



December 31, 2024

Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP

Attorney General Anthony G. Brown
Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
E-mail: idtheft@oag.state.md.us

271 17th Street, NW
Suite 2400
Atlanta, GA 30363-1017

t: 404.872.7000
f: 404.888.7490

Re: Notice of Data Incident

Dear Attorney General Brown:

Pursuant to Maryland's Personal Information Protection Act, Md. Code Ann. Comm. Law 14-3504 ("PIPA"), I am writing to notify you on behalf of our client, Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("CVTC"), of a data exposure incident that may affect two (2) Maryland residents.

NATURE OF THE BREACH

On November 21, 2024, CVTC was notified that a threat actor had obtained CVTC digital equipment, which included Social Security numbers and capital credit account information.

STEPS TAKEN RELATING TO THE INCIDENT

Upon becoming aware of the incident, CVTC promptly launched an internal investigation. CVTC will notify the Maryland residents on January 2, 2025. A copy of the notice is attached to the email, which includes information for the individual to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or misuse, reviewing and monitoring account statements, credit reports and explanation of benefits (EOBs), immediately report errors or suspicious activity to the financial institution or issuing bank, and to file a report with law enforcement, their state attorney general, and/or the Federal Trade Commission in the event fraud or misuse is discovered. CVTC also provided contact information for the major consumer reporting bureaus, state-specific regulators, a 24-hour call center, and additional steps individuals may take to protect the impacted information from misuse, should they find it appropriate to do so. If the recipient's Social Security number was potentially accessible, CVTC is offering 12 months of identity theft monitoring and restoration services through Kroll to those individuals within their notice letter.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of this incident, please contact me at (404) 879-2410 or at Ted.Claypoole@wbd-us.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ Theodore F. Claypoole

Partner

Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP

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<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>
<<address_1>>
<<address_2>>
<<city>>, <<state_province>> <<postal_code>>
<<country>>

Re: Notice of Data Incident

Dear <<first_name>> <<last_name>>,

Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("CVTC", "we" or "our") is writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have affected your personal information. Please read this letter carefully.

What happened?

On November 21, 2024, we were notified that a threat actor had obtained CTVC digital equipment (the "Incident"). After being notified of the Incident, we began an internal investigation.

What information was involved?

While we have no evidence that your information has been misused or further accessed, the affected personal information may have included all or portions of your Social Security number and capital credit account information.

What we are doing.

We take this Incident and the security of personal information entrusted to us very seriously and have taken steps to help mitigate the potential for harm and prevent this from happening again. After discovering the Incident, we strengthened our data security compliance programs to avoid future incidents from happening.

We are continuing to monitor and investigate the situation carefully. As of the date of this letter, we have no evidence that this information has been exposed more broadly or used in any way, including for identity theft.

To help relieve concerns and restore confidence following this incident, we have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring at no cost to you for twelve (12) months. Kroll is a global leader in risk mitigation and response, and their team has extensive experience helping people who have sustained an unintentional exposure of confidential data. Your identity monitoring services include Credit Monitoring, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit <https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<b2b_text_6(activation deadline)>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<Membership Number s_n>>

For more information about Kroll and your Identity Monitoring services, you can visit info.krollmonitoring.com.

Additional information describing your services is included with this letter.

What you can do.

We encourage you to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or misuse, from any source, by reviewing and monitoring your account statements and credit reports, as detailed below. If you notice suspicious activity in your financial records, you should report it immediately to your financial institution or issuing bank.

Please review the enclosed "Additional Resources" section included with this letter. This section describes additional steps you can take to help protect yourself, including recommendations by the Federal Trade Commission regarding identity theft protection and details on how to place a fraud alert or a security freeze on your credit file.

For more information.

If you have questions, please call (866) 686-2066, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Alaska Standard Time, excluding major U.S. holidays.

Protecting your information is important to us. We trust that the services we are offering to you demonstrate our continued commitment to your security and satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Joshua Beug
Chief Executive Officer

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting agencies:

Equifax, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111

Experian, PO Box 2104, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-888-4213

Free Credit Report. It is recommended that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity, especially activity that may indicate fraud and identity theft. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies.

To order your annual free credit report please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at **1-877-322-8228**.

You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC") website at www.consumer.ftc.gov) to:

Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

For Colorado, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and Vermont residents: You may obtain one or more (depending on the state) additional copies of your credit report, free of charge. You must contact each of the credit reporting agencies directly to obtain such additional report(s).

Fraud Alerts. There are two types of fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for at least one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft and you have the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting any of the three national credit reporting agencies.

Security Freeze. You have the ability to place a security freeze, also known as a credit freeze, on your credit report free of charge.

A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you may use an online process, an automated telephone line, or submit a written request to any of the three credit reporting agencies listed above. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that, if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past 5 years; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request must also include a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, and display your name, current mailing address, and the date of issue.

Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General Offices. If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your home state. You may also contact these agencies for information on how to prevent or minimize the risks of identity theft.

You may contact the **Federal Trade Commission**, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338).

For Maryland residents: You may contact the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/>, 1-888-743-0023.

For North Carolina residents: You may contact the North Carolina Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov, 1-877-566-7226.

For New York residents: The Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; <https://ag.ny.gov/>.

For Connecticut residents: You may contact the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, 1-860-808-5318, www.ct.gov/ag.

For Massachusetts residents: You may contact the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, 1 Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html.

Reporting of identity theft and obtaining a police report.

For Iowa residents: You are advised to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Iowa Attorney General.

For Massachusetts residents: You have the right to obtain a police report if you are a victim of identity theft.

For Oregon residents: You are advised to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Oregon Attorney General.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You have been provided with access to the following services from Kroll:

Single Bureau Credit Monitoring

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data—for instance, when a new line of credit is applied for in your name. If you do not recognize the activity, you'll have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who will be able to help you determine if it is an indicator of identity theft.

Fraud Consultation

You have unlimited access to consultation with a Kroll fraud specialist. Support includes showing you the most effective ways to protect your identity, explaining your rights and protections under the law, assistance with fraud alerts, and interpreting how personal information is accessed and used, including investigating suspicious activity that could be tied to an identity theft event.

Identity Theft Restoration

If you become a victim of identity theft, an experienced Kroll licensed investigator will work on your behalf to resolve related issues. You will have access to a dedicated investigator who understands your issues and can do most of the work for you. Your investigator will be able to dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

Kroll's activation website is only compatible with the current version or one version earlier of Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Edge.

To receive credit services, you must be over the age of 18 and have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.