

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: Rural Telephone Service Co. / Nex-Tech

Summary: Rural Telephone Service Co., Inc. is an Independent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) and rural cooperative with headquarters in Lenora, Kansas. Nex-Tech, Inc. is a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) and wholly-owned subsidiary of Rural Telephone, with headquarters in Hays, Kansas. A repeat recipient of RUS Title II funds, Rural Telephone has partnered with RUS to successfully deploy 32 projects since 1952. Nex-Tech is also a repeat recipient of RUS Broadband Loan funds, including pilot program funds. Together, Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech were recently awarded \$101,201,649 in Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This award was comprised of a \$51,612,841 loan and a \$49,588,808 grant that will be used to improve and/or provide broadband service to 22,714 households and businesses, including 335 community anchor institutions, within 21 towns and 26 rural areas spanning over 4,600 square miles. Fiber-To-The-Premise (FTTP) infrastructure and WiMAX technology are the two platforms that will be used to deploy broadband within this project area, providing customers with the most advanced technology and service offerings available. Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech has worked diligently to provide seamless broadband coverage for the towns and rural areas within its footprint. In addition to the towns and rural areas covered under its BIP project, Nex-Tech has also been granted two RUS Broadband Loans to provide FTTP within the city limits of Hoxie and Oberlin. Construction in these communities will be completed by year-end 2010 and 2011 respectively. (This explains why the number of households served in census tract 20039951200 is zero while 100% of the households have access to broadband; construction has not yet begun, but the entire census tract will have broadband service by year-end 2011.) Upon completion of these projects, Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech will have used \$101+ million in BIP funding, \$137+ million in RUS loan funds and approximately \$150 million in equity funds to bring broadband service to 42,005 rural households across 9,380 square miles in Western Kansas, which equates to an area nearly the size of the state of Maryland. The counties included in the Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech footprint are: Barton, Decatur, Ellis, Gove, Graham, Jewell, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rawlins, Republic, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Sheridan, Smith, Thomas and Trego.