



Cap Rock Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

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VIA ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM (ECFS)

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Suite TW-325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90 – Connect America Fund – Expression of Interest for Rate-of-Return Rural Broadband Experiment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Cap Rock Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Cap Rock) hereby submits this non-binding expression of interest to conduct a rural broadband experiment in one of its 16 exchanges - the exchange of Verbena located in Garza county Texas.

Background

Cap Rock, a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange provider, is a locally owned and operated cooperative located within the town of Spur, Texas. Cap Rock operates 16 exchanges in 12 counties in west Texas. Cap Rock's infrastructure includes almost 400 miles of fiber optic cable and 2,500 miles of buried cable to provide service to members. Cap Rock serves approximately 4000 access lines with exchanges located in the communities of Afton, Dickens, Dry Lake, Flomot, Girard, Hackmont, Jayton, Matador, Paducah, Peacock, Quitaque, Roaring Springs, Spur, Turkey, Verbena, and White River Texas. Cap Rock's service area encompasses approximately 5,000 square miles of the rolling plains. This vast area is located within a triangle framed by Lubbock, Abilene and Wichita Falls. Services provided include a variety of residential and commercial communications services such as local and long distance services, high-speed broadband, Internet access and digital TV.

Cap Rock has been a voice provider in this area since 1952. Cap Rock was named for the geographical transition from the level high plains and the surrounding rolling plains, a very diverse terrain with canyons, arroyos, and plains. As the Carrier of Last Resort in this area, we

have met the voice needs of our many members in this remote, hard to reach area of Texas; however, we are diligently working to improve the speeds offered and the availability of broadband to all of our service area. We provide speeds from 1.5Mbps to 10Mbps to customers within our communities. Approximately 80% of our member base has access to high-speed broadband services today. We use a combination of copper, fiber, and wireless facilities to provide broadband services. We also provide digital TV service using the broadband infrastructure.

Across the 5,000 square miles of our service area, we are fortunate to serve 11 small communities. The miles between these towns are made up of cotton and wheat fields, cattle and horse ranches, and recently we have seen increased demand for high-speed broadband from wind farms and the oil industry. In addition, we have increased interest in demand from members that utilize our broadband services to work from home, allowing them to raise their families in the smaller communities we serve. Our communities, all with populations below 1,300, are striving to provide necessary services to their residents. Cap Rock takes great pride in providing high speed broadband services to the following anchor institutions in our service area:

- 7 School Districts (Fiber to the premise)
- 2 Nursing Homes
- 5 Health Clinics (Telemedicine is utilized in one)
- 5 County Seats and Courthouses
- 5 Public Libraries
- 2 FAA sites
- 1 National Weather Site
- 25 Cell Sites
- 1 Department of Defense Site
- Multiple Federal and State Offices

Many of these anchor institutions have needs for high speed broadband that is very expensive to provide in such high cost areas.

Proposal

Cap Rock seeks Connect America Fund support to make network investments in one of its 16 exchanges – the Verbena exchange. Investments would be targeted to extend broadband, voice, Internet, and video capabilities to an area that is growing beyond our existing facilities. We will deploy fiber an additional 23,000 feet into our network at an approximately costs of \$265,000. At this time, 23 customers could receive services. Support funds would allow Cap Rock to accelerate the provision of service to this remote area where otherwise we would not be able to build for several years.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest and look forward to further review of the rules for making our formal application. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Whitefield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jim Whitefield
Executive Vice-President and General Manager
Cap Rock Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
806 271 3336