Broadband USA Applications Database

applicant name: Baca Valley Telephone Company, Inc.

Project Title: Baca Valley Telephone Last Mile DSL project

Project Type: Last Mile Non-Remote

_______________________Executive Summary_______________________

Project Description --- The project proposed by Baca Valley Telephone Company, Inc. (BVT) is to provide fiber optic connectivity to a number of new cabinets and existing buildings and deploy a last mile access system intended to provide broadband services to households and businesses in two separate PFSAs located in the northeast area of New Mexico. Each PFSA will utilize a copper based ADSL2+ technology to provide broadband and voice. This project also includes voice switching equipment necessary to provide traditional lifeline POTS services to customers in both PFSAs. Opportunities --- This project represents a significant step in extending the fiber optic network in the rural north-eastern part of New Mexico as well as proliferating broadband services. It will fill the need for present and future bandwidth requirements by placing fiber to nodes in close proximity of the rural subscribers. The proposed fiber build-out will replace old and deteriorating copper plant and low bandwidth microwave transport in some areas and provide new connectivity in others. In either case, it will facilitate high throughput ring protected connections between the nodes creating a long term future proof investment. With an expected life of 30 years, this fiber will provide a solid framework for providing the bandwidth needs of the future. BVT’s current ADSL offering is over very long copper loops and utilizes oversubscribed early generation ATM DSLAMs. Other data services are offered via dial-up. By carefully positioning new fiber fed cabinets, BVT will not only increase the available bandwidth to the node, drastically decreasing the oversubscription, but it will also shorten the copper loops to the subscriber premises allowing all customers access to the 1 Mbps broadband services. Most customers, however, will be located in close proximity of the access equipment allowing for a much higher throughput. This project will extend full fiber capabilities to the area close to most rural establishments and give them bandwidth comparable with any urban establishment. Service Areas --- This project will serve subscribers located in Union and Colfax counties in the state of New Mexico. This project consists of two (2) distinct Proposed Funded Serving Areas (PFSAs). Des Moines PFSA, Area #1, is composed of 194 census blocks located in and around the village of Des Moines, NM. Maxwell PFSA, Area #2, is composed of 36 census blocks in the community of Maxwell, NM. Households and Businesses --- This project will serve 373 establishments. 71 of these are businesses and rural establishments that include farms and ranches, which are really small businesses, even though they may not be counted as businesses in the census data. Community Institutions --- Each of the communities funded by this project have vital Fire and EMS services which this project will aid. It will also upgrade services to the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Capulin Volcano National Monument, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Burlington Northern Railroad, Des Moines and Maxwell School districts. The two school districts currently offer college level interactive TV courses and this project will help increase these student offerings. Both schools also have community
based Health Centers on their campuses and this project will greatly aid and expand the services they offer. Maxwell and Des Moines communities have staffed village offices which will enjoy the expanded bandwidth capabilities. In addition, the two communities have extremely active Senior Citizen Centers. Baca Valley works closely with these centers and will be able to offer higher bandwidth speeds as well as better training to our Senior Citizens. The total number of these community institutions in both PFSAs is approximately 25. Proposed Services --- The project will allow the applicant to offer a broadband service of 1Mbps downstream and 384Kbps upstream. In addition to the broadband services, subscribers will be offered telephone service over the same facilities. 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 BLC remote cabinet terminal nodes utilizing SONET OC-12 connectivity. From the remote terminals, the service will be provided to the customers using a traditional twisted copper pairs utilizing the standard-based ADLS2+ service and traditional GR-57 lifeline POTS service. This technology is well proven and has a good track record of reliability and dependability. Qualifications of the Applicant --- The applicant has been providing telecommunication services to the residents of Union and Colfax counties of the northeastern part of New Mexico since 1974. BVT has been a RUS borrower and has proven leadership that has shown financial stability over the long haul. The applicant currently has an organization in place that is operating a high speed Internet system. All operational elements and systems are in place to ensure that sales, operational service and maintenance, network management, customer support, and billing functions will be available to handle this project. The management and staff of BVT 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 applicant also has professional engineering services available from N-Com, Inc. to assist in the implementation of this project. Infrastructure Cost --- The total infrastructure cost of this project is $3,237,000. This includes $2,378,000 in fiber optic plant and $729,000 in electronics. Subscriber Projections --- Broadband subscribers are projected to increase from 240 present subscribers to 396 subscribers at the end of the 5 year period. Jobs Created or Saved --- The primary jobs area will be in the construction field for the actual placement of the fiber cable and electronics. It is estimated that 10 people will be employed at the job site during construction of this project. The applicant intends to utilize existing staff to handle expanded growth as it occurs in the system to maintain the highest level of customer satisfaction. This project would have a minor impact on manufacturing jobs in the fiber optic cable manufacture and telecommunications electronics manufacture. No estimate of this impact is included. Although difficult to quantify or predict, BVT fully expects that the proposed project will provide direct benefits to businesses in the PFSAs by assisting in retaining existing business and gaining new business. This, in turn, will help save existing jobs and create new jobs for years to come.