



etex

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VIA ECFS

March 7, 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  
Etex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Etex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Etex") 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.<sup>1</sup> Etex is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier serving rural areas of East Texas and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Area

Etex proposes to expand broadband service within its regulated service territory within the Texas counties of Camp, Cass, Harrison, Marion, Morris, Upshur, and Wood to reach any unserved or underserved customers. While Etex already serves the majority of customers within its regulated service territory with voice service and broadband service of at least 3 Mbps/768 kbps, a small percentage of customers in the most remote sections of these counties do not have access to this level of broadband service.

Proposed Broadband Service

Etex intends to provision broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream/768 kbps upstream provided over a combination of fiber and fixed wireless facilities funded by this request. Etex expects service to be offered to all unserved customers within one year after construction starts.

Funding

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<sup>1</sup> 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).



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Etex does not have sufficient information at this time to develop cost estimates for the proposed broadband experiment projects. The costs will be provided if and when a formal proposal is submitted.

Etex 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 that reads "Charlie Cano".

Charlie Cano  
General Manager