

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company - Bringing Fiber Fast Internet to Emerson - Attachment Letter E

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (NNTC) was the first Nebraska internet provider to invest in fiber for 100% of the company's customers. Since 2015, customers have enjoyed the experience of what fiber can bring in terms of internet speed. NNTC provides all customers with a minimum speed of 100/100 Mbps, with many customers receiving speeds at 800/800 Mbps and some up to 1,000/1,000 Mbps.

NNTC was founded in 1955 as one of the first telephone cooperatives in the state of Nebraska and now is one of seven telephone cooperatives in the state. The company started serving five northeast Nebraska communities in 1957. Through the years NNTC has acquired more communities and today serves 30 communities throughout 24 counties in rural Nebraska. The most recent additions were Clarks, Staplehurst and Ulysses, purchased from Clarks Telecommunications in 2007. The company's goal is to continue to build on its 66-year growth history while maintaining an excellent plant and experience for rural Nebraskans.

Technical staff for NNTC includes an Operations Manager, a Plant Manager, two Central Office Techs, an IT Specialist, a Network Engineer, nine Combination Technicians and a Construction Supervisor. Emerson would be served by at least one combination technician with support from the Operations Manager, the Plant Manager, two Central Office Techs, the IT Specialist and Network Engineer. Our ability to sustain and maintain the network is demonstrated by our technical staff, which has a combined work experience of 260 years in the industry.

NNTC started offering internet services via DSL and dial-up in the late 90s. Today, the company has 22 central office locations, with a meticulous well-maintained plant. Currently our staff is working on connecting all communities with multiple fiber rings with ability to grow our bandwidth as customer demand dictates. This will also ensure outages are at a minimum while internet speeds are at a maximum. A project is also underway to switch out the company's first generation of fiber transport technology to the latest and greatest technology for ONT capabilities.

Emerson customers will be served with brand-new ONTs by DZS™. Remaining equipment would also be supplied by DZS™. In business since 1969, DZS™ prides itself on being a U.S. based manufacture who supplies more ONTs to more providers than any other provider in the country. DZS™ offers the most sophisticated technology on the market today. Another technical advantage for NNTC customers and future customers is the Zyxel® router offered to all customers at no additional charge to ensure an optimal internet and Wi-Fi experience. The project would be 100% fiber-built, which is buried 42 inches underground to prevent ice, snow, heavy wind, rain and other Nebraska weather from interrupting service. DZS™ equipment in the projected area would also give NNTC the capability of even faster and easier upgrades in the future. The equipment installed will have the capability for up to 100 GB cards so as technology improves so will internet speeds. There will also be equipment redundancy to allow for equipment failure with no impact on services to customers. NNTC prides itself on a reputation to provide the best and fastest internet in the state of Nebraska.