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August 19, 2005

Colleen Ryan
Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Division
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Changes to Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s General Exchange Tariff No. 2
– Arizona to comply with Docket T-00000A-05-0380, Decision No. 67941

Dear Colleen:

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. hereby submits for filing the following changes in its General Exchange Tariff – Arizona. The purpose of this filing is to update the tariff to comply with the provisions of Docket T-00000A-05-0380, Decision No. 67941, regarding the Expanded Eligibility Criteria for Lifeline and Link-Up and Certification, Verification and Recordkeeping Requirements effective June 21, 2005.

This filing will not increase any existing charge or rate, cause the withdrawal of service or conflict with other rules.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the number above or Jeff Crockett at (602) 382-6234.

Very truly yours,

Snell & Wilmer

Marcie Montgomery

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Enclosures

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Changes to
Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s General Exchange Tariff No. 2 – Arizona

1st Revised Section/Sheet No.	<u>5-8</u>
1st Revised Section/Sheet No.	<u>5-9</u>
Insert New Section/Sheet No.	<u>5-10</u>
Insert New Section/Sheet No.	<u>5-11</u>
Insert New Section/Sheet No.	<u>5-12</u>

5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(D) Lifeline Assistance - Regulations

(1) Lifeline Assistance is available to all residential customers who meet the following eligibility requirements:

(a) Customers must participate in one of the following programs:

Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), federal public housing assistance or Section 8 (a Federal Housing Assistance Program administered by the Department of Urban Development), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program (TANF), the National School Lunch free lunch program (NSL), or

Have household income that is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

(b) To receive benefits, customers must sign under penalty of perjury a document certifying as follows:

(i) He/she is receiving benefits from one of the programs in 5.7(D) (1) (a) above or he/she has household income that is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

(CT)
(CT)
(CT)

5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(D) Lifeline Assistance - Regulations

(1) Lifeline Assistance requirements

(b) Certification to receive benefits (Cont'd)

(ii) He/she must provide the name of the program (CT)
 from which he/she is receiving benefits or
 provide supporting documents showing his/her
 household income is at or below 150% of Federal
 Poverty Guidelines. The supporting documents
 must be one of the following: 1) prior year's
 state, federal, or tribal tax return,
 2) current income statements from an employer
 or paycheck stub, 3) a Social Security
 statement of benefits, 4) a Veterans
 Administration statement of benefits, 5) a
 retirement/pension statement of benefits,
 6) an Unemployment/Workman's Compensation
 statement of benefits, 7) Bureau of Indian
 Affairs (BIA) general assistance program, 8) a
 divorce decree or child support document. If
 he/she chooses to submit anything other than
 the prior year's income tax return, he/she must
 then present three consecutive month's of the
 alternate supporting documentation selected
 that is within the most recent twelve
 consecutive months.

(iii) He/she will notify the company if he/she no
 longer participates in the program named in
 5.7(D) (1) (a) above or if his/her household
 income increases above 150% of the Federal
 Poverty Guidelines. (CT)

(2) As a participant in Lifeline Assistance, customers are
 eligible to receive Toll Restriction Service at no
 charge. This service will only be provided at the
 customer's request.

(3) Local Service deposit requirements will be waived for
 customers who voluntarily receive Toll Restriction
 Service.

Decision No. _____

Date Filed 08/19/2005

Date Effective /05

Issuing Officer: Steve Metts CEO & General Manager, Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

5. Local Exchange Access Service5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)(D) Lifeline Assistance - Regulations (Continued)

- (4) Participants in Lifeline Assistance shall not be disconnected from Local Service for non-payment of toll charges. In addition, the Company will not deny re-establishment of local service to customers who are eligible for Lifeline Assistance and have previously been disconnected for non-payment of toll charges. Reconnection will provide access to local calling only unless and until payment of all charges due for outstanding toll billing, including late charges and applicable interest, is made. Lifeline Assistance will not be connected if an outstanding balance is owed by the customer for local service. (AT)
- (5) Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers will first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges. (AT)
- (6) Verification of customer continuing eligibility shall be via statistically valid sampling performed by the Company on an annual basis. (CT)
- (7) Records will be maintained by the Company in accordance with Arizona Corporation Commission Decision No. 67941 and paragraphs 38 and 39 of FCC Order No. FCC 04-87. (CT)

(E) Lifeline Assistance - Credits

The credits for Low-Income Assistance Programs are as set forth in Section 20.5(c) (1), (2).

(F) Lifeline Connection Assistance (Link-Up) - General

Link-Up reduces an eligible customer's service connection charges. All eligible customers receive a credit for half of the service connection charges up to \$30.00.

(G) Lifeline Connections Assistance - Regulations

- (1) The same eligibility requirements as outlined in Paragraph 5.7(D) (1) above will apply for Link-Up. (CT)
- (2) This credit is only available on the installation of a single residential access line to the principal residence of the eligible customer.

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5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(G) Lifeline Connections Assistance - Regulations (Continued)

(3) This credit will only apply a second or subsequent time for a principal place of residence with a different address from the previous address at which Link-Up was provided.

(4) A deferred Schedule for payment of the remaining service connection charges will be offered to Link-Up customers. The customer is not required to pay interest on the first \$200 of service connection charges that are deferred up to a year.

(H) Lifeline Connection Assistance - Credit

The credits for Low-Income Assistance Programs are as set forth in Section 20.5(c) (3).

(I) Lifeline Connection Assistance - Verification Procedures (CT)

The same verification procedures as outlined in Paragraph 5.7(D) (6) above will apply for Link-Up.

(J) Lifeline Connection Assistance - Records

The same procedures for maintaining records as outlined in Paragraph 5.7(D) (7) above will apply for Link-Up.

(CT)

5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Cont'd)

- (K) Limitation of Liability for Administering Link-Up and Lifeline Assistance (AT)

The Company shall use reasonable efforts to (1) safeguard personal information provided by a customer in connection with an application for the Company's Link-Up and/or Lifeline Assistance programs; and (2) properly determine a customer's eligibility to participate in the Company's Link-Up and/or Lifeline Assistance programs. The Company shall not be liable to a customer for any damages (actual, consequential or punitive) arising as a result of (a) the Company's unintentional or accidental disclosure to a third party of a customer's personal information provided in connection with an application for the Company's Link-Up and/or Lifeline Assistance programs; or (b) the Company's erroneous determination regarding a customer's eligibility or ineligibility to participate in the Company's Link-Up and/or Lifeline Assistance programs. In the event the Company erroneously denies a customer's application to participate in the Company's Lifeline Assistance program, the customer shall be entitled to a bill credit equal to the amount of the monthly discount applied from the date of the customer's application through the date of actual enrollment in the Lifeline Assistance program. (AT)

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Issuing Officer: Steve Metts CEO & General Manager, Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.