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Public Utility Commission of Oregon
550 Capitol Street NE, Suite 215
P.O. Box 2148
Salem, OR 97308-2148

Re: Docket No. UM-1522 – Notice of Compliance and Update to Terms of Service

Dear Oregon Utility Commission Staff:

Pursuant to the requirements included in the Oregon Public Utility Commission’s Order No. 12015, Paragraph 25 of Appendix A, issued on January 23, 2012, in Docket Number UM 1522, Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. (“Virgin Mobile”) hereby provides 30-days prior notification to the Oregon Public Utility Commission of its intention to make enhancements to the Assurance Wireless Lifeline offers in Oregon. We wish to inform you of potential changes in our plans.

As you may know, the FCC’s Rules specify minimum service standards (“MSS”) for Lifeline service (47 C.F.R. Section 54.408). The FCC issued a Public Notice announcing that effective December 1, 2019, the mobile broadband data usage allowance would increase from 2GB per month to 8.75GB per month based on a prescribed formula.¹ On June 27, 2019, several public interest groups and CTIA jointly filed a petition for waiver requesting (among other things) that the formula-based mobile broadband MSS be paused, and that the FCC maintain the current 2GB/month MSS pending completion of the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau’s mandated *State of the Lifeline Marketplace Report*.² The Joint Petitioners demonstrated that the dramatic increase in the mobile broadband MSS “would have a significant impact on eligible low-income consumers’ ability to access and afford Lifeline broadband plans.”³ The petition for waiver was widely supported by other public interest groups, Lifeline service providers, and various state regulatory bodies. The waiver petition is currently pending before the FCC.

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the mobile broadband minimum usage allowance that will go into effect on December 1, 2019, Sprint’s Virgin Mobile USA affiliate, which

¹ “Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Updated Lifeline Minimum Service Standards and Indexed Budget Amount,” FCC Public Notice DA 19-704, released July 25, 2019.

² Joint Petition to Pause Implementation of December 2019 Lifeline Minimum Service Standards Pending Forthcoming Marketplace Study, filed June 27, 2019 by CTIA, National Consumer Law Center, National Hispanic Media Coalition, OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates, and United Church of Christ, OC, Inc., (“Joint Petition”) WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, and 10-90.

³ Joint Petition, p. 4.

provides Lifeline service under the brand Assurance Wireless, has developed a contingent offer that will be available in Oregon as of that date.

If the federal mobile broadband MSS remains at 2GB per month, the Assurance Wireless Lifeline offer will remain unchanged: 2GB of mobile broadband, 750 voice minutes, and unlimited texts per month; no end user charge. Assurance Wireless will also continue to provide a handset to its Lifeline subscribers free of charge.

If the federal mobile broadband MSS increases to 8.75GB per month on December 1, 2019, the Assurance Wireless Lifeline offer will be as follows: 8.75GB of mobile broadband, 750 voice minutes, and unlimited texts per month. Because Assurance Wireless currently does not have the capability to bill its end users, we will not be assessing an end user charge for either the Lifeline service or for the Lifeline device on December 1, 2019. However, on January 1, 2020, we will begin charging \$20 per device for in-person (face-to-face) sales to new customers to the extent that channel is available in Oregon. On February 1, 2020, we will begin charging \$20 per device associated with web or paper transactions to new customers. Upon implementation of a service billing system, which is expected after deployment of the device billing platform, Assurance Wireless will begin assessing an end user charge for Lifeline service. Varying payment plans are being contemplated.

In Oregon, Assurance Wireless currently also offers a voice-only Lifeline plan of 1250 voice minutes and unlimited texts. This plan will remain in effect on December 1, 2019 but will be subject to device and service end user charges, consistent with the description in the paragraph above.

Please see Attachment 1 for the message to be delivered to existing Oregon Lifeline broadband customers if the MSS is increased to 8.75GB. Since the voice-only plan will not change, the message will not be sent to voice-only plan customers.

We appreciate Staff's continued and on-going collaborative efforts. If you have any questions regarding this notification, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached via email at: Kenneth.schifman@sprint.com or via telephone at: 913-315-9783.

Sincerely,



Ken Schifman



OR Version:

SMS:

ASWFreeMsg: Great news! Your plan just got better. Now your monthly plan includes 8.75GB of data! For more information on your plan, click

<http://msg4u.us/xxxxx>

Copy customers will see when they click on the link in the SMS:

Your monthly plan includes:

NEW! 8.75GB of high-speed Data

Unlimited Text Messages

750 Voice Minutes

What can you do with 8.75GB of data?

Each month you can view 1500 web pages, stream 60 hours of music, send 1500 text-only emails and talk using a web app for 60 hours

Or

Stream over 15 hours of standard definition video

Enjoy!

From the Assurance Wireless Team