



## Mutual Telephone

*Your Local Telephone Cooperative*

March 6, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Expression of Interest Letter – WC Docket 10-90, Connect America Fund

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This letter is submitted to express interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments. Agate Mutual Telephone Cooperative Association is an incumbent Rate of Return local exchange carrier ("RoR LEC") providing voice and broadband services to rural consumers for over 61 years in rural Colorado with an average density of 0.37 customers per square mile. This track record proves that Agate Mutual Telephone has the experience and dedication to rural consumers needed to successfully deploy broadband in unserved areas. Agate Mutual Telephone is also a partner with Colorado Communications Transport ("CCT") with nine other independent telephone companies and Zayo Bandwidth to create a 746-mile fiber optics ring which covers Northeastern Colorado.

Broadband networks, particularly high-speed broadband networks, are expensive to build and cost recovery typically requires multiple years in rural high-cost areas and Agate Mutual Telephone is very interested in partnering with the FCC to conduct experiments to find creative ways of deploying high-speed, scalable, IP-based networks in rural high-cost areas. The details of our potential experiment may be found below.

### *Location of Potential Experiments*

Agate Mutual Telephone is interested in providing service to eligible locations in Census Tracts within Elbert County, Colorado. According to the FCC's release of potentially eligible Tracts, there are ten eligible locations within the Tract covering 75 square miles with an average density of 0.13 locations per square mile.

Census Tract Number	Number of Locations	Number of Anchor Institutions
80399611.00	10	0

Agate Mutual Telephone  
phone 719-764-2578  
fax 719-764-2391  
P.O. Box 38  
38619 Monroe Street  
Agate, Colorado 80101-0038

### *Broadband Technology*

Based on the funding level available, Agate Mutual Telephone would use fiber to the premise to deploy broadband capable network in the census Tract 80399611.00.

### *Service Offerings*

The IP Network described above would be capable of supporting voice, high-speed broadband of at least 4Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream up to 6 Mbps. The exact price of these services will likely be similar to Agate Mutual Telephone's current offerings to our existing customers.

### *Existing Providers*

Although Fairpoint Communications serves all or a portion of the proposed experiment area, the service is offered over an obsolete DSL network that provides limited speeds and reliability. This offering is inferior to the network that Agate Mutual Telephone would deploy in its experiment and it is therefore in the public interest for the FCC to deviate from its general policy of not supporting two or more providers in an area.

### *Necessary Funding*

Based on the road miles in the census tract, Agate Mutual Telephone estimates that this experiment will require \$825,000 to construct the required facilities. This estimate was based without knowing the exact locations needing to be served. Once exact locations are provided, we would be able to give a closer estimate on the construction costs at that time. The Company would require necessary support in one time funding.

Agate Mutual Telephone thanks the FCC for the opportunity to participate in this process. Any questions about this letter of interest should be directed to Daniel Hollembeak at the information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Hollembeak", written in a cursive style.

Daniel Hollembeak  
General Manager