



January 10, 2024

Kent Ewing
Mayor
City of Gering
PO Box 687
Gering NE 69341

Subject: Seeking Community Feedback on Proposed Broadband Development Project

Mayor Ewing,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that ALLO Communications intends to apply to the Nebraska Public Service Commission for a Capital Projects Fund grant to provide broadband internet service in your community. We are seeking feedback from the City of Gering leadership regarding the proposed project.

Please review the details of the proposed project below and provide feedback via the attached Community Feedback Form to the Public Service Commission no later than March 27, 2024.

Service Provider: ALLO Communications

Project Name: Scotts Bluff National Monument

Description of the Project Area: Gering, NE

Description of the Project and Technology to be Used:

ALLO will provide broadband service to the Scotts Bluff National Monument through an all Fiber-to-the-Premise network.

Proposed Speed Tiers and Pricing:

ALLO provides ubiquitous 1+ Gbps service with symmetrical speeds (delivering the same download and upload speeds) to entities including residences, businesses, and government entities. The standard offerings are symmetrical speeds at 500 Mbps (\$69/month), and 1 Gbps (\$98/month).

The proposed project area may also be viewed on the Nebraska Broadband Map, which will be made available on or around January 24, 2024 at

<https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/nebraska-broadband-bridge-program-nbbp>.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, you may contact;

Clint Schleicher, General Manager for Western Nebraska at Clint.Schleicher@allofiber.com

Jody Hoops, New Markets Administrator at Jody.Hoops@allofiber.com

Andrew Vinton, Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs at Andrew.Vinton@allofiber.com

If you have any questions regarding the Capital Projects Funds grant program, please email psc.broadband@nebraska.gov or you may contact the Nebraska Public Service Commission Consumer Advocate during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm CT) by calling (402) 471-3101 or toll free in Nebraska at 1 (800) 526-0017.



Sincerely,

Clint Schleicher
ALLO Communications

Cc: Nebraska Public Service Commission psc.broadband@nebraska.gov

Jontae Koke

190276 Old Oregon Trail
Gering, NE 69341
308-436-9702

Clint Schleicher
1710 East 20th Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

January 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Scotts Bluff National Monument (SBNM) is in support of this project fund request. SBNM has been a staple of the Nebraska panhandle since its establishment in 1919. On average, the monument hosts approximately 176,000 visitors annually, from all around the world, with a large portion of visitors from local and surrounding communities.

SBNM does not currently have fiber optic service and does not have fast enough internet to provide distance learning programs. SBNM also does not have fast enough internet to support public Wi-Fi, so a high-speed fiber connection would allow the park to have accessible public Wi-Fi in the Visitor Center. SBNM does not currently have funding in place to pay for/contract for the burying of cable.

High-speed internet could also be available to support the non-profit partner organization (Black Hills Parks & Forest Association) which operates a store inside the SBNM Visitor Center. Private residential areas surrounding the park boundary could also benefit from providing fiber to this area.

High-speed internet could support up to 12 permanent year-round staff, and an additional 5-10 staff members seasonally (May - October).

SBNM is free to the public, it is open year-round. The Visitor Center has served as a location for public gatherings/meetings, educational field trips, and numerous community-centered events.

Since this is a federal agency, compliance with federal laws is mandatory and screening for impacts must be completed prior to project initiation. The NPS has completed the environmental screening and required NHP screening and determined within the established parameters that no adverse effects should occur. Any deviation outside of what has been established within PEPC will need re-evaluated prior to work being initiated.

Sincerely,



Jontae Koke

Administrative Officer
jontae_koke@nps.gov