



March 6, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90  
Expression of Interest – Rural Experiments

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (MPRTC) located in Tulia, Texas, is submitting this non-binding expression of interest in potentially participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments described in WC Docket No. 10-90 Order released January 31, 2014. MPRTC is a rural ILEC providing voice, data, and video services to the surrounding rural communities in the southern Texas Panhandle area which includes portions of Armstrong, Briscoe, Castro, Floyd, Randall, and Swisher counties. MPRTC serves approximately 2,600 customers in ten exchanges spread over approximately 3,789 square miles.

The economy in MPRTC's serving area is primarily based on ranching and agriculture which results in widely spread out customer locations. MPRTC has already begun the process of transitioning more densely populated areas of our network from aging copper infrastructure to FTTP in order to provide higher speed broadband services. However, MPRTC is faced with addressing the most rural portions of our network that continue to receive poor data speeds over our existing copper network. These areas include extremely long loop lengths that have required proprietary copper extension products to provide even a minimal amount of data service. As data service requirements continue to increase and our copper plant continues to age it is imperative that MPRTC improve broadband service in these areas to ensure that our members have the resources they need to live and operate their ranching and farming businesses in these rural areas.

MPRTC would propose constructing FTTP to approximately 250 customers located in the most rural portions of our serving area. These customers are spread across all ten of our exchanges and are in numerous census blocks within the following census tracts:

MPRTC would provide voice, broadband and video services with broadband speeds of at least 20 Mbps downstream/10 Mbps upstream with the capability to provide up to 1 Gbps per subscriber.

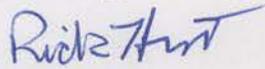
<b>Census Tract</b>	<b>County</b>
950100	Armstrong
950200	Briscoe
950100	Castro
021900, 021704	Randall
950200, 950400	Swisher

MPRTC estimates construction costs for the proposed experiment to be a total of \$4.5M. This cost includes approximately 152 miles of fiber construction, central office Optical Line Termination (OLT) equipment and subscriber equipment.

This experiment would provide the FCC with valuable information regarding the cost of transitioning from copper based infrastructure in a rural, low density service area to a fiber based infrastructure. MPRTC looks forward to working with the FCC to potentially implement an experiment that would provide valuable information to the FCC while also providing significantly improved broadband services needed by our members.

If you have any questions regarding MPRTC's interest in this program please contact me directly at 806-668-4420.

Sincerely,



Rick Hurt  
General Manager