

Opportunities the Proposed System Seeks to Address

Western Telephone Company's proposed Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) project will provide broadband services to households, businesses, and key community organizations that are currently [REDACTED]. These broadband services will create the potential for increased business growth, public services, public safety, and quality of life for the residents in Cresbard, Faulkton and Orient, South Dakota.

A General Description of the Proposed Funded Service Areas

The proposed project will provide broadband services to the following service areas:

Cresbard, Faulkton, Orient Population: [REDACTED] Status: [REDACTED]

Number of Households and Businesses Passed

The following is a summary of the number of households and businesses passed by the proposed project. With funding for this project, Western Telephone Company will be able to provide broadband services to all of these households and businesses.

Household Quantity Passed: [REDACTED]

Business Quantity Passed: [REDACTED]

The household quantities utilized throughout the application are based on Western Telephone Company's actual maps and records for the proposed serving areas.

Number of Community Anchor Institutions, Public Safety Entities, and Critical Community Organizations Passed and/or Involved with Project

Western Telephone Company's FTTP project will pass [REDACTED] strategic institutions including [REDACTED], among other community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations. Through the broadband services and enhanced communications capabilities, the FTTP project will greatly improve the ability of these key community organizations to provide public services.

Proposed Services and Applications for the Proposed Funded Service Areas and Users

FTTP technology will provide Western Telephone Company the ability to offer a variety of communications and entertainment services, including interactive two-way broadband services, carrier-class telephony, digital multimedia and VoIP. Once a fiber distribution network is constructed, bandwidth is limited only by the electronics that are placed on the fiber. Western Telephone Company will not only be able to provide the "triple play" services residents, businesses, and public institutions want today but also will create a system that can easily be

upgraded in the future as the end user's needs evolve. Western Telephone Company's proposed residential and business service offerings are detailed in the application.

Approach to Addressing the Non-discrimination and Interconnection Obligations

The network will be available to any and all end-users that subscribe to the service(s) provided by the service provider. The proposed network will not discriminate any lawful Internet applications or content. The proposed network will not be a private network from the standpoint that it will be utilized by the end users and the World Wide Web. However, the proposed network could be used as a private network for businesses that span multiple locations.

Type of Broadband System that will be Deployed

Western Telephone Company is proposing to construct a FTTP outside plant and electronics network infrastructure. The FTTP network architecture will provide the customers of Western Telephone Company access to broadband data services, voice and multimedia over one unified transport. It is Western Telephone Company's intent to deliver the highest quality and the broadest range of telecommunications services that are available today, as well as, the maximum bandwidth to their subscribers. Services that will be available include high-speed Internet access, digital multimedia, and voice telephone services.

Qualifications of the Applicant that Demonstrate the Ability to Implement and Operate a Broadband Infrastructure, and/or be a Sustainable Broadband Services Provider

Western Telephone Company has a proven reputation of deploying applications that reduce operating costs, increase services, improve customer satisfaction and increase revenue generation. Western Telephone Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Venture Communications Cooperative. Venture Communications Cooperative has provided telecommunications services to communities in north-central South Dakota since 1952 and is headquartered in Highmore, SD. Venture Communications Cooperative is led by experienced key staff that can manage their established organization to successfully implement and operate the proposed broadband infrastructure. Key information demonstrating the qualifications of Venture Communications Cooperative have been included in the application.

Overall Infrastructure Cost of the Broadband System

The overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system is [REDACTED]

Overall Expected subscriber Projections for the Project

The following is a summary of the five year broadband subscriber projections.



Number of Jobs Estimated to be Created or Saved as a Result of this Project

The FTTP project is estimated to create and save a number of jobs. These include jobs required for the construction of the outside plant network and installation of the network electronics. These jobs have been estimated based on the requirements of the project scope. Additionally, the broadband services will provide an opportunity for business and organizations to grow within the funded service area.

The FTTP project construction is estimated to require  man-days. Additionally, Western projects adding an additional staff member to support the proposed service area. This number of man-days work requirements and the staff addition will have a great economical impact to this rural area. In addition, Western projects that the implementation of the proposed FTTP plan will create approximately  new jobs through economic development.