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Valley TeleCom Planning Massive Fiber-to-the-Home Internet Expansion

Wilcox, AZ – June 15, 2022 – Valley TeleCom Group (Valley) is bringing fiber Internet to 90% of customers located within its cooperative territory. By investing in their cooperative footprint, Valley is providing the best Internet technology available to the very members who helped form Valley Telephone Cooperative 60 years ago. Valley is proud to have been able to navigate the technological changes from dial-up service to DSL over copper cable and now to fiber Internet. Fiber enables Valley to future-proof their network for members and be able to provide ever increasing bandwidths for years to come.

High speed internet that is reliable and affordable will transform rural communities. Businesses that were once limited to only providing store fronts will now be able to expand their reach and serve a broader customer base, and residents that live in the area can enjoy the same connectivity offered in urban areas.

In addition, high speed broadband will also provide opportunities for distance learning, telemedicine, telecommuting, smart agriculture, and allow access to public safety agencies and other government facilities maximizing available resources to bring the best services to the area. Valley's proposed design will deploy new fiber to deliver speeds of up to 1 Gbps over the fiber network.

"Valley's mission has always been to provide high-quality communications service in rural areas. We have had great success in the areas where we have already been able to provide fiber-to-the-home and are very excited to soon be able to offer the Internet service that customers in our more rural areas both need and deserve." said, Steve Metts, Valley's CEO.

It will be a heavy construction period for Valley as it upgrades and connects over 4,000 locations in Arizona and over 1,000 in New Mexico, over the next 5 years. Valley has secured a \$45 million loan from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to upgrade 90% of its Cooperative Service territory to fiber Internet. The Valley Cooperative territory spans Southwest New Mexico and Southeastern Arizona encompassing 16 communities.

- Animas, NM
- Bonita, AZ
- Bowie, AZ
- Clifton, AZ
- Columbus, NM

- Duncan, AZ
- Elfrida, AZ
- Morenci, AZ
- Pearce, AZ
- Playas, NM
- Portal, AZ
- Rodeo, NM
- San Simon, AZ
- Sunizona, AZ
- Virden, NM
- York Valley, AZ

The first service territory to be getting the fiber upgrade is the Bonita/Klondyke area. Soon those residents and many more throughout Southeastern Arizona and Southwestern New Mexico will have access to Internet speeds that will enable remote learning, telemedicine, work from home opportunities and endless streaming capabilities.

About Valley TeleCom Group

Valley TeleCom Group is a local telecommunications company that provides high-speed Internet, phone and business solutions to southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico. Valley has offices in Clifton, AZ; Safford, AZ; and Willcox, AZ and have been providing services since 1962. www.vtc.net