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BLUE VALLEY
tele-communications

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FCC Mail Room

March 5, 2014

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

Re: Expression of Interest Letter – WC Docket 10-90, Connect America Fund

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This letter is submitted to Express Interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments. Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc. (Blue Valley) is an incumbent Rate of Return local exchange carrier (“RoR LEC”) providing voice and broadband services to rural Kansas consumers for over 57 years. Blue Valley’s ILEC service area covers approximately 1,086 square miles and has an average density of 2.48 customers per route mile. This track record proves that Blue Valley has the experience and dedication to rural consumers needed to successfully deploy broadband in unserved areas.

Broadband networks, particularly high-speed broadband networks, are expensive to build and cost recovery typically requires multiple years in rural high-cost areas. Blue Valley is very interested in partnering with the FCC to conduct experiments to find creative ways of deploying high-speed, scalable, IP-based networks in rural high-cost areas. In particular, Blue Valley recognizes the need for service to be available to local schools, hospitals and other anchor institutions to ensure rural economic development and opportunity for all Americans. To that end, the details of our potential experiment may be found below.

Location of Potential Experiment

Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc. is interested in providing services to Highland Community College’s Western Center in Baileyville, Kansas. Highland Community College, which was the first college in Kansas, recently announced their plans to expand higher education opportunities by opening a new Center in the Baileyville community. This anchor institution will provide higher education to rural Americans with both on-site courses as well as through a state-of-the-art distance learning classroom. This facility, which will benefit numerous rural consumers, will have substantial broadband needs. However, the Center currently does not have access to affordable broadband at the level or scope the institution will require. Highland Community College’s Western Center is outside of Blue Valley’s ILEC territory. It is located in Census Tract 4802 within Nemaha County, Kansas.

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Broadband Technology

Blue Valley proposes fiber to the premise to deploy broadband to Highland Community College's Western Center in Baileyville, Kansas, based on the funding level available.

Service Offerings

The IP Network described above would be capable of supporting voice, high-speed broadband of at least 4Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream up to a maximum speed of 1 Gigabit as well as IPTV. The exact price of these services still needs to be determined, however, they will likely be similar to Blue Valley's current offerings to our existing customers.

Necessary Funding

Blue Valley estimates that this experiment will require \$50,000 to construct the required facilities. Accordingly, the Company would require this amount in one time funding.

Blue Valley thanks the FCC for the opportunity to participate in this process. Any questions about this letter of interest should be directed to Brian Thomason at the information below.

Sincerely,



Brian Thomason, General Manager/CEO
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