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Sacred Wind Connects Its 1,300 New Customer

*Rural telecommunication company continues to increase voice and Internet availability –
70 percent increase in basic phone service availability to Navajo homes*

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – September 5, 2012 - Sacred Wind has reached its 2012 goal of installing its 1,300th new customer four months ahead of schedule, an increase in connectivity of nearly 53 percent since the company's inception in late 2006. This increase is compared to a nearly 30 percent loss of customers experienced by most telephone companies in the state and across the country since 2006.

Equally significant, by virtue of its new network construction, Sacred Wind has expanded basic phone service availability from 26 percent of all Navajo homes in its territory to over 70 percent -- an increase in availability of 170 percent. Its introduction of high speed Internet (broadband) service to its territory has accompanied its new telephone service expansion. Sacred Wind makes broadband available to 99 percent of its copper landline customers and to 100 percent of its fixed wireless customers.

"It is an honor to witness the dedication and hard work the employees of Sacred Wind demonstrate and perform for the Navajo People," said Brian Tagaban, Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission. "The Navajo Nation Telecommunications Commission Office recognizes that setting and reaching milestones are important to ensure progress and success. I wish many more successes in Sacred Wind's efforts in helping the Navajo people with their telephone and Internet needs," said Tagaban.

Mobile wireless communications are spotty in rural New Mexico, especially on Navajo tribal lands. The only way for customers living in these areas to have reliable emergency phone services and have access to telecommunications services comparable to those in urban areas is via telephone systems directly connected to the home or office.

Sacred Wind has constructed a fixed wireless telecommunications network, reputed to be the largest for voice and broadband in the country, hooking up customers' homes by way of a small roof-mounted antenna. Sacred Wind's system has served as a model for expansion in other remote tribal areas. "Our mission to provide telephone and broadband access to those most in need continues to be realized," said John Badal, president of Sacred Wind.

Sacred Wind's network is built with a low interest loan from the Rural Utilities Service bureau (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Much of that loan, over \$40,000,000, has been spent locally on New Mexican contractors, goods and services. The RUS has designated Sacred Wind a success story.

About Sacred Wind Communications

Sacred Wind Communications is a privately owned, FCC recognized rural telecommunications and New Mexico-based company. We are dedicated to improving telecommunications services to rural areas within New Mexico. Focused primarily on introducing basic telephone and advanced Internet services to the thousands of underserved homes on Navajo lands, Sacred Wind also offers advanced services to remote non-Navajo communities, governmental entities and businesses in its territory. Sacred Wind was voted "**The Most Inspiring Small Business in America**" in 2009 in a national American Express/NBC Universal *Shine A Light* contest. For more information, please visit www.sacredwindcommunications.com.

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