



The Baca Connection

Baca Valley Telephone Co., Inc. ♦ Sierra Communications, Inc.

JULY 2011

Save with Bundled Service!

Basic Residential Telephone Service

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Voice Mail

Caller ID... Name and Number

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Unlimited Long Distance

Available to BVT telephone customers with residential service

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(575) 278-2101

(575) 375-2101

(575) 445-5364

Toll Free:

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Online:

bacavalley.com

bvt@bacavalley.com



Will the FCC Stay Committed To Rural America?

Following is an Op-Ed written by former North Dakota Democratic Sen. Byron Dorgan. Changes made to the Universal Service Fund will impact Baca Valley Telephone customers and could cause a substantial increase in monthly service costs.

We encourage you to contact your Federal Congressional Representatives concerning these proposed changes. Baca Valley Telephone will be providing additional information regarding these changes as well as information on how to contact your Representative.

Almost every month a new telecommunications innovation is launched that has a profound impact on our lives.

And lately we've seen the impact of these telecommunication changes in ways we never could have imagined. In past months we've watched the Egyptian government toppled by citizens using their cell phones to organize mass rallies and send videos of shocking violence against the demonstrators around the world. And in just recent days we learned that it was through sophisticated tracking of a cell phone that led our soldiers to Osama Bin Laden's doorstep in Pakistan. In both cases, a broadband wireline network infrastructure transported these important communications and changed history.

Nearly every day, billions of citizens around the globe are using their telephones, both land line and mobile, in ordinary and extraordinary ways empowering them to do new and different things. This is possible because their governments have made access to telecommunications a priority.

Here in the U.S., these communications tools are essential for our daily lives. We almost take for granted that every American has access to them. But that's not the case. People who live in rural areas have often struggled to get telephone and broadband service. They get their service only when one of the smaller telephone companies in their rural area builds out the new services to their customers.

Today there are new and real questions about whom will be able to access advanced telecommunication services in the future. Will the people who live in rural and hard-to-reach areas have the same access as other Americans?

That question is going to be answered by the actions of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the coming months. Unless the FCC protects a time-honored principle called "universal service," millions

of rural Americans could be left behind in this telecommunications revolution.

Who will have access?

"Universal service" has a long history. Decades ago, our country decided that telephone service was an essential service, and we made a commitment that no matter where you live, even in the most rural reaches of our country, you should have access to the same telecommunication services available to the people in the bigger cities. Comparable service at an affordable price — that was the basis of the policy of "universal service." It's the law of the land.

Now there is real danger ahead that the FCC could seriously undermine the concept of "universal service." The FCC has begun "reforming" the Universal Service Fund (USF) which helps communications providers (both wire-line and wireless) finance the commitments they have made to connect our remote and rural areas.

USF funding, along with intercarrier compensation (the system by which providers pay each other for use of their networks) have been key to ensuring that all Americans have access to telecommunication services no matter where they live. Recent regulatory changes have diminished these funds that small telephone companies rely on to provide service in rural America and maintain their crucial network infrastructures. Changes are absolutely necessary to reflect today's broadband world. But as these changes are made, let's make sure we strengthen, not weaken, the system that has helped connect rural America for decades.

Connecting "all" of America!

There is plenty of reason to worry that actions taken by the FCC could have a devastating effect on the ability of smaller and rural telephone companies to continue to provide the most advanced telecommunication services to their customers.

The FCC document proposing a new "Connect America Fund" as a substitute for USF describes their interest in "market-driven" policies. But history has shown us that if we had relied on the "market" to move electricity and telephone service to rural and high-cost areas, we'd still be waiting. (Or as a breathless observer once said, "we'd still be watching television by candle light.")

This rulemaking is serious business. And the FCC is pushing to complete it in the next four months. I believe the first step for the FCC must be to

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New and Updated Directory Listings

Des Moines

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Baca Valley Telephone | 278-2101 |
| Christian Faith Mission | 278-3330 |
| Cleghorn, Eleanor | 278-2505 |
| Ebell, A, Victoria | 278-3682 |
| McDonald, David | 278-2557 |
| McDonald, Debbie | 278-2577 |
| Owensby, Raymond & Kathy | 278-2407 |

Maxwell

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Baca Valley Telephone | 375-2101 |
| Baca, Socorro | 375-2218 |
| Thompson, T. J. | 375-2626 |

Clip and Keep



Directory information provided on our website
www.bacavalley.com is updated monthly.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Baca Valley Telephone Co., Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Paul J. Briesch, Jr., Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statues and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

continued from page 1

recommit to the principle of "universal service." The wrong decision by the FCC could be a disaster for the economic future of high-cost and rural areas. Without access to the latest and best telecommunications services, rural areas of our country will be on the wrong side of the digital divide, and consigned to a future without economic opportunity or development.

Reform done *right* could pave the way for sustained service and the universal build out of the latest telecommunications service to all Americans in every region of our country and the economic opportunity that comes with it.



Wire Maintenance... Are you protected?

For pennies a day you can protect your inside wiring with a wire maintenance plan from Baca Valley Telephone Company.

A maintenance plan...

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- saves you money when repairs are necessary (costs for repairs not covered under a maintenance agreement begin at \$70.00)

Wire Maintenance Plans are available to Baca Valley telephone customers in our 278 and 375 exchanges. Call our office to find out more.



Motorola Radios

Baca Valley Telephone is now a dealer for Motorola Radios.

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