

Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities
 Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc.
 Easygrants ID #7357

Proposed Middle Mile Service Offerings

Name of Service Offering	Distance Band or Point to Point	Minimum Peak Load Network Bandwidth Capacity (Mbps)	Monthly/Yearly Pricing (\$)	Other Comments/Description/Features or Limitations
5MB Ethernet	Point to Point	5 MB	182.39/Monthly	
10MB Ethernet	Point to Point	10 MB	364.78/Monthly	
20MB Ethernet	Point to Point	20 MB	402.95/Monthly	
100MB Ethernet	Point to Point	100 MB	508.99/Monthly	
1Gig Ethernet	Point to Point	1000 MB	1310.66/Monthly	
OC3	Distance Band	155 MB	3315.08/Monthly	
OC12	Distance Band	622 MB	10756.73/Monthly	
OC48	Distance Band	2.488 MB	21513.46/Monthly	

Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities

EasyGrants ID: 7357

Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc.

Government and Key Partnerships

Attachments and Exhibits

Community Support Letters (reference Executive Summary)

(Note: reference made to “the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Fiber Optic Project” refers to Applicant’s unsuccessful Round I application; because the Project route remains essentially unchanged through the Jackson area and the community support remains unchanged, Applicant has elected to provide these support letters in addition to requesting additional, updated letters from these community business and public entity interests for its Round II Application: Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities.)

Office of the Governor

April 10, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of the Secretary
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Anna Gomez
Acting Assistant Secretary,
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Communications and Information,
Office of the Assistant Secretary, National
Telecommunications Information
Administration,
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Vilsack, Secretary Locke, Assistant Secretary Gomez, and Ms. Dortch:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) will have a significant impact on Wyoming. I am writing to you concerning the aspects of the ARRA focusing on broadband communications.

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on the record on behalf of the citizens of my state with reasoned input. To ensure efficient use of stimulus funds is to rely, in part, on the States. It is my belief that we in Wyoming are in a good position to share our intimate knowledge of our communications environment, geography, and demographics in a responsible manner.

Wyoming is the least populated state with only 522,830 people in 2007. With an area of 98,210 square miles, that is fewer than 5.4 persons per square mile. Almost 45% of the population lives in the ten largest cities, none of which are dense urban areas. Wyoming has some smaller cities and towns, but visitors often find very small communities where railroads and highways intersect. Many Wyomingites live where they were born which could be an extended distance from the nearest town.

Fewer homes dispersed over large areas result in low local line density, which is a controlling factor in the economics of providing broadband in Wyoming. For example, Qwest's wire center in Lusk, Wyoming has a serving area nearly three times larger than the entire state of Rhode Island. However, the Lusk wire center has a local loop density of less than one access line

per square mile. By contrast, within the Washington, D.C. city limits there are approximately 10,000 access lines per square mile.

In this context, on March 17, 2009, my staff held a meeting together with the Chief Information Officer, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, and over two dozen leaders in Wyoming's communications industry, to brainstorm the broadband steering committee's ideas for Wyoming's priorities for broadband communications stimulus funding. I am writing to report the following comments:

1. **Focus.** While some states have already listed thousands of proposals for broadband stimulus funded projects (many of them in "underserved areas"), Wyoming would like to be more focused. The wider committee and I believe that our priority is to focus on providing broadband to unserved areas.
2. **The state prefers not to be a grantee, but can assist with the selection process.** Based on what we now know, private entities are better positioned to use stimulus money swiftly and effectively, either independently or in partnership with local governments. The state is better positioned to identify overall priority projects with an accent on coordination rather than project selection; to validate representations made by individual applicants; and to provide an overall statewide context to NTIA and RUS for project proposals. I encourage NTIA to avoid a nationwide selection process which would favor state grantees to the detriment of private sector applicants.
3. **Mapping is complete.** Wyoming mapped its broadband capabilities in 2005. Since that time, the boundaries of unserved areas have not materially changed. Our study remains a good baseline. The Wyoming Telecommunications Association has supplemented this baseline with a depiction of Interoffice Fiber Facilities, completed this past week.
4. **Additional investment in backbone infrastructure facilities is critical.** It is the consensus of the broadband steering committee that a priority for broadband stimulus in Wyoming is to complete a statewide fiber network with redundant, self-healing network architecture capable of supporting a robust broadband environment. The broadband steering committee has identified several physical infrastructure gaps in this network that need to be addressed for the benefit of numerous entities and many of our citizens to provide modern broadband access and enable next generation, IP-enabled 911 and coordination, as well as electronic access to government, education, commerce, health, telework, and safety. This type of focus will encourage scalability and flexibility of projects. I would also like to mention that we are also working hard on developing stimulus projects for energy transmission corridors, including addressing the need for "smart grids." I do not need to tell you that the implementation of successful broadband deployment can leverage transmission and smart grid opportunities, including energy efficiency measures.
5. **Rights-of-way.** Unfortunately, one of the biggest impediments to addressing the need for transport infrastructure to support broadband is the great difficulty our providers have in gaining access to rights-of-way on federal and tribal lands.

Wyoming is about 57% public land, about 84% of which is federally controlled.¹ Expedited treatment of applications for right-of-way on federal and tribal land for broadband stimulus projects will be critical to making them “shovel ready.” I am also communicating this need directly to your colleague, Secretary of the Department of the Interior Salazar, and I would greatly appreciate your assistance and attention to these right-of-way issues (as well as concerning another State priority – energy transmission corridors).

6. **Special priorities.** There will likely be a small array of grant and loan proposals coming from Wyoming. However, the broadband steering committee has already identified several project proposals and we intend to specifically support these priority project applications.
7. **Income criteria.** As you know, there is an 80% limit on NTIA grants under the ARRA. Some of our communities have significant portions of their populations living below the poverty level.² For these communities, and for the service providers that will potentially serve them, to provide 20% matching funds would be virtually impossible, particularly in today’s economic conditions. I urge you as you go forward to keep other funding alternatives in mind and to waive the 20% requirement based on financial need as permitted by the ARRA, when a project is funded to enable service to an unserved area.
8. **Keep it simple.** Please do what you can to create a program that meets as many lofty goals as possible, including accountability and transparency. At the same time, I believe it is very important to craft relevant procedures and applications in a streamlined manner. I urge you to employ methods that are simple and easy to follow so that truly needy projects and proposers from Wyoming have an equal opportunity to participate. Ironically, this may mean, among other things, allowing for access to the process by persons who do not have broadband access readily available to download forms and file applications.
9. **Preference.** Finally, the broadband steering committee recognizes the statutory preference requiring RUS to prefer “borrowers or former borrowers,” but asks the RUS to minimize the effect of this preference where the only willing provider may be a small business. The emphasis at both RUS and NTIA should be on inclusiveness of all proposals. In that vein, I ask you understand how important it is that no single provider be put on the defensive by this process. For example, the choice of a definition of broadband that might set a specific minimum speed requirement could have a dampening effect on the success of the program for some rural areas of the country. We do not wish to undermine the value of competitive investments that have already been made in broadband infrastructure.

Wyoming wants a modern broadband network for the future that is scalable and flexible, but most importantly, Wyoming wants to be reasonable; we want broadband but not necessarily fiber to every ranch. For instance, the ideal outcome would be a resilient government and essential services transport layer that can serve counties, cities, towns, libraries, schools, and hospitals, and also provide for use of excess capacity to our communication industry partners.

¹ From data collected in “Equality State Almanac” page 4. <http://eadiv.state.wy.us/Almanac/ESA2008.pdf>
² *Id.* Page 12.

Our private partners could in turn provide broadband services to the underserved populations, and encourage the use of under-used facilities. I believe this outcome was what the Administration intended by way of stimulus support for education, health, efficient government and communities.

In summary, the State of Wyoming is ready to offer coordination, context, and communications support with the appropriate administrative funding provided by the broadband stimulus program. I respectfully urge each of you and your staffs to feel free to contact me or my staff, Rob Hurless, at (307) 777 – 8521 or rhurle@state.wy.us if you have questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DF: RH:pjb

c: Commissioners of the FCC
Senator Mike Enzi
Senator John Barasso
Representative Cynthia Lummis
Ken Kuchno, Director, Broadband Division, Rural Utilities Service, USDA
Mark Seifert, Senior Advisor, NTIA
Dr. Bernadette McGuire-Rivera, Associate Administrator
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA
Michele Carey, NTIA, Advisor, NTIA
James McConnaughey, Senior Economist, Office of Policy Analysis & Development,
NTIA
Brad Ramsay, General Counsel, NARUC
Best Copy and Printing, Inc., Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402,
Washington, DC 20554



August 10, 2009

Mr. Michael S. Fox
Vice President/General Manager
Advanced Communications Technology
290 North Brooks Street
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

Dear Wyoming Telecommunications Provider:

As the economic development agency for the State of Wyoming, the Wyoming Business Council strongly supports state telecommunications providers' applications for broadband stimulus funds to construct and improve a fiber optic network in the northwest region of the state – a high priority project that has long been awaited.

Wyoming is the ninth largest state in area with the fewest number of people, and our businesses and citizens rely on access to broadband technology to bridge distances and density factors, and to access information for economic development, e-commerce, education, and other purposes.

Access to broad band is particularly important as a recruiting tool for businesses interested in relocating or starting-up in the state. The ability to connect to the range of services provide by broadband is essential to keeping Wyoming competitive and to attracting business to a state that boasts so may other business climate advantages.

The Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Fiber Optic Project will close a glaring gap in a network of existing telecommunication provider fiber optic facility segments. This gap has restricted the availability of robust broadband access for businesses and citizens in Wyoming over a decade. Closing the gap would help provide high-quality Internet service to not only the businesses and citizens in Wyoming's population hubs, but importantly, to those towns where basic access to the Internet is difficult to attain.

Today, simply having access to the Internet is not enough. The scope of the Internet and its importance as an information source has grown dramatically from the days of dial-up. Access to broadband service is increasingly necessary to keep up with an ever-changing world and the Wyoming Business Council supports industry's efforts towards completion of the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project to bring increased access to Wyoming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Jensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" being more prominent than the last name "Jensen".

Bob Jensen
Chief Executive Officer

BJ: lsh



State of Wyoming

Dave Freudenthal
Governor

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Robert S. von Wolfradt
Chief Information
Officer

August 11, 2009


Michael S. Fox
Vice President and General Manager
Advanced Communications Technology
290 North Brooks Street
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

RE: Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative

Dear Mr. Fox:

The State of Wyoming's Office of The Chief Information Officer concurs with the positive impact potential of this project. This project indeed addresses some of the major connectivity constraints that the state has been struggling with for years. It services both the intent of the ARRA objectives as well as directly providing a serious infrastructure improvement for eight schools, two courthouses, four medical clinics, a library, and numerous government services offices, including public safety locations.

Regards,


Robert von Wolfradt
Chief Information Officer

cc: WTA
File



Tel: 307.777.2800 • FAX: 307.777.2837
214 W. 15th Street • Cheyenne, WY 82002
www.wyomingbusiness.org

August 10, 2009

Mr. Ron B. McCue
Chief Operating Officer
Silver Star Communications
P O Box 226
Freedom, Wyoming 83120

Dear Wyoming Telecommunications Provider:

As the economic development agency for the State of Wyoming, the Wyoming Business Council strongly supports state telecommunications providers' applications for broadband stimulus funds to construct and improve a fiber optic network in the northwest region of the state – a high priority project that has long been awaited.

Wyoming is the ninth largest state in area with the fewest number of people, and our businesses and citizens rely on access to broadband technology to bridge distances and density factors, and to access information for economic development, e-commerce, education, and other purposes.

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The Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Fiber Optic Project will close a glaring gap in a network of existing telecommunication provider fiber optic facility segments. This gap has restricted the availability of robust broadband access for businesses and citizens in Wyoming over a decade. Closing the gap would help provide high-quality Internet service to not only the businesses and citizens in Wyoming's population hubs, but importantly, to those towns where basic access to the Internet is difficult to attain.

Today, simply having access to the Internet is not enough. The scope of the Internet and its importance as an information source has grown dramatically from the days of dial-up. Access to broadband service is increasingly necessary to keep up with an ever-changing world and the Wyoming Business Council supports industry's efforts towards completion of the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project to bring increased access to Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Bob Jensen
Chief Executive Officer

BJ: lsh



State of Wyoming

Dave Freudenthal
Governor

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Robert S. von Wolfradt
Chief Information
Officer

August 11, 2009


Ron B. McCue
Chief Operating Officer
Silver Star Communications
Post Office Box 226
Freedom, Wyoming 83120

RE: Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative

Dear Mr. McCue:

The State of Wyoming's Office of The Chief Information Officer concurs with the positive impact potential of this project. This project indeed addresses some of the major connectivity constraints that the state has been struggling with for years. It services both the intent of the ARRA objectives as well as directly providing a serious infrastructure improvement for eight schools, two courthouses, four medical clinics, a library, and numerous government services offices, including public safety locations.

Regards,


Robert von Wolfradt
Chief Information Officer

cc: WTA
File

Jackson Hole Ski Corporation
P.O. Box 290
Teton Village, WY 83025
Administrative Office (307) 733-2292
Fax (307) 733-2660



August 12, 2009

Rural Utilities Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250-1500

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sir/Madame:

I am writing in support of the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project which will close a glaring gap in a network of existing telecommunication provider fiber optic facility segments. This gap has restricted the availability of robust broadband access for businesses and citizens in Wyoming for over a decade. Closing the gap would help provide high-quality Internet service to businesses and citizens in Wyoming, and would greatly help Teton Village and the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.

We are increasingly dependent on uninterrupted Internet connectivity for daily operations at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. In the upcoming season the Internet will be required for payroll processing, human resources operations and Jackson Hole Resort Lodging reservations operations in addition to the existing transaction processing, email and ecommerce functions. Even support for the new tram equipment is provided via the Internet; the list just keeps getting longer. Our Information Systems department has made changes in our connectivity to the local Internet point of presence to improve speed and reliability, but the concern over carriage to the outside world has remained. This improvement project would largely address that concern.

Wyoming is the ninth largest state in area with the fewest number of people, and our businesses and citizens rely on access to broadband technology to bridge distances and density factors, and to access information for economic development, e-commerce, education, and other purposes.

Today, simply having access to the Internet is not enough. The scope of the Internet and its importance as an information source has grown dramatically from the days of dial-up. Access to broadband service is increasingly necessary to keep up with an ever-



changing world, and the Jackson Hole Mountain supports industry's efforts towards completion of the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project to bring increased access to Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Jerry Blann
President
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort





236 N. Washington • P.O. Box 188 • Afton, WY 83110 • 307-885-3175 • Fax: 307-885-5787

August 11, 2009

Rural Utilities Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250-1500

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sir/Madame:

Lower Valley Energy is an electric and natural gas cooperative utility serving approximately 29,000 meters in Western Wyoming and Eastern Idaho. We have worked corroboratively with our neighbor utility, Silver Star Communications, on several projects over the years with the goal to better serve our common customers. As a rural utility, Lower Valley recognizes the need and strongly supports the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative – Silver Star Segment and the benefits it will bring to the communities we jointly serve.

Lower Valley relies on access to broadband technology provided by Silver Star to better serve our customers and to interface with essential services from vendors around the country. The ability to connect to the range of services provided by broadband is essential to keeping Lower Valley competitive and to provide low cost energy to our rural customers. The availability of low cost energy, together with state of the art broadband technology will help spur economic development in our service territory and are critical requirements in recruiting new businesses to relocate or start-up new businesses in Western Wyoming.

Today, simply having access to the internet is not enough. The scope of the internet and its importance as an information source has grown dramatically from the bygone days of dial-up service. Access to broadband service is increasingly necessary to keep up with an ever-changing world, and Lower Valley Energy supports the efforts to complete the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project to bring increased access to Western Wyoming. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 307-885-3175 should you wish to further discuss this vital project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Webb", written over a white background.

James R. Webb
President/CEO
Lower Valley Energy

POWERFUL LOCAL SOLUTIONS

August 12, 2009

Rural Utilities Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250-1500

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative

As the sole hospital in Teton County Wyoming, robust internet connectivity is vital to us. Not only is it critical to St. John's Medical Center's (SJMC) internal operations, we also provide connectivity to our clinics as well as our telehealth partners. Therefore, SJMC strongly supports state telecommunications providers' applications for broadband stimulus funds to construct and improve a fiber optic network in the northwest region of the state – a high-priority project that has long been awaited.

Wyoming is the ninth largest state in area with the fewest number of people. The rural nature of the state and long distances involved present barriers to health care. It is critical to health care organizations to facilitate access to information for patient care.

The Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project will close a glaring gap in a network of existing telecommunication provider fiber optic facility segments. This gap has restricted the availability of robust broadband access for hospitals, businesses and citizens in Wyoming for over a decade. Closing the gap would help provide high-quality Internet service to not only the businesses and citizens in Wyoming's population hubs, but importantly, to those towns where basic access to the Internet is difficult to attain.

Today, simply having access to the Internet is not enough – reliability is critical. The scope of the Internet and its importance as an information source has grown dramatically from the days of dial-up. Access to broadband service is increasingly necessary to keep up with an ever-changing world, and SJMC supports industry's efforts towards completion of the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project to bring increased access and reliability to Wyoming.

Should there be anything else we could do to further this effort, please advise.

Sincerely,



Pamala Maher
CEO



www.tetonwyo.org

Commissioners

Hank Phibbs, Chairman
Ben Ellis, Vice Chair
Andy Schwartz
Leland Christensen
Paul Vogelheim

County Administrator

Bob Jasper

August 11, 2009

Rural Utilities Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250-1500

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sir/Madame:

Located in Northwest Wyoming, Teton County Board of Commissioners strongly support state telecommunications providers' applications for broadband stimulus funds to construct and improve a fiber optic network in the northwest region of the state – this is a high-priority project that has long been awaited.

Wyoming is the ninth largest state in area with the fewest number of people. Local government as well as our citizens rely on access to broadband technology to bridge distances and density factors, and to access information for economic development, e-commerce, education, and other purposes.

Access to broadband is particularly important as a recruiting tool for new businesses interested in relocating or starting-up in the state. The ability to connect to the vast range of services provided by broadband is essential to keeping Wyoming competitive in attracting new business to the state.

The Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project will close a glaring gap in a network of existing telecommunication provider fiber optic facility segments. This gap has restricted the availability of robust broadband access for businesses and citizens in Teton County for over a decade. Closing the gap would help provide high-quality and reliable Internet service to businesses and citizens in Teton County's population hubs and to those areas where basic access to the Internet is difficult to attain.

Today, simply having access to the Internet is not enough. The scope of the Internet and its importance as an information source has grown dramatically from the days of dial-up. Access to broadband service is increasingly necessary to keep up with an ever-changing world, and the Teton County Commissioners support industry's efforts towards completion of the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project to bring increased access to Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Hank Phibbs, Chairman

Post Office Box 3594
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Tel: (307) 733-8094
Fax: (307) 733-4451

Email:
commissioners@tetonwyo.org



August 10, 2009

Rural Utilities Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250-1500

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Sir/Madame:

As the economic development agency for the State of Wyoming, the Wyoming Business Council strongly supports state telecommunications providers' applications for broadband stimulus funds to construct and improve a fiber optic network in the northwest region of the state – a high-priority project that has long been awaited.

Wyoming is the ninth largest state in area with the fewest number of people, and our businesses and citizens rely on access to broadband technology to bridge distances and density factors, and to access information for economic development, e-commerce, education, and other purposes. Access to broadband is particularly important as a recruiting tool for businesses interested in relocating or starting-up in the state. The ability to connect to the range of services provided by broadband is essential to keeping Wyoming competitive and to attracting business to a state that boasts so many other business climate advantages.

The Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project will close a glaring gap in a network of existing telecommunication provider fiber optic facility segments. This gap has restricted the availability of robust broadband access for businesses and citizens in Wyoming for over a decade. Closing the gap would help provide high-quality Internet service to not only the businesses and citizens in Wyoming's population hubs, but importantly, to those towns where basic access to the Internet is difficult to attain.

Today, simply having access to the Internet is not enough. The scope of the Internet and its importance as an information source has grown dramatically from the days of dial-up. Access to broadband service is increasingly necessary to keep up with an ever-changing world, and the Jackson Town Council supports industry's efforts towards completion of the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project to bring increased access to Wyoming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Barron", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Barron
Mayor





File Code: 3610

Date: August 19, 2009

Rural Utilities Service
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1500

Dear Administrator,

I serve as the District Ranger for the Buffalo Ranger District on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, responsible for the management of nearly 750,000 acres of National Forest System lands in far northwest Wyoming, adjacent to the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. I have recently learned of an initiative which would be of great benefit to the area - the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project.

This is a beautiful but remote area. It is also underserved by some modern amenities so critical to quality of life of northwest Wyoming that are taken for granted elsewhere. For example, my Ranger Station has nearly 18 individual housing units, however dial-up internet or prohibitively expensive satellite internet are the only two options for the residents of my station. This very same reality is faced by the surrounding residents here in northern Teton County.

My Ranger Station relies on often what is very limited connectivity to the Forest Supervisor's Office, other Ranger Stations, and most importantly, the users of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. On many days we are unable to accept incoming calls, place outgoing calls, and truly be able to rely on connectivity with the "world beyond." Our mission-critical operations, including fire management, search and rescue, and management of the surrounding National Forest would be greatly enhanced by having more reliable voice and data infrastructure available to us.

It is my opinion that the Northwest Wyoming Broadband Improvement Initiative Fiber Optic Project would provide the Buffalo Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest with vastly improved reliability of voice and data traffic capabilities to support mission-critical operations. It is my understanding that the implementation of this project would take place within the existing highway right-of-way and result in minimal, if any impact upon the Forest, but bring vast benefits. As such, I strongly support local telecommunications providers' application for broadband stimulus funds to construct and improve a fiber optic network in this region of the state and urge your approval of this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Hagenruber
JOHN HAGENGRUBER
Buffalo District Ranger
See page 2 for cc's



Cc: National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230



March 19, 2010

Dear Administrator,

I am writing to express my support of the stimulus funding request from Silverstar Communications. The proposed initiatives offer great value to our community, anchor institutions and the surrounding area.

The proposed projects will provide us with the ability to connect to our neighboring counties and government agencies and help us provide basic services to our communities. The projects also provide much a much needed secondary route out of our remote area. This is particularly important given our susceptibility to a major earthquake.

I strongly support my local communications telecommunications providers' applications for broadband stimulus funds. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Barron".

Mark Barron
Mayor





Teton Pines ... a special place.

March 17, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:,

I serve as Director of Membership & Marketing for Teton Pines Country Club & Resort located in Jackson Hole/Wilson, Wyoming.


My duties involve a lot of communication to our membership conveying our events, functions, schedules, etc. via mass e-mail and internet and our resort offers lodging for guests who demand modern conveniences like e-mail and internet communication as well.

I have recently learned of an initiative which would be of great value to the community anchor institutions as well as the surrounding people. In my opinion this project would provide us with the ability to connect to our neighboring counties and governmental agencies for emergency management, court proceedings and many other reasons that the modern world already experiences. This also provides a much needed secondary route out of this remote area that is highly susceptible to major earth quake due to fault lines.

This is 2010 and technology will only continue to improve in connecting all remote areas with excellent and reliable communication methods. Businesses in this day and age rely on wireless and high-speed communication methods and any method to improve this in our remote area would be greatly appreciated.

I strongly support my local communications telecommunications providers' applications for broadband stimulus funds to construct and urge your approval of this request.

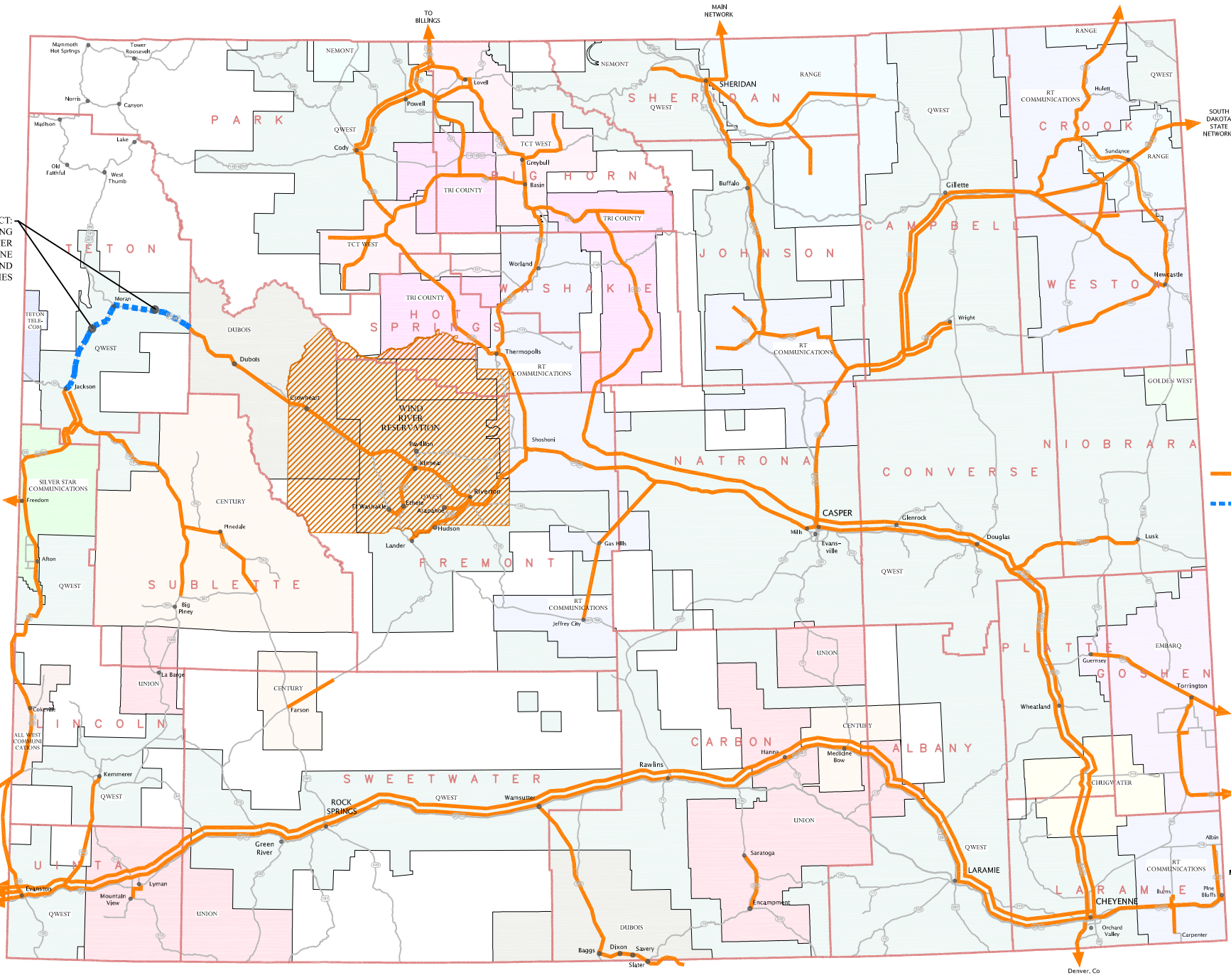
Sincerely,


Kevin Getz
Director of Membership & Marketing
Teton Pines Country Club & Resort

P.O. Box 14090
3450 North Clubhouse Drive
Jackson, Wyoming 83002

(307) 733-1005
Toll Free (800) 238-2225
FAX (307) 733-2860

ARRA PROJECT:
EXPANDING
GREATER
YELLOWSTONE
AREA BROADBAND
OPPORTUNITIES



APPROXIMATE
LOCATION OF:

- INDEPENDENTS' AND QWEST FIBER OPTICS
- - - - - ARRA PROJECT: EXPANDING GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA BROADBAND OPPORTUNITIES

**STATE OF WYOMING
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FIBER OPTIC
INFRASTRUCTURE
2009**

U.S. Department of Commerce
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Authentication and Certifications

1. I certify that I am the duly Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) of the applicant organization, and that I have been authorized to submit the attached application on its behalf.
2. I certify that I have examined this application, that all of the information and responses in this application, including certifications, and forms submitted, all of which are part of this grant application, are material representations of fact and true and correct to the best of my knowledge, that the entity(ies) that is requesting grant funding pursuant to this application and any subgrantees and subcontractors will comply with the terms, conditions, purposes, and federal requirements of the grant program; that no kickbacks were paid to anyone; and that a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims on this application are grounds for denial or termination of a grant award, and/or possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. §1001 and civil violations of the False Claims Act.
3. I certify that the entity(ies) I represent have and will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, codes, orders and programmatic rules and requirements relating to the project. I acknowledge that failure to do so may result in rejection or deobligation of the grant or loan award. I acknowledge that failure to comply with all federal and program rules could result in civil or criminal prosecution by the appropriate law enforcement authorities.
4. I certify that the entity(ies) I represent has and will comply with all applicable administrative and federal statutory, regulatory, and policy requirements set forth in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements ("DOC Pre-Award Notification"), published in the Federal Register on February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), as amended; DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (Mar. 8, 2009); the Department of Commerce American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Award Terms (Apr. 9, 2009); and any Special Award Terms and Conditions that are included by the Grants Officer in the award.
5. I certify that any funds awarded to the entity(ies) I represent as a result of this application will not result in any unjust enrichment of such entity(ies) or duplicate any funds such entity(ies) receive under federal universal service support programs administered by the Universal Service Administrative Corporation (USAC).
6. I certify that the entity(ies) I represent has secured access to pay the 20% of total project cost or has petitioned the Assistant Secretary of NTIA for a waiver of the matching requirement.

3-24-2010
Date

Michelle Motzkus
Authorized Organization Representative Signature

Michelle Motzkus
Print Name

Legal & Regulatory Administrator
Title

BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Service Area Template

Please complete the complete the CCI Service Area worksheet. In each line you will provide name of a service area and one of the contiguous Census tracts or block groups that make u service area. Please provide full 11-digit Census tract numbers, includes the 2-digit State FIF the 3-digit county code, followed by a unique 6-digit tract number. For Census block group: please provide the full tract number, plus the 1-digit block group number (12 digits total). If more than one Census tract or block group in a service area, there will be multiple lines in th for that service area. It is critical that the service area names provided in this table match w service area names provided in the Service Area Details page of the application. Please revie document and Service Area Details page for consistency before submitting your application.

Important Note: Excel truncates leading zeros from numbers. Consequently, the tract/block column on the worksheet has been formatted as text. This formatting should not be altered validity of your data may be compromised.

The data provided via this attachment will be subject to automated processing. Applicants a therefore required to provide this attachment as an Excel file, and not to convert it to a PDF submitting a copy of your application on an appropriate electronic medium, such as a DVD, (ROM, or flash drive. Additionally, Applicants should not modify the format of this file (*e.g.*, l adding or removing worksheets). Do not leave blank lines in the table between service area

EXAMPLE

Service Area Name	Tract or Block Group #
Big BB Project South	01001020100
Big BB Project South	01001020100
Big BB Project South	010010202001
Big BB Project West	01001020400
Big BB Project North	01001020800
Big BB Project North	010010209002

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BTOP CCI Service Area Template

Title: **Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities**
Easy Grants ID: **7357** Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc.

Service Area Name	Tract or Block Group #
Jackson to Togwotee Pass	56039997800
Jackson to Togwotee Pass	56039997700
Jackson to Togwotee Pass	56039997600

CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION-LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS AND LOBBYING

Applicants should refer to the regulations cited below to determine the certification to which they are required to attest. Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 26, "Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)" and 15 CFR Part 28, "New Restrictions on Lobbying."

1. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION-LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

As required by Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 26.510, Participants responsibilities, for prospective participants in lower tier covered transactions (except subcontracts for goods or services under the \$25,000 small purchase threshold unless the subtier recipient will have a critical influence on or substantive control over the award), as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Sections 26.105 and 26.110 -

(1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

(2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

2. LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.


Statement for loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification(s).

NAME OF APPLICANT Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc.	AWARD NUMBER AND/OR PROJECT NAME EGID 7357 - Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE Chad Turner, Vice President/Finance	
SIGNATURE 	DATE May 10, 2010

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

* NAME OF APPLICANT

Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc.

* AWARD NUMBER

[Redacted]

* PROJECT NAME

EGID 7357 - Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities

Prefix:

[Redacted]

* First Name:

Chad

Middle Name:

[Redacted]

* Last Name:

Turner

Suffix:

[Redacted]

* Title:

Vice President/Finance

* SIGNATURE:

Chad Turner
Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

* DATE:

May 10, 2010

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

U.S. Department of Commerce
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Authentication and Certifications

1. I certify that I am the duly Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) of the applicant organization, and that I have been authorized to submit the attached application on its behalf.
2. I certify that I have examined this application, that all of the information and responses in this application, including certifications, and forms submitted, all of which are part of this grant application, are material representations of fact and true and correct to the best of my knowledge, that the entity(ies) that is requesting grant funding pursuant to this application and any subgrantees and subcontractors will comply with the terms, conditions, purposes, and federal requirements of the grant program; that no kickbacks were paid to anyone; and that a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims on this application are grounds for denial or termination of a grant award, and/or possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. §1001 and civil violations of the False Claims Act.
3. I certify that the entity(ies) I represent have and will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, codes, orders and programmatic rules and requirements relating to the project. I acknowledge that failure to do so may result in rejection or deobligation of the grant or loan award. I acknowledge that failure to comply with all federal and program rules could result in civil or criminal prosecution by the appropriate law enforcement authorities.
4. I certify that the entity(ies) I represent has and will comply with all applicable administrative and federal statutory, regulatory, and policy requirements set forth in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements ("DOC Pre-Award Notification"), published in the Federal Register on February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), as amended; DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (Mar. 8, 2009); the Department of Commerce American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Award Terms (Apr. 9, 2009); and any Special Award Terms and Conditions that are included by the Grants Officer in the award.
5. I certify that any funds awarded to the entity(ies) I represent as a result of this application will not result in any unjust enrichment of such entity(ies) or duplicate any funds such entity(ies) receive under federal universal service support programs administered by the Universal Service Administrative Corporation (USAC).
6. I certify that the entity(ies) I represent has secured access to pay the 20% of total project cost or has petitioned the Assistant Secretary of NTIA for a waiver of the matching requirement.

3-24-2010
Date

Michelle Motzkus
Authorized Organization Representative Signature

Michelle Motzkus
Print Name

Legal & Regulatory Administrator
Title

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352
(See reverse for public burden disclosure.)

Approved by OMB
0348-0046

1. Type of Federal Action: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. contract <input type="checkbox"/> b. grant <input type="checkbox"/> c. cooperative agreement <input type="checkbox"/> d. loan <input type="checkbox"/> e. loan guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> f. loan insurance	2. Status of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> a. bid/offer/application <input type="checkbox"/> b. initial award <input type="checkbox"/> c. post-award	3. Report Type: <input type="checkbox"/> a. initial filing <input type="checkbox"/> b. material change For Material Change Only: year _____ quarter _____ date of last report _____
4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prime <input type="checkbox"/> Subawardee Tier _____, if known: Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc. P.O. Box 226 Freedom, WY 83120 Congressional District, if known: 4c	5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is a Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime: Congressional District, if known:	
6. Federal Department/Agency:	7. Federal Program Name/Description: NTIA BTOP; EasyGrants ID #7357 CFDA Number, if applicable: _____	
8. Federal Action Number, if known:	9. Award Amount, if known: \$	
10. a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant (if individual, last name, first name, MI): not applicable	b. Individuals Performing Services (including address if different from No. 10a) (last name, first name, MI): not applicable	
11. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.	Signature: <u>Chad Turner</u> Print Name: <u>Chad Turner</u> Title: <u>Vice President/Finance</u> Telephone No.: <u>307-883-6621</u> Date: <u>5/27/10</u>	
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