



NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION
FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER SANDY JONES

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CONTACT:

Kristin Haase, Assistant to PRC Chairman Sandy Jones

Phone: (505) 827-8020

Cell: (505) 216-8569

Email: kristin.haase@state.nm.us

Hundreds of Santa Teresa homes and businesses will soon have improved internet service

SANTA FE, NM – Public Regulation Commission Chairman Sandy Jones today announced Santa Teresa is the lone southern New Mexico city to secure one of 23 projects that promise to deliver broadband internet service to underserved communities across the state.

“We are successfully bridging the digital divide and giving Santa Teresa an opportunity to fully participate in the global economy,” said Jones, who represents District 5, which includes Santa Teresa.

On Wednesday, the PRC approved projects proposed by four companies, including CenturyLink which, according to its application, will expand broadband services to homes and businesses in the border city. CenturyLink estimates the project will reach 273 people and cost \$23,000.

The other three companies which submitted proposals are: Smith Bagley, Inc., dba Cellular One of North East Arizona (“SBI”); Valor Telecommunications of Texas, LLC dba Windstream Communications Southwest (“Windstream”); and E.N.M.R. Telephone Cooperative (“ENMR”).

The four will share a \$5 million appropriation from the State Rural Universal Service Fund (SRUSF), which supplements the cost of telephone and broadband internet infrastructure in low income and rural cities and towns. The Rural Telecommunications Act of New Mexico provides that, each year, the commission shall dedicate \$5 million of the SRUSF to the broadband program.

“We are going to get internet service to people who have never had it,” said Jones. “This is a direct result of industry, the legislator, and the regulator working together and I appreciate everyone whose deep commitment will improve the quality of life in every corner of the state.”

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) regulates the utilities, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The PRC promotes public safety through the offices of State Fire Marshal, the Firefighter Training Academy, Pipeline Safety Bureau, and Transportation Division.