



Broadband Presentation To Economic and Rural Development Committee

Prepared by NM Broadband Steering Committee

September 28, 2015



Agenda

- Background
- Executive Summary – Report & Action Plan
- Next Steps
- Questions & Answers



Background

- The need for more broadband and higher speeds in rural areas is no secret
 - “High speed internet gaps leave rural New Mexicans lacking a basic right” *Santa Fe New Mexican* May 30, 2015
 - “Information superhighway bypasses rural New Mexico” *Durango Herald*, May 31, 2015
 - “State eyes broadband access in rural schools” - *Santa Fe New Mexican* June 4, 2015

- NMPRC issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) that established a task force to review:
 - Minimum upload/download speeds
 - Map showing technology used in various parts of the state and lack of broadband
 - Barriers to deployment of broadband
 - Possible funding sources
 - Recommended actions



Background

- ▶ Appointment of steering committee members
 - ▶ Steering Committee appointed by the Commission was made up of diverse industry representatives: Large telecommunication providers, rural telecommunication carriers, Native American owned provider, wireless carriers, commercial developer.
 - ▶ Steering Committee appointed a task force made up of 30 individual volunteers
 - ▶ Telecommunications industry, cable, local business, rural economic development entities, community associations, Attorney General representative, electric cooperative, others.
- ▶ Task Force established separate working groups to address the five items required by the Commission. (Speeds, mapping, barriers, funding, legislation)
- ▶ A Report and Action Plan was filed with the Commission on June 10, 2015



Executive Summary

- ▶ According to the most recent National Broadband Map data, 250,000 New Mexican lack access to wireline broadband download speeds of at least 3 Mbps.
- ▶ Authority and Definitions
 - ▶ First issue was to determine if the Commission had the authority to adopt a statewide broadband program. The Task Force concluded that the Commission does have the authority under the New Mexico Telecommunications Act. (63-9H-6 NMSA 1978)
 - ▶ Broadband – service that provides consumers with a minimum download speed of 4 Mbps and upload speed of 1 Mbps.
 - ▶ Unserved – Any area where no facilities-based provider offers access at speeds greater than 56K.
 - ▶ Underserved – Any area where a facilities-based provider offers access at speeds greater than 56K down but less than broadband.
 - ▶ Comparable Access – Universal broadband service access to one fixed and one mobile broadband provider.



Executive Summary

■ Broadband Support Program

- Analyzed similar programs across the country: California, Nebraska, Minnesota
- The Task Force recommended the Commission establish an infrastructure grant program in which carriers can apply for funding based on need.
- Establishing a fund of \$5 million using a separate NMRUSF surcharge. (0.5% - 1%)
- Scoring criteria to be established by the Commission
- Applications for funding may be submitted by carriers certified as Eligible Telecommunications Providers (ETC).
- Applications will be analyzed with a focus on unserved, underserved, and comparable access.
- Level of investment by applicant will be considered during scoring process.
- Applicants claim that an area is unserved will be subject to a challenge process where third parties can rebut the applicants claim.



Next Steps

- ▶ Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) including a draft rule. The draft does include the implementation of a Statewide Broadband Program.
- ▶ Hearing has been set for November 4, 2015.
- ▶ Commission will utilize the existing NM Rural Universal Service Fund rules as a vehicle for the creation of a broadband program.
- ▶ Rulemaking process allows for all parties to participate in the process.
- ▶ Commission has determined that the new rules will go into effect on January 1, 2016.
- ▶ Draft rule also incorporates a definition of 'rural', accountability measures, and a sunset clause of five years.

Questions

