



VIA ECFS

More Than a Telephone Company!

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March 6, 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
North Dakota Telephone Company**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

North Dakota Telephone Company hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.¹ North Dakota Telephone Company is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier serving rural areas of North Dakota, and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Area

North Dakota Telephone Company proposes to build out broadband to 1,481 unserved or underserved premises within the regulated service territory, including Tribal Lands, in Census Blocks within the following North Dakota Census Tract(s):

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract</u>
Benson	38005940100
Benson	38005940200
Benson	38005956600
Benson	38005956500
Eddy	38027959200
Ramsey	38071957700
Towner	38095951500
Cavalier	38019951100

Proposed Broadband Service

Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of 50 downstream/25 upstream provided over fiber optic technology.

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).

Marlene H. Dortch, FCC

March 6, 2014

Page 2 of 2

Funding

North Dakota Telephone Company estimates construction costs to be a total of \$13,700,000.

The costs will be refined if and when a formal proposal is submitted. North Dakota Telephone Company requests \$11,000,000 in funding from Connect America Funds in a one-time funding and will fund the remaining capital and ongoing expenses to operate the system.

North Dakota Telephone Company expects service to be offered to all unserved and underserved customers within three years after construction starts.

North Dakota 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 "D. Dircks", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Dircks
CEO/General Manager