PA 179, Michigan Telecommunications Act, as amended.

### LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE

#### LIFELINE SERVICE

### C. MONTHLY RATE FOR NON LIFELINE CUSTOMERS

A rate specified in MECA's Tariff M.P.S.C No. 25 Part XVII, Section 17.1.2.1 applies per exchange access line to cover the costs of the Lifeline service, to the Telephone Company intrastate services as listed below:

- Business and Residence exchange services excluding Lifeline customers.
- PBX Trunk Services
- Centrex Services

The rate for business Centrex station lines will be computed based on the trunk Equivalence Table specified in the Company's Tariff M.P.S.C. No. 2.

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