



Agri-Valley Services, Inc.

A Subsidiary of Agri-Valley Communications, Inc.

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DATE: March 7, 2014
FROM: AVCI.net / Agri-Valley Services, Inc.
TO: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Staff
SUBJECT: Expression of Interest – Rural Trials
Docket No. 10-90

Background

Agri-Valley Services, Inc. (AVS) is a wholly-owned Agri-Valley Communications, Inc. Company, founded in 1996 with operations based in rural Pigeon, Michigan, providing internet services to all of Michigan’s Thumb Counties of Huron, Tuscola, and Sanilac as well as parts of Arenac, Antrim and Otsego Counties.

As an internet provider, AVS offers broadband internet access delivered both wirelessly and via wireline ADSL through its sister company, Pigeon Telephone Company.

In recent years, Agri-Valley has been building a fiber optic network throughout the Thumb area of Michigan used to connect tower location for wireless applications, as well as providing fiber connections for business and anchor institutions.

As part of the fiber build out, two small communities (Croswell and Lexington, Michigan) have been identified for the need of high speed broadband internet access.

Providing fiber optic internet connectivity would allow broadband speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second for the future of these communities.

Geographic Territory

The communities of Croswell and Lexington, Michigan, are located in the lower peninsula of Michigan, approximately 65 miles northeast of Detroit, Michigan, in the area known as the Thumb Area of Michigan.

Lexington is a lake shore community situated along the shores of Lake Huron.

Croswell is just five miles west of Lexington.

Located in Sanilac County, the two communities have mutual ties through its combined school system and business interests and are similar in size with each covering approximately four square miles containing approximately 2000 homes.

Census tracts 970600 and 970800 with 297 census blocks cover the area of proposed services. The density in these communities is at 62.5 homes per mile.

List of Anchor Institutions

The anchor institutions in the areas include:

Aitkin Memorial District Library
Croswell Fire Department
Croswell-Lexington High School
Croswell-Lexington High School Library Media Center
Croswell-Lexington Middle School
Croswell-Lexington Middle School Library Media Center

Croswell Police Department
Frostick School
Geiger Early Childhood Center
Lexington Fire and Rescue
Lexington Police Department
Meyer Elementary School
Moore Public Library

Proposed Technology

AVS is proposing to build a GPON fiber-to-the-home system. The initial system will provide broadband speeds through the use of 1:32 splitters that will share a 2.5 Gbps downstream pipe. The design of the system will allow future upgrades up to Active Ethernet speed of 1 Gbps for each home.

Broadband speeds and prices to be offered during the initial turn-up will be: \$40 (10Mbps), \$70 (20Mbps), \$85 (50Mbps), and \$100 (100Mbps).

State and/or Local or Tribal Government Participation in and/or Support for Project

Construction will be along local and state road right-of-way. Historically, the numerous Agri-Valley fiber projects over the past three years have proceeded swiftly with a shared cooperation of the right-of-way authorities.

Existing Wireline Provider

The existing provider in these communities is AT&T, providing DSL service that is insufficient for today's needs, let alone for future applications.

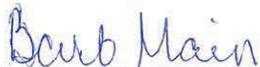
As with any DSL service, once you extend the reach from the electronics, broadband speeds decrease. The proposed fiber network in conjunction with Agri-Valley's fiber backbone in Michigan will bring this community to a standard that will live well into the future.

Project Timeline

Agri-Valley is in the feasibility stage of offering broadband services to these communities. Approved funding for this project will expedite the project.

Scalability

This project will be a two-year, two-phase project with approximately 50% of the homes connected during phase one and the remainder of homes connected during phase two.



Barb Main, General Manager
AVCI.net / Agri-Valley Services, Inc.