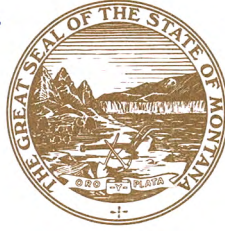


Montana Public Service Commission



Brad Johnson - Chairman
Travis Kavulla - Vice Chairman
Roger Koopman - Commissioner
Bob Lake - Commissioner
Tony O'Donnell - Commissioner

August 10, 2017

Mr. Michael Green
Mr. Wiley D. Barker
Crowley Fleck PLLP
900 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 200
P.O. Box 797
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Data requests in Docket D2017.6.50

Dear Mr. Green and Mr. Barker,

Enclosed please find data requests PSC-001 through PSC-013 of the Montana Public Service Commission to Commnet Wireless, LLC, in the above-referenced docket. Please begin the response to each new numbered data request on a new page and clearly identify the respondent. If the initial data request is objectionable or seeks confidential information, Commnet Wireless, LLC. Must respond accordingly and proceed to object or file a motion for protective order no later than the deadline to respond. Please respond no later than September 1, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 444-6185.

Sincerely,

Mike Dalton
Rate Analyst
Regulatory Division
Montana Public Service Commission

Service Date: August 10, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of Commnet) REGULATORY DIVISION
Wireless, LLC, for Designation as an Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier) DOCKET NO. D2017.6.50

**DATA REQUESTS PSC-001 THROUGH PSC-013 OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION TO COMMNET WIRELESS, LLC.**

PSC-001

Regarding: Form 481 and Form 690
Witness: Ranaraja

Please provide a copy of Commnet's most current and unredacted Form 481 and Form 690 for Study Area Code (SAC) 488013.

PSC-002

Regarding: Timing of ETC designation
Witness: Ranaraja

- a. What is the beginning date that Commnet seeks ETC designation for in Big Horn County?
- b. Is it your understanding that if the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) issues an Order approving Commnet's Petition in this docket, USAC will either adjust the boundaries of SAC 488013 to include the requested census tract in Big Horn County, or will create an additional, separate SAC specific to the census blocks in Big Horn County?
- c. The Commission must re-certify all ETCs in Montana by October 1, 2017 for the 2018 support year, including Commnet in SAC 488013. If the Commission approves Commnet's Petition prior to October 1, 2017, in your opinion, will the Commission need to re-certify Commnet as an ETC in Big Horn County on October 1, 2017?
- d. If the answer to part (c) of this question is yes, how can the Commission re-certify Commnet as an ETC in Big Horn County on October 1, 2017 without the relevant reporting requirements for operations in Big Horn County, including Form 481 and Form 690?

- e. Explain how you envision the timing of the following events: (potential) approval of ETC designation for Commnet in the Big Horn county census tract, (potential) re-certification of ETC designation for Commnet on the Rosebud County census tract, (potential) re-certification of ETC designation for Commnet on the Big Horn County census tract, and either an adjustment by USAC of the boundaries of SAC 488013 to include the requested census tract in Big Horn County, or the creation of a new, separate SAC to include the requested census tract in Big Horn County.

PSC-003

Regarding: Financial information

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. Provide a balance sheet for Commnet operations in Montana that reflects activity since Commnet began operating in Montana.
- b. Provide an income statement for Commnet in Montana that reflects activity since Commnet began operating in Montana, including proceeds from Auction 902.
- c. What percentage of Commnet's revenues in Montana are made up of from proceeds from Auction 902?
- d. What percentage of Commnet's revenues in Montana are made up from federal funds distributed by USAC through the Lifeline program for eligible Montana and/or Northern Cheyenne Reservation residents?
- e. What percentage of Commnet's revenues in Montana are made up from revenues paid directly from Tribal and Non-Tribal customers who reside in Montana/Northern Cheyenne Reservation?

PSC-004

Regarding: Network buildout

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. Provide Commnet's bid in Auction 902 for the census tract in Rosebud County.
- b. Provide a breakdown of all capital expenditures related to Commnet's buildout of its current network in Rosebud County.
- c. Provide Commnet's bid in Auction 902 for the census tract in Big Horn County.
- d. Provide a breakdown of all capital expenditures related to Commnet's buildout of its current network in Big Horn County.

- e. Did the Northern Cheyenne Tribe put forth any capital related to the buildout of Commnet's network in either Rosebud County or Big Horn County?

PSC-005

Regarding: Network buildout

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. What percentage of coverage has Commnet achieved in the Rosebud County census tract for which it has been designated an ETC?
- b. What percentage of coverage has Commnet achieved in the Big Horn County census tract for which it seeks ETC designation?
- c. Does Commnet intend to build out its network further in Big Horn County if the Commission approves Commnet's Petition in this docket? If so, please provide a build-out plan.
- d. Commission rule 38.5.3213 imposes a 98% coverage requirement for ETC designation. Does Commnet intend to achieve 98% coverage in the Big Horn Country census tract for which it seeks ETC designation? If not, please explain.
- e. Please provide the underlying coverage and performance data as referenced in Attachment A to the FCC Form 690 that Commnet submitted to the Montana PSC in Docket N2017.4.34. The requested coverage and performance data is referenced in Column D titled "Certify that Coverage and Performance data is uploaded (yes/no)" of Attachment A.

PSC-006

Regarding: Network buildout

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. Provide a copy of all annual reports that have been filed with the FCC per 47 CFR § 54.1009.
- b. Provide a history of all payments that have been made to Commnet to build out its network in Montana as a result of its winning bid in Auction 902.

PSC-007

Regarding: Customers

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. How many Lifeline subscribers does Commnet currently serve in Rosebud County? Please break out the number between both Tribal and non-Tribal Lifeline subscribers.

- b. What is the total population in Commnet's service area in Rosebud County according to the 2010 US Census?
- c. How many customers does Commnet currently serve in Big Horn County? Of those customers, how many does Commnet expect would qualify for Lifeline?
- d. What is the total population in Commnet's service area in Big Horn County according to the 2010 US Census?
- e. How many additional Lifeline customers (both Tribal and non-Tribal) does Commnet to obtain if its application in this docket is approved? Do all of the expected additional customers reside in Big Horn County? How did Commnet estimate the annual receipts from the Lifeline fund for consumers in Big Horn County will be less than \$100,000? See page 13 of your direct testimony.

PSC-008

Regarding: Phone plans

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. The URL provided on page 8 of the Petition does not appear to be valid. Is the correct URL <https://us.choice-wireless.com/lifeline-plans.html> ?
- b. Based on the URL provided in part (a) of this question, it appears the Non-Tribal Lifeline Plan does not offer Extended Nationwide Coverage. If that is correct, does this mean a Non-Tribal Lifeline customer cannot make/receive phone calls or use data outside of Commnet's network?
- c. Based on the URL provided in part (a) of this question, one of the conditions of the Tribal Lifeline Plan appears to be: "Plan requires 70% cellphone usage to be in Home Network Area or Choice Acceptable Use Policy Applies". Please 1) explain what the Home Network Area is, 2) provide a copy of the Choice Acceptable Use Policy, and 3) briefly explain the terms of the Choice Acceptable Use Policy and how it is applied, including a description of fees charged to the customer.
- d. Please confirm all of Commnet's phone plans are offered on a month-to-month basis (and customer is not under contract for a set term extending beyond one month).

PSC-009

Regarding: Phone plans

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. If a customer reaches the limit on his/her minutes and/or data, is that customer able to obtain additional minutes and/or data using the pricing plan under the 'Pay As You Go'

section at <https://us.choice-wireless.com/lifeline-plans.html> ? That is, for additional calling minutes, 5¢/minute on-network and 10¢/minute off-network, and for additional data \$50/GB on-network and \$100/GB off-network. If not, please explain the cost involved for additional minutes or data once a customer reaches the limit specified in his/her plan.

- b. Once a customer reaches the limit specified in his/her phone plan for minutes or data, does the customer need to call Commnet and request additional minutes or data? Or can the customer simply keep using his/her phone for additional minutes or data without contacting Commnet and is charged after the fact?
- c. Does Commnet offer any non-lifeline plans?

PSC-010

Regarding: Eligibility

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. How many Lifeline applications has Commnet denied in Montana due to a customer's inability to verify eligibility?
- b. Explain in detail what "detailed and comprehensive procedures" Commnet has in place to address Lifeline certification and verification requirements as referenced on page 9 of your direct testimony.
- c. Explain in detail what procedures Commnet has in place to ensure Lifeline eligibility as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.410.
- d. When do you expect the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier to be available?

PSC-011

Regarding: USAC disbursements

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. When one utilizes the USAC Lifeline disbursement search tool at <https://usac.org/li/tools/disbursements/default.aspx> , there do not appear to be any returns for Commnet, SAC 488013, or 498 ID 143044019. Please explain why that is the case.
- b. Provide a dollar figure for the amount of Lifeline reimbursements Commnet has received for SAC 488013, on a month-by-month basis since it began its operations, for all eligible Lifeline customers.
- c. The high cost disbursement search tool at <https://www.usac.org/hc/tools/disbursements/results.aspx> indicates Commnet received about \$788,000 in October 2014 and \$1,436,051 in December 2016 for SAC 488013

from the Mobility fund. Are those the dollars that Commnet received as a result of its winning bid in Auction 902 in order to build out its network on the Rosebud County census tract in the Northern Cheyenne reservation? If not, please explain.

PSC-012

Regarding: Relationship with Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. Do you have support from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe for your Petition in this docket?
- b. Please provide any documentation or evidence that you have available which indicates the Northern Cheyenne Tribe has been satisfied with the service Commnet has provided in Rosebud and Big Horn Counties up to this point, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe support Commnet's Petition in this docket.

PSC-013

Regarding: Spectrum

Witness: Ranaraja

- a. What spectrum will Commnet be utilizing to provide service in Montana?
- b. Provide evidence that Commnet will have adequate spectrum available to it for the foreseeable future to provide service in both Rosebud and Big Horn Counties.