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December 10, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Massaro:

We are filing, herewith, for effect January 9, 2021, tariff material consisting of:

(PUC RI No. 18)

Part/Section	Revision of Page(s)	Original of Page(s)
B/2	N/A	2.4 and 2.5
B/5	1 and 1.1	1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6

With this filing, Verizon Rhode Island ("Verizon RI") proposes changes associated with the recent decision of the FCC in WC Docket No. 19-308, Modernizing Unbundling and Resale Requirements in an Era of Next-Generation Networks and Services, Report and Order (rel. October 28, 2020), related to unbundled access to network elements.

Additionally, an administrative change is required to move a footnote from page 1.6 to page 1.

Sincerely,

Manager Regulatory - RI

cc: Senior Rate Analyst

Attachment



2. Unbundled IOF Transport

2.1 Description

2.1.1 General

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- L. Implementation of the 2020 UNE/Resale Order
- 1. General
- a. This paragraph 2.1.1.L. implements the actions taken by the FCC in WC Docket No. 19-308, Modernizing Unbundling and Resale Requirements in an Era of Next-Generation Networks and Services, Report and Order (rel. October 28, 2020) (the "Report and Order"), related to unbundled access to network elements.
- **b.** For purposes of this paragraph 2.1.1.L., "Effective Date" means the date on which the Report and Order takes effect.
- c. Nothing in this paragraph 2.1.1.L. is intended to expand the availability of any unbundled network element, or to make such elements available if they would not be available but for this paragraph. For the avoidance of any doubt, other paragraphs of this Tariff have previously discontinued the availability of certain unbundled network elements that are referenced in this paragraph, or limited their availability based on certain criteria, and nothing in this paragraph is intended to alter any such discontinuations or limitations.
- **d.** The definitions of various discontinued unbundled network elements in this paragraph 2.1.1.L are intended to apply to all network elements described by those definitions, regardless of the names used to refer to them in other sections of this Tariff. By way of example and not limitation, the term "UNE Loop" includes network elements referred to as "links" in certain portions of this Tariff.
- 2. UNE Dark Fiber Transport
- **a.** For purposes of this subparagraph 2.1.1.L.2.:
- i. The term "UNE Dark Fiber Transport" means unactivated optical interoffice transmission facilities that are provided on an unbundled basis, and, for avoidance of doubt, includes "IOF Dark Fiber" as the term is used in other sections of this Tariff.
- ii. Tier 3 wire center is as defined in §2.1.1.J.3. of this Tariff.
- iii. A "Listed Wire Center" is a wire center that is within a half mile of an alternative source of fiber, as listed in an August 1, 2019 Public Release of the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau in WC Docket 18-141 (including any subsequent additions or modifications made to such list from time to time).
- **b.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of this §2.1.1., but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraph c, below, UNE Dark Fiber Transport will not be available from Verizon on or after the Effective Date unless at least one end of the transport route is a Tier 3 wire center that is not a Listed Wire Center.
- c. Any UNE Dark Fiber Transport purchased before the Effective Date will continue to be provisioned through the date eight years after the Effective Date at the rates set forth in this Tariff, unless discontinued by the customer or terminated by Verizon for any reason authorized by this Tariff or by general regulations applicable to this Tariff (such as non-payment). After such date, Verizon will no longer provide or maintain any UNE Dark Fiber Transport.

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2. Unbundled IOF Transport

2.1 Description

2.1.1 General

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- L. (Cont'd)
- 3. Operations Support Systems Functions
- **a.** For purposes of this subparagraph 2.1.1.L.3., the term "Operations Support System Functions" means pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing functions supported by Verizon's databases and information.
- **b.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of this §2.1.1., but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraph c, below, unbundled access to Operations Support Systems Functions will not be available from Verizon on or after the Effective Date, except when such functions are used to manage other unbundled network elements, local interconnection, or local number portability.
- **c.** Any unbundled access to Operations Support System Functions eliminated pursuant to subparagraph b, above, will continue to be provisioned for the period in which unbundled access is available to the network elements managed through the use of such functions, but not after such period.
- **4.** Discontinued UNEs and Replacement Arrangements
- **a.** For purposes of this subparagraph 2.1.1.L.4., a "Discontinued UNE" is a network element, access to which is or will be no longer available on an unbundled basis under the terms of this paragraph 2.1.1.L. The date after which Verizon will no longer continue to provision a Discontinued UNE is the End Date.
- b. Where the customer previously purchasing such Discontinued UNE has not submitted to Verizon a Local Service Request ("LSR"), Access Service Request ("ASR"), or other authorized form of order requesting disconnection of the product on or before the End Date, and has not separately secured from Verizon an available alternative arrangement to replace the product on or before the End Date, then Verizon may disconnect the subject Discontinued UNE on the End Date without further notice to the customer.
- c. In lieu of disconnecting the subject Discontinued UNE on the End Date in the circumstances set forth in subparagraph b, above, Verizon, in its sole discretion, may elect, with at least 30 days advance notice to the customer, to: (i) convert the subject Discontinued UNE to a resale arrangement, to an arrangement available under another Verizon tariff or product guide (in which case month-to-month rates shall apply unless Verizon determines that the circuit is eligible for a different plan to which the customer then subscribes), or to some other commercial arrangement; or (ii) in lieu of such a conversion, reprice the subject Discontinued UNE by application of a new rate (or, in Verizon's sole discretion, by application of a surcharge to an existing rate) to be equivalent to the price that would apply in (i) preceding. Verizon may disconnect the subject Discontinued UNE (or the replacement service to which the Discontinued UNE has been converted) if the customer fails to pay when due any applicable new rate or surcharge billed by Verizon. The customer shall cooperate with Verizon in implementing the requirements of this paragraph 2.1.1.L.4. and shall promptly submit any LSR or ASR and take such other action that may be needed to implement such requirements.

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5. Local Loops5.1 Two Wire Links

5.1.1 Description

- **A.** Links provide a transmission facility between a distribution frame, or its equivalent, in the Telephone Company's central office, and the network interface device at the end user's premises. Links are always provisioned with a Telephone Company provided NID.
- **B.** Two Wire Links— Available for the transmission of analog or digital signals between the Telephone Company's central office and the network interface device at the end user's premises.
- 1. Analog (Basic Link)— Provides a channel for the transmission of analog signals with an approximate bandwidth of 300-3000 Hz from an end user's premises to a point of interconnection at a collocation arrangement in the Telephone Company's central office.
- 2. Digital (ISDN Capable Link)— Provides an enhanced channel, equivalent to a two-wire loop less than 18,000 feet with total bridge tap less than 6,000 feet, from an end user's premises to a point of interconnection at a collocation arrangement in the Telephone Company's central office. The Telephone Company maintains the option to choose to provision these loops using either copper or fiber facilities. Digital two wire link facilities are equivalent to those used by the Telephone Company to support the Telephone Company's ISDN Basic Service^{1, 2} which operates digital signals at 160 kbps.
- C. Implementation of UNE Analog Loop Provisions of the Loop-Resale Forbearance Order
- 1. This paragraph 5.1.1.C implements the actions taken by the FCC in WC Docket 18-141, Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) to Accelerate Investment in Broadband and Next-Generation Networks, Memorandum Opinion and Order (rel. August 2, 2019), with respect to UNE Analog Loops. For purposes of this paragraph and of paragraph 5.1.1.D, "UNE Analog Loops" means unbundled two-wire or four-wire analog voice-grade copper loops, by whatever name such loops may be referred to in this Tariff or elsewhere, including, but not limited to, where the term "link" is used in lieu of "loop": (a) whether provided or utilized as stand-alone UNEs, in combination with another UNEs, or commingled with non-UNE services or other arrangements; and (b) whether originally ordered as UNEs or created through the conversion of private line or special access circuits or other services or arrangements.
- 2. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of section 5.1.1C, but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraphs 3 and 4, below, UNE Analog Loops are not available from Verizon.
- 3. New purchases of or conversions to UNE Analog Loops that would be precluded under subparagraph (2), above, but that would otherwise be available under this Tariff, may be made for installations occurring through February 2, 2020, but may not be made for installations occurring after such date.
- 4. Any UNE Analog Loops purchased as such or created by conversion at any time up to and including February 2, 2020 will continue to be provisioned through August 2, 2022 at the rates set forth in this Tariff, unless discontinued by the customer or terminated by Verizon for any reason authorized by this Tariff or by general regulations applicable to this Tariff (such as non-payment). After such date, Verizon will no longer provide or maintain any UNE Analog Loop.
- 5. Nothing in this paragraph 5.1.1C is intended to expand the availability of UNE Analog Loops or to make such loops available if they would not be available but for this paragraph.
- Please refer to Part F, Section 1.1.1A for additional limitations on the availability of ISDN Basic Service.
- Please refer to Part F, Section 1.1.1B for additional limitations on the availability of ISDN Basic Service with Digital Centrex.

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5. Local Loops

5.1 Two Wire Links

5.1.1 Description

- **D.** Replacement Arrangements
- 1. Where any UNE Analog Loop is no longer available under the terms of paragraph 5.1.1.C, above, and the customer previously purchasing such Discontinued UNE has not submitted to Verizon a Local Service Request ("LSR"), Access Service Request ("ASR"), or other authorized form of order requesting disconnection of the product, and has not separately secured from Verizon an available alternative arrangement to replace the product, then Verizon may disconnect the subject UNE Analog Loop without further notice to the customer.
- 2. In lieu of disconnecting the subject UNE Analog Loop in the circumstances set forth in subparagraph 5.1.1.D.1, above, Verizon, in its sole discretion, may elect, with at least 30 days advance notice to the customer, to: (a) convert the subject UNE Analog Loop to a resale arrangement, to an arrangement available under another Verizon tariff or product guide (in which case month-to-month rates shall apply unless Verizon determines that the circuit is eligible for a different plan to which the customer then subscribes), or to some other commercial arrangement; or (b) in lieu of such a conversion, reprice the subject UNE Analog Loop by application of a new rate (or, in Verizon's sole discretion, by application of a surcharge to an existing rate) to be equivalent to the price that would apply in (a) preceding. Verizon may disconnect the subject UNE Analog Loop (or the replacement service to which the UNE Analog Loop has been converted) if the customer fails to pay when due any applicable new rate or surcharge billed by Verizon. The customer shall cooperate with Verizon in implementing the requirements of this paragraph 5.1.1.D and shall promptly submit any LSR or ASR and take such other action that may be needed to implement such requirements.
- E. Implementation of the 2020 UNE/Resale Order
- 1. General
- a. This paragraph 5.1.1.E. implements the actions taken by the FCC in WC Docket No. 19-308, Modernizing Unbundling and Resale Requirements in an Era of Next-Generation Networks and Services, Report and Order (rel. October 28, 2020) (the "Report and Order"), related to unbundled access to network elements.
- **b.** For purposes of this paragraph 5.1.1.E., "Effective Date" means the date on which the Report and Order takes effect.
- c. Nothing in this paragraph 5.1.1.E. is intended to expand the availability of any unbundled network element, or to make such elements available if they would not be available but for this paragraph. For the avoidance of any doubt, other paragraphs of this Tariff have previously discontinued the availability of certain unbundled network elements that are referenced in this paragraph, or limited their availability based on certain criteria, and nothing in this paragraph is intended to alter any such discontinuations or limitations.
- d. The definitions of various discontinued unbundled network elements in this paragraph 5.1.1.E. are intended to apply to all network elements described by those definitions, regardless of the names used to refer to them in other sections of this Tariff. By way of example and not limitation, the term "UNE Loop" includes network elements referred to as "links" in certain portions of this Tariff.

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5. Local Loops

5.1 Two Wire Links

5.1.1 Description

- E. (Cont'd)
- 2. UNE Loops
- **a.** For purposes of this subparagraph 5.1.1.E.2:
- i. "UNE Loop" means a loop, as the term is defined in 47 CFR § 51.319(a), that is provided as an unbundled network element: (a) whether provided or utilized as a stand-alone UNE, in combination with other UNEs, or commingled with non-UNE services or other arrangements; and (b) whether originally ordered as a UNE or created through the conversion of private line or special access circuits or other services or arrangements.
- ii. A "Competitive County" is a county included in the FCC's list of "Counties Deemed Competitive," available at https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-344863A1.pdf, or any updated version of such list issued by the FCC from time to time. Once a county meets (or has met) the definition of a "Competitive County," any future change in that status shall not result in the resumption of any unbundling obligation that previously ceased or any new unbundling obligation where none previously existed.
- **b.** DS1 and DS3 UNE Loops
- i. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of this §5.1.1., but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraphs ii and iii, below, DS1 and DS3 UNE Loops will no longer be available on or after the Effective Date in any case in which the end user served by such loop is located in any Competitive County.
- ii. New purchases of DS1 UNE Loops that would be precluded under subparagraph i above, may be made for installations occurring within 24 months after the Effective Date, but may not be made for installations occurring more than 24 months after the Effective Date. No special access circuits may be converted to DS1 UNE Loops after the Effective Date. Any DS1 UNE Loops purchased as such or created by conversion at any time up to the Effective Date, or any new installations (not conversions) purchased within 24 months after the Effective Date, will continue to be provisioned through the date 42 months after the Effective Date at the rates set forth in this Tariff, unless discontinued by the customer or terminated by Verizon for any reason authorized by this Tariff or by general regulations applicable to this Tariff (such as non-payment). After such date, Verizon will no longer provide or maintain any DS1 UNE Loop in a Competitive County.
- iii. Any DS3 UNE Loops purchased as such or created by conversion at any time up to the Effective Date will continue to be provisioned through the date 36 months after the Effective Date at the rates set forth in this Tariff, unless discontinued by the customer or terminated by Verizon for any reason authorized by this Tariff or by general regulations applicable to this Tariff (such as non-payment). After such date, Verizon will no longer provide or maintain any DS3 UNE Loop in a Competitive County.

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5. Local Loops

5.1 Two Wire Links

5.1.1 Description

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- E. (Cont'd)
- **2.** (Cont'd)
- c. DS0 UNE Loops and Associated UNE Copper Subloops
- i. For purposes of this subparagraph 5.1.1.E.2.c the term "DS0 UNE Loop" means any unbundled digital copper loop, or an unbundled two-wire or four-wire copper loop conditioned to transmit digital signals, and includes subloops thereof, but does not include any UNE Analog Loop as defined in paragraph 5.1.1.C.1, above.
- ii. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of this §5.1.1., but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraph iii, below, DS0 UNE Loops and their associated subloops will not be available on or after the Effective Date in any census block that is determined by the United States Census Bureau to be located in an urbanized area. For the avoidance of any doubt, any subloops meeting the definition of "Multiunit Premises UNE Subloop" are governed by 5.1.1.E.2.e., below, and not by this paragraph.
- iii. New purchases of DS0 UNE Loops that would be precluded under subparagraph ii, above, may be made for installations occurring within 24 months after the Effective Date. Any DS0 UNE Loops purchased before the Effective Date or within 24 months after the Effective Date ("Grandfathered DS0 UNE Loops"), will continue to be provisioned through the date 48 months after the Effective Date, unless discontinued by the customer or terminated by Verizon for any reason authorized by this Tariff or by general regulations applicable to this Tariff (such as non-payment). After such date, Verizon will no longer provide or maintain any DS0 UNE Loop in urbanized areas. Grandfathered DS0 UNE Loops will be provided at the rates set forth in this Tariff for the first 36 months after the Effective Date. Such loops will be provided at 125% of the rates set forth in this Tariff from the 37th through the 47th month after the Effective Date, inclusive; provided, however, that Verizon may at any time during such period specify a lower rate by an amendment to this subparagraph filed on one day's notice.
- d. UNE Narrowband Voice-Grade Loops
- i. For purposes of this subparagraph 5.1.1.E.2.d:
- (A) The terms "fiber loops" and "hybrid loops" are as defined by the FCC in 47 CFR §51.319(a)(2) and (a)(3). The term "hybrid loop" includes a spare home-run copper loop when provided in lieu of access to a hybrid loop but does not include UNE Analog Loops as defined in paragraph 5.1.1.C.1, above.
- (B) The term "Grandfathered 64 kbps voice-grade channel" means a 64 kbps voice-grade channel over a fiber loop as defined by the FCC in 47 CFR §51.319(a)(3)(iii)(C) as in effect immediately before the Effective Date, such 64 kbps voice-grade channels having been grandfathered by the FCC in WC Docket No. 14-192, Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Enforcement of Obsolete ILEC Legacy Regulations That Inhibit Deployment of Next Generation Networks, Memorandum Opinion and Order, (rel. December 28, 2015).

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5. Local Loops

5.1 Two Wire Links

5.1.1 Description

- E. (Cont'd)
- **2.** (Cont'd)
- d. (Cont'd)
- ii. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of this §5.1.1., but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraph iii, below, hybrid loops will not be available from Verizon on or after the Effective Date. For avoidance of doubt, subloops of UNE Analog Loops are not available from Verizon in cases where the underlying UNE Analog Loop is not available under paragraph 5.1.1.C., above.
- iii. Any hybrid loops or Grandfathered 64 kbps voice-grade channels purchased before the Effective Date will continue to be provisioned through the date 36 months after the Effective Date at the rates set forth in this Tariff, unless discontinued by the customer or terminated by Verizon for any reason authorized by this Tariff or by general regulations applicable to this Tariff (such as non-payment). After such date, Verizon will no longer provide or maintain any hybrid loops or Grandfathered 64 kbps voice-grade channels.
- e. | Multiunit Premises UNE Subloops
- i. For purposes of this subparagraph 5.1.1.E.2.e., the term "Multiunit Premises UNE Subloop" is as defined in 47 CFR § 51.319(b)(2) immediately before the Effective Date, and, for avoidance of doubt, includes House and Riser Cable as referred to in other sections of this Tariff.
- ii. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of this §5.1.1., but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraph iii, below, unbundled access to Multiunit Premises UNE Subloops will not be available from Verizon on or after the Effective Date.
- iii. Any Multiunit Premises UNE Subloops purchased on an unbundled basis before the Effective Date will continue to be provisioned through the date 36 months after the Effective Date at the rates set forth in this Tariff, unless discontinued by the customer or terminated by Verizon for any reason authorized by this Tariff or by general regulations applicable to this Tariff (such as non-payment). After such date, Verizon will no longer provide or maintain unbundled access to any Multiunit Premises UNE Subloops.

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5. Local Loops

5.1 Two Wire Links

5.1.1 Description

- E. (Cont'd)
- 3. Network Interface Devices
- **a.** For purposes of this subparagraph 5.1.1.E.3., the term "Network Interface Device," or "NID," refers to any means of interconnection of customer premises wiring to the incumbent LEC's distribution plant, such as a cross-connect device used for that purpose.
- **b.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of this §5.1.1., but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraph c, below, unbundled access to NIDs will not be available from Verizon on or after the Effective Date.
- c. Any unbundled NIDs purchased before the Effective Date will continue to be provisioned through the date 36 months after the Effective Date at the rates set forth in this Tariff, unless discontinued by the customer or terminated by Verizon for any reason authorized by this Tariff or by general regulations applicable to this Tariff (such as non-payment). After such date, Verizon will no longer provide or maintain any unbundled NIDs.
- 4. Operations Support Systems Functions
- **a.** For purposes of this subparagraph 5.1.1.E.4.,the term "Operations Support System Functions" means pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing functions supported by Verizon's databases and information.
- **b.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Tariff, including the preceding provisions of this §5.1.1., but subject to the transitional provisions set forth in subparagraph c, below, unbundled access to Operations Support Systems Functions will not be available from Verizon on or after the Effective Date, except when such functions are used to manage other unbundled network elements, local interconnection, or local number portability.
- Any unbundled access to Operations Support System Functions eliminated pursuant to subparagraph b, above, will continue to be provisioned for the period in which unbundled access is available to the network elements managed through the use of such functions, but not after such period.
- **5.** Discontinued UNEs and Replacement Arrangements
- **a.** For purposes of this subparagraph 5.1.1.E.5., a "Discontinued UNE" is a network element, access to which is or will be no longer available on an unbundled basis under the terms of this paragraph 5.1.1.E. The date after which Verizon will no longer continue to provision a Discontinued UNE is the End Date.
- **b.** Where the customer previously purchasing such Discontinued UNE has not submitted to Verizon a Local Service Request ("LSR"), Access Service Request ("ASR"), or other authorized form of order requesting disconnection of the product on or before the End Date, and has not separately secured from Verizon an available alternative arrangement to replace the product on or before the End Date, then Verizon may disconnect the subject Discontinued UNE on the End Date without further notice to the customer.

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5. Local Loops

5.1 Two Wire Links

5.1.1 Description

E. (Cont'd)

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c. In lieu of disconnecting the subject Discontinued UNE on the End Date in the circumstances set forth in subparagraph b, above, Verizon, in its sole discretion, may elect, with at least 30 days advance notice to the customer, to: (i) convert the subject Discontinued UNE to a resale arrangement, to an arrangement available under another Verizon tariff or product guide (in which case month-to-month rates shall apply unless Verizon determines that the circuit is eligible for a different plan to which the customer then subscribes), or to some other commercial arrangement; or (ii) in lieu of such a conversion, reprice the subject Discontinued UNE by application of a new rate (or, in Verizon's sole discretion, by application of a surcharge to an existing rate) to be equivalent to the price that would apply in (i) preceding. Verizon may disconnect the subject Discontinued UNE (or the replacement service to which the Discontinued UNE has been converted) if the customer fails to pay when due any applicable new rate or surcharge billed by Verizon. The customer shall cooperate with Verizon in implementing the requirements of this paragraph 5.1.1.E.5. and shall promptly submit any LSR or ASR and take such other action that may be needed to implement such requirements.

5.1.2 Responsibility of the Telephone Company

A. The Telephone Company will make trouble report status available to the TC.

B. The suspension/termination of a TC's link for non-payment or for a cause other than non-payment will result in the suspension/termination of the link. The Telephone Company will notify the TC prior to the termination date.

5.1.3 Responsibility of the TC

- A. The TC is responsible for coordinating with the Telephone Company to ensure that the unbundled element is installed in accordance with the TC's request.
- **B.** The TC is responsible for initiating, testing and sectionalizing (isolating) all end user trouble reports. The Telephone Company is responsible for testing, if necessary, with the TC to clear a trouble when the trouble has been previously sectionalized to the link.
- **C.** The TC is responsible for providing a contact number that is readily accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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