

Executive Summary (Question 7)

Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc. (SKSRT) seeks to provide innovative wireless broadband services to Pendleton County, West Virginia.

a) Broadband service adoption rates will be increased by this innovative wireless service offering. Due to mountainous terrain and the limitations on radio signals in the area imposed by the National Radio Quiet Zone established to protect the nearby National Radio Observatory (NRAO) in Green Bank, WV, existing wireless service offerings only cover small edges of Pendleton County, and no wireless system currently provides service to most areas in Pendleton County. This system will be specifically designed to serve areas that currently have no current wireless broadband service.

b) SKSRT's approach is innovative for several reasons. First, as a local telephone cooperative based in Riverton, WV, it understands the needs of the local community, including the public safety, health and other critical community facilities that support this application. Second, SKSRT is working with the NRAO to frequency coordinate this wireless broadband network, and designed an innovative system that deploys a distributed antenna system through the lower elevation areas (as opposed to the mountain top areas that might present interference issues), and takes advantage of some existing fiber facilities (with additional facilities to be built) to link the network together. This lower-power system accommodates the scientific mission of the NRAO, while permitting residents, businesses, public safety and other critical service providers to access a wireless high speed broadband network.

c) Areas to be served—The northern 75% of Pendleton County that includes the communities of Brandywine, Franklin, Upper Tract, Riverton and Seneca Rocks is the proposed service area for wireless coverage. In this area, population is focused along the larger road corridors. Specific roads include the majority of Route 33, from Brandywine, WV to 3 miles short of western edge of the county, Route 220 from Franklin north to the county line, and Route 28 from the county line in the north, south through Circleville. [REDACTED]

d) SKSRT is well qualified to implement the project. It has provided quality telephone services to residents and businesses in Pendleton County since 1977. It currently is deploying an ambitious fiber-to-the-home project in the area funded by an RUS loan. It is working with wireless project engineers, consultants and regulatory experts that have worked with several other major wireless carriers. The combination of wireless expertise with the local telephone company will enable the project's success by merging knowledge of the market and customers with the latest mobile technology.

e) This project is estimated to create at least five jobs in the implementation phase and at least two to three full time employees in the operational phase, with possible additional assistance of outside consultants and experts.

f)

Overall cost for the system is \$3,024,707.00