

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative

Project Title: Broadband Service to Mora, NM

Project Type: Last Mile Remote

Executive Summary

La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative, an existing RUS Borrower, has been providing telecommunications services to the citizens of Mora County, New Mexico, for over 40 years. La Jicarita is applying for stimulus funds through the BIP program to upgrade existing copper facilities to fiber facilities for the advancement of broadband services in the Mora area. Project Description The proposed project is to provide fiber to the home to rural customers that are located in very rural areas whose existing communication facilities prevent broadband service or limit the service speeds to unacceptable limits. Fiber to the premise (FTTP) service offerings will also give the highest speed capabilities for future applications, such as video services. Opportunities This project will fill the need for present and future bandwidth requirements by placing fiber to rural subscribers. This project will also replace old and deteriorating copper telephone plant that is nearing or has reached the end of its useful life. This project will be extending full fiber capabilities to rural establishments and give them the increased bandwidth comparable with any urban establishment. Service Areas This project will serve subscribers located in Mora County in the state of New Mexico. This project consists of one Proposed Funded Service Area. This area consists of 106 census blocks located in the town of Mora, and in the rural areas locally known as Cleveland, Holman, Abuelo, Ledoux and Rainsville. Households and Businesses This project will serve 67 business establishments and 1,135 households. Community Institutions Within the 67 business establishments in the Mora proposed funded service area, there are (4) Critical Community Facilities, (5) Anchor Institutions, and (1) Public Safety entity. Proposed Services The project will offer 3 service level offerings for household broadband service (768Kb/256Kb, 1.5Mb/512Kb and 3.0Mb/768Mb). In addition to the broadband services, subscribers will be offered telephone service over the same facilities. The proposed facilities will allow a migration to video offerings in the future. This project will also offer 3 service levels for their business subscribers (786Kb/256Kb, 1.5Mb/512Kb, and 3.0M/768Kb). Non-discrimination and Interconnection Obligations Approach The proposed project will be consistent with the NOFA's non-discrimination and network interconnection obligations as described in section 22 Description of Network Openness. Broadband Technology This project will use single mode fiber optic cable and high speed lightwave equipment to transmit signals from the central office to the customer premises. The fiber to the premise (FTTP) will be GPON architecture which gives the most economical design for low density rural applications. This technology is well proven and has a good track record of reliability and dependability. Qualifications of the Applicant La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative has been serving telecommunication services to rural New Mexico since 1965. This company has been a RUS borrower (NM517) and has proven leadership that has shown financial stability over the life of the company. Infrastructure Cost The total infrastructure cost of this project is \$14,558,000. This includes

\$205,000 for network and access equipment, \$11,926,000 in outside plant fiber optic construction, \$398,000 for customer premise equipment and \$2,029,000 in engineering and professional services. Subscriber Projections La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative currently offers only one tier of DSL service to residents which is at a speed below the Broadband definition. La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative with its fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) Broadband service offering will deliver a Broadband offering at a price that is below the current DSL offering price. Additional tiers will be offered for higher speeds and comparable prices. The given details are in Attachment H. This application will bring FTTP to Mora which is the largest population center in their serving area. This application along with La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative's recently approved "L" Loan Design, which brings FTTP to the Wagon Mound area, will make Broadband services available to nearly 66% of their entire serving area. With Mora, NM having 24.7 percent of its residents living under the poverty line, La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative has made every effort to provide affordable broadband to as many customers as possible. Jobs Created or Saved La Jicarita is dedicated to maintaining their facilities and systems with the constant changes in technology. The management and staff of La Jicarita are committed to have all necessary training and skills in place to handle this project, including all preparation and implementation work for construction rights-of-way, cable and equipment installations, the cutover sequence, and maintenance, in support of the system. The staff will be expanded as growth occurs in the system to maintain the highest level of customer satisfaction.