



VIA ECFS

March 03, 2014

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

Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Chester Telephone Company and its subsidiaries Lockhart Telephone Company and Ridgeway Telephone Company together respectfully submit this expression of interest in the proposed experiments to deploy high-speed, scalable, IP-based networks in rural, high-cost areas using Connect America funding, as outlined in the Order, Report and Orders, Further Notices of Proposed Rulemaking, and Ongoing Data Initiative ("Order") released by the Commission on January 31, 2014.

Background

The three telephone companies named above are Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (Study Area Codes 240516, 240532 and 240541) serving mainly rural customers in the upstate area of South Carolina in Chester, Fairfield and Union Counties. We are committed to providing universal access to a modern and highly reliable communications network throughout our service areas.. All three companies have ETC status and are very experienced in constructing and operating a multi-service, scalable network. which provides both high speed broadband and traditional voice services. Virtually all locations within our regulated service areas have access to broadband at speeds exceeding 3 Mbps/768 kbps .

Proposed Service Area for The Experiment

The proposed service area is within our ILEC boundaries of Chester, Fairfield and Union Counties that currently do not have access to bonded DSL and therefore do not currently have access to speeds greater than 4 Mbps x 1 Mbps A total of 30 nodes/cabinets serving approximately 5,200 existing customers have been identified to receive this upgrade.

CHESTER TELEPHONE COMPANY

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Broadband Technology or Technologies to be Deployed

As noted above, we will employ Bonded DSL over existing copper to upgrade our residential/small business network to a uniform 10 Mbps/1 Mbps. Our experience has shown that this speed is more than sufficient to smoothly deliver "Over the Top" streaming video and other bandwidth intensive services.

Contemplated Service Offerings

Minimum speeds of 10 Meg downstream /1 Meg upstream and traditional voice services to be universally available for all customers.

Funding Requested

One time funding of \$2.4M will allow the DSL upgrade to be completed within 1 Year of receipt of the funds.

Respectfully submitted,



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