

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: October 3, 2018

In the Matter of Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) Review

PUC Docket Number: P999/CI-18-112

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes November 2, 2018 at 4:30pm
Reply comment period closes November 13, 2018 at 4:30pm

Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics Open for Comment:

- The current TAP credit of \$3.50 per month and the current surcharge is \$.03 per line was set by the Commission in 2013¹. What changes, if any should the Commission make to the TAP credit and/or surcharge levels?
- Consumers and stakeholder groups have informally suggested that the TAP credit may be too low compared to current telephone rates. Should the Commission re-examine the level of the TAP credit? Why or why not?
- Should the Commission take any other actions related to enhancing the effectiveness of the TAP program?

Background:

Under Minn. Stat. § 237.69 - 71, the Commission is the coordinator of the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP), a program that provides monthly bill credits to low-income telephone subscribers. The bill credits are funded by a monthly surcharge on every wireline access line in the state. The Commission has most recently considered these matters in Dockets No. CI-17-677, CI-16-302, CI-15-535, CI-14-470, CI-13-213, and CI-12-182.

On August 28, 2018, the Commission's TAP Administrator submitted a report on the Fund's status in this docket for the six month period of January to June 2018. Docket No. 17-677 contains the July-December 2017 six month review of the TAP fund.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties,

¹ See ORDER ESTABLISHING NEW CREDIT AND SURCHARGE LEVELS, Docket P999/CI-13-213, Order issued July 10, 2013. The credit of \$3.50 was raised from the prior credit of \$2.50, set in August 2011.

participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Submit Public Comments: Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!* to find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion or email your comments to consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (18) and the docket number (112), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, or click [HERE](#) and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Michael McCarthy, at Michael.mccarthy@state.mn.us or 651-201-2208.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.