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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**  
**Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Leaco”) 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> Leaco is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier and a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier serving rural areas of New Mexico and Texas and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Area

Leaco proposes to expand broadband service within its regulated service territory within the New Mexico counties of Chaves, Eddy and Lea to reach any unserved or underserved customers. While Leaco already serves the majority of customers within its regulated service territory with voice service and broadband service of at least 4 Mbps/1 Mbps, 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

Leaco intends to provision broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream provided over fiber facilities where possible, or a combination of copper and fixed wireless facilities where necessary or proven to be the most cost effective. Leaco expects service to be offered to all unserved customers within one to three years after construction starts, depending on the level of construction required.

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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).

Funding

Leaco 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.

Leaco appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sid Applin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sid Applin  
General Manager



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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 for Price-Cap Areas  
Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Leaco") 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> Leaco is an incumbent local exchange carrier and a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier serving areas of New Mexico and Texas and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Area

The experiment will provide broadband service to 1,525 eligible high-cost locations in unserved high-cost census blocks within the following census tracts:

<u>County Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Tract ID</u>
Chaves	NM	35005000400
Chaves	NM	35005000600
Chaves	NM	35005000700
Chaves	NM	35005000800
Chaves	NM	35005000900
Chaves	NM	35005001001
Chaves	NM	35005001002
Chaves	NM	35005001101
Chaves	NM	35005001102
Chaves	NM	35005001200
Chaves	NM	35005001300
Eddy	NM	35015000700
Eddy	NM	35015000800

<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).

Eddy	NM	35015000900
Eddy	NM	35015001000
Eddy	NM	35015001100
Lea	NM	35025000702
Lea	NM	35025000900
Lea	NM	35025001100

### Proposed Services

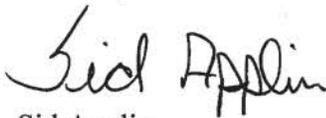
Leaco proposes to provide Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream provided over fiber, where possible, or fiber-fed technologies or solutions to reach as far out into the network as economically possible. Leaco will also evaluate other available technologies to determine which option is the most cost effective for the particular area served. Depending on the facilities constructed, Leaco anticipates that the services could be provisioned to currently unserved customers within one to three years after construction begins.

### Funding

Leaco is unable to estimate costs for construction at this time due to insufficient information about the exact locations needing to be served and which is the best technology option to reach the affected areas. The costs will be refined if and when a formal proposal is submitted.

Leaco appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sid Applin  
General Manager