OPEN DOOR! Northeast Tower, LLC's (DBA, NE Tower) new middle mile network will open Door County and portions of Brown and Marinette Counties, Wisconsin and Menominee County Michigan to greater competition, more bandwidth, improved redundancy, and improved broadband availability. Inadequate and unaffordable middle mile service in Door County and Menominee County is a severe problem subjecting county government, economic development organizations, city government, hospitals, community colleges and public safety entities to vast economic, educational, national security, and health disadvantages. Door County is ready for true economic growth, educational excellence, and the protection of the county's public safety network but the area has a huge weakness in the necessary infrastructure needed for that growth. Door County has a premier tourism infrastructure, plentiful sites for industrial development, an extensive coastline and port, critical shipbuilding industry, and a dynamic education system. Menominee County's proposed funded service area not only lacks access to broadband but is also economically distressed, according to the US Department of Transportation HEPGIS. Unemployment exceeds the national average by 1.87%. Per Capita Income is 75% of the national average. In particular, the Hannahville Indian Community possesses a very high unemployment rate and rural households have no access to broadband internet service. The funded service areas in Marinette and Brown counties are a key component of the project as they will include fiber that is necessary to the redundancy of the overall network. The middle mile infrastructure is essential to allowing existing employers in Door County and Menominee funded service areas to add jobs, enable local public safety entities to enhance monitoring, and allow wireless carriers to expand coverage. Only with adequate high capacity middle mile broadband service will Door County and Menominee County be fully protected and have a chance to compete in the economic recovery. This application is being submitted by highly respected telecommunications infrastructure provider, NE Tower, a local entity that continues to make a huge impact on the need for broadband at anchor institutions, among public safety entities and among consumers. NE Tower and Door County governmental departments have agreed to share their IT resources and knowledge of Door County's existing telecommunications infrastructure to develop a plan that goes above and beyond anything previously attempted in the area. This plan will extend protected fiber based services to all community anchor institutions, cell sites and public safety entities that have inadequate or are without broadband internet service today. OPEN DOOR! contains a thoroughly developed, significantly supported, and cost effective solution to these problems. With this application NE Tower in partnership with County of Door, City of Sturgeon Bay, Door County Economic Development Corporation, Sheriffs Department of Door County and Menominee County's Hannahville Indian Community seeks to improve broadband access among community anchor institutions, cell sites,
public safety entities and tribal communities that have no access or have limited or insufficient access to 'middle mile' broadband. For Door and Menominee Counties this means that NE Tower and its city, county government, and tribal partners can start this project immediately and have a significant impact on economic growth, job creation and enhancement of quality of life issues in these funded service areas. NE Tower is part of a family of companies with a long standing record of creating jobs in its Northeast Wisconsin service areas and has continued to provide stable employment even throughout the current recession. Project Infrastructure: NE Tower will provide and improve middle mile broadband service through both rural and urban Door and Menominee Counties. In addition to enabling connectivity third party service providers, the proposed fiber backbone project will pass or include direct connections to public safety entities, a community college, county government buildings, a business park, and a hospital. Moreover, it will provide needed protection and redundancy to educational institutions in the area. In addition, it will bring fiber to cell sites and the Hannahville Indian Community thereby ultimately enhancing service to all people in Door County and Menominee County. The OPEN DOOR! project consists of a fiber ring topology that covers the majority of the rural areas in Door County, Wisconsin, and Menominee funded service area, Michigan. The general design of the middle mile transport system is based on fiber optic transport and distribution and has potentially unlimited capacity and speed using as many as 96 fiber strands and modular chassis to support future growth. It also has the proven reliability, simplicity and cost effectiveness of Ethernet, of which NE Tower has demonstrated expertise. Moreover, the project takes advantage of NE Tower’s existing fiber network infrastructure in Northeast Wisconsin to create a ring topology. This fiber build will take place as follows: NE Tower will commence the project by constructing a fiber broadband backbone extending from its existing fiber network and network operations center/switch facilities in Green Bay through southern Door County, into Sturgeon Bay and under the Sturgeon Bay Channel. The fiber will continue to northern Door County and cross the Bay of Green Bay beginning at Gills Rock at the northern tip of Door County. It will emerge at Cedar River in Menominee County, Michigan and link up with NE Tower existing fiber network in Wausaukee, Wisconsin. Once the main fiber ring is complete, engineers will construct lateral fiber connections to third party service providers, community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and businesses.