



Brantley Telephone Company, Inc.

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DR. A. W. STRICKLAND, President
DONOVAN STRICKLAND, Vice-President
ROSEMARY S. STRICKLAND, Secretary
JOSEPH LIGHTSEY, Plant Manager

VIA ECFS

March 4, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest – Rate-of-Return Areas
Brantley Telephone Co., Inc.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Brantley Telephone Co., Inc. hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved and underserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.¹ Brantley Telephone Company is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier serving rural areas of Georgia.

Currently Brantley Telephone Company has a mix of fiber-to-the-home and DSL facilities providing broadband to its customers. All locations within its regulated service area at speeds of at least 3 Mbps / 786 kbps. However, some of the DSL and copper facilities are aging which may cause achieved speeds to degrade and will not support higher speeds. Funds are needed to replace the older DSL and copper that are at the end of life so that Brantley Telephone Company can provide higher speeds, meet customer demands, provide these customers access to their community anchor institutions, and transition to an all-IP network for the 392 locations. The details of the proposed deployment are as follows.

Proposed Service Area

Brantley Telephone Company proposes to upgrade broadband to 392 underserved premises within the regulated service territory in Brantley County, Georgia.

Proposed Broadband Service

Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of 50Mbps downstream / 15Mbps upstream provided over the fiber-to-the-home plant funded by this request.

¹ See *Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 *et al.*, Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

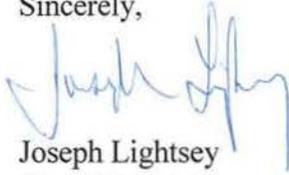
Funding

Brantley Telephone Company requests \$980,000 in funding from Connect America Funds in a one-time funding.

Brantley Telephone Company expects service to be upgraded at all premises within one year after construction starts.

Brantley Telephone Company appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph Lightsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph Lightsey
Plant Manager