Lincolnville Telephone

TIDEWATER TELECOM

Lincolnville Telephone Company
Family of companies
serving Maine's
Telecommunications needs since 1904

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Lincolnville Communications

Coastal Telco Services

May 5, 2014
ConnectME Authority
Phil Lindley, Executive Director
78 Statehouse Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0078

Re: Grant Round 9 Pre-Application Letter – Tidewater Project B (Bristol #1)

Dear Mr. Lindley:

In response to the ConnectME Authority's announcement of its ninth grant round, Tidewater Telecom, Inc. ("Company") submits this pre-application letter for the above named Project ("Project").

1. We propose to provide service in in Bristol at 3-43 Woodward Farm Road, 6-44 Hatch Lane, 75 Tudor Road, and 75-81 Boulder Road. As the incumbent provider for this area, we currently provide broadband service in the proposed service area at less than the ConnectME standard, leaving the area unserved by the ConnectME standard. Expansion of broadband service at or above the ConnectME standard is cost prohibitive in the proposed service area due to distance and low population density.

2. The Project service area appears to be unserved by cable television broadband service, per a physical inspection of facilities. The Company will provide a copy of this letter to any additional broadband service providers listed for the Project's service area per "Your Broadband Connection" on the ConnectME website to prevent duplication of facilities.

3. The Company will install latest technology Fiber-to-the-Premises and related equipment, connected by fiber optic cable to our existing fiber optic network. This technology will allow us to provide broadband service from 6Mbps to 1Gbps to all customers within the serving area. Allowing for weather, supply chain, make ready, and other issues affecting construction, we are planning to bring our customers on-line approximately one year from confirmed funding of the Project.

4. The current estimated Project cost is $73,549, subject to revision at the time of our formal application. In light of the challenges of providing adequate bandwidth to this unserved area, and in light of the Authority's adopted broadband standard, we are requesting funding for $51,549, representing 70% of the estimated Project cost.

5. The Company will fund $22,000, or 30% of the estimated Project cost. The Company and its affiliates have successfully completed several similar projects funded by the Authority in prior grant rounds, and the Company is strongly committed to expanding broadband service, as evidenced by our large current broadband service area. The balance sheet and income statement from the Company's most recent Annual Report to the Maine Public Utilities Commission is attached.

6. Fully 100% of the potential customer locations in the Project's service area will have access to the Project service. Our initial survey indicates that 11 households and businesses will be passed within the Project boundaries. Our experience in expanding service into formerly unserved areas suggests a take rate of approximately 55%.

7. We are working with interested homeowners and business owners to gather support for this Project. We will provide evidence of community support as needed with our formal application.

8. The Company and its affiliates have successfully completed several projects funded by the Authority in prior grant rounds, and Tidewater Telecom, Inc. is well capable of providing broadband service, as evidenced by its provision of up to 6 Megabit broadband service in most of its service area.

Thank you,

Shirley Manning

Shirley Manning
President/General Manager
Tidewater Telecom, Inc.