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May 22, 2012

Ms. Luly Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

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Dear Ms. Massaro:

We are filing, herewith, for effect June 21, 2012, tariff material consisting of:

PUC RI No. 15

Part/Section	Revision of Pages	Original of Pages
A/1	24 and 25	N/A

On February 6, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) released an order reforming the Lifeline and Link-Up programs, *Lifeline and Link-up Reform and Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42, FCC 12-11, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“Order”). In this filing, Verizon Rhode Island (“Verizon RI”) proposes changes to the Lifeline and Link-up programs as required by the FCC in its Order.

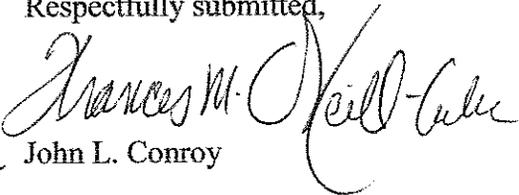
The changes are as follows:

- The criteria used to determine Lifeline eligibility is revised to reflect the income and program-based eligibility criteria currently utilized by federal default states.
- The Food Distribution Program is added as a Lifeline eligibility criterion for individuals living on federally-recognized Tribal Lands.
- Wording is added to define “household” and to clarify that only one Lifeline discount per household may apply.
- The Link-Up America program is discontinued except for individuals living on federally-recognized Tribal Lands.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact Frances O'Neill-Cunha of my staff at 401 525-3560.

Enclosed are an original and nine copies of the tariff pages. Please return a copy of this letter with your stamp of receipt.

Respectfully submitted,


for John L. Conroy
Attachment

Verizon New England Inc

1. Tariff Information and General Regulations
1.6 Customer Assistance Programs

1.6.1 Lifeline		
A.	Lifeline provides for a reduction in the monthly rate for one exchange service line per household for eligible residence customers. The Telephone Company will provide through Lifeline, rate payer funded assistance to eligible customers. Eligible customers include the following.	(C)
1.	Recipients of Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)	(N)
2.	Recipients of Aid from the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program (MAP)	
3.	Recipients of Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE)	
4.	Participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	(T)
5.	Recipients of Assistance from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	
6.	Recipients of Medicaid	(N)
7.	Participants in the National School Lunch Program (free lunch program only)	(C)
8.	Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	
9.	Recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	(T)
10.	Customers whose annual income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guideline	(N)
11.	Individuals who live on Tribal Lands and participate in one of the following programs:	(T)
a.	The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance	
b.	Head Start (income eligible)	
c.	Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)	(T)
d.	The Food Distribution Program	(N)
B.	Eligibility will be determined by the relevant government agency in accordance with guidelines on file with the agency. Upon receipt by the Telephone Company of eligibility certification by said agency or its designee, the Telephone Company will provide a reduction as specified as follows.	(C)
1.	A reduction applies to the monthly rate for one residence exchange service line furnished to an eligible residence exchange service customer. This reduction may be applied to the monthly rate for the following services.	
a.	One- or two-party exchange service.	
C.	A monthly local usage allowance applies to Lifeline customers who subscribe to measured service.	
D.	A Lifeline service customer may voluntarily choose to block toll calls and access to interexchange carriers. Blocking is provided to Lifeline customers without charge.	
1.	An eligible customer who elects toll blocking shall not be required to provide a service deposit to initiate Lifeline credit.	

Verizon New England Inc.

1. Tariff Information and General Regulations

1.6 Customer Assistance Programs

1.6.1 Lifeline		
E.	The service of an eligible customer receiving the Lifeline credit may not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges unless a waiver of this provision is granted by the PUC.	
F.	A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals living together at the same address as one economic unit.	(N) (N)
1.6.2 Link-Up America – Effective June 1, 2012, the Link-Up America Program is available only to Native Americans living on tribal lands.		(C) (C)
A.	Link-Up America is a connection assistance plan that provides reduced connection charges for low income households, for one telephone line per household at the principal place of residence. The applicant must satisfy certain income tests established by the Federal Government for low-income customers residing on tribal lands.	(C) (C)
B.	In order to qualify for connection assistance unless the applicant is more than 60 years old, the applicant must not be a dependent for federal income tax purposes.	
C.	The reduction in connection charges provided by this program is applicable only to the service and equipment charge to install a network access line. The reduction is equal to one-half of such amount, not to exceed thirty dollars.	
1.6.3 Enhanced Lifeline		
A.	In addition to the reduction provided for under Lifeline (refer to Section 1.6.1), qualifying low-income individuals living on tribal lands are eligible to receive an additional basic monthly service rate reduction such that a minimum basic monthly service rate of one dollar, per month, per primary residential connection will apply.	
1.6.4 Expanded Link-Up America		
A.	In addition to the reduction provided for under Link-Up America (refer to Section 1.6.2), qualifying low income individuals living on tribal lands are eligible to receive an additional reduction on their service connection charges, not to exceed \$70.00, such that the combined reductions do not exceed one-hundred dollars per qualifying low income subscriber.	
1.	The combined reduction is intended to cover any standard charges imposed as a condition of initiating service, including both line extension and initial connection charges up to the maximum amount of one hundred dollars. This reduction is not applicable to CPE, customer premises wiring (i.e., inside wiring), or other costs incurred on the customer side of the network interface/demarcation point.	