

May 30, 2024

PO Box 810
1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4H8

Committee Chair Heibert,

Re: NorthwesTel Residential Fibre Deployment Project in Peace River Regional District

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request to provide a letter of support for our proposed northern BC fibre project. Unfortunately, at this time there is limited additional information that I can provide to you regarding the project as we are within the application stage and have not completed the detailed engineering. As such, and in order of you incoming letter of May 10, 2024:

- We do not have a detailed map of the proposed service coverage beyond the notes provided in my May 1st, 2024 email (i.e. those with existing copper service within Upper Halfway, Buckinghorse, Pink Mountain, Truch and Wonowan).
- The proposed workflow is:
 - Survey summer 2024 if approval is received soon,
 - Detailed design work over the fall/winter and ordering of fibre, and
 - Construction summer 2025, service later that year.
- The benefits regarding connectivity are increased speeds, access to unlimited plans, and increased reliability. These in turn support improved social outcomes through access to services and local economic opportunities including in particular the ability for residential customers to access services and potentially create home-based businesses. It is noteworthy that the funding that supports this proposal is targeted at residential connections.
- I am not sure what you are asking regarding 'integrating last-mile connections into the project,' this is solely a last mile fibre project connecting the existing transport fibre to the customer. As noted previously, the proposed project generally follows the existing copper plant (in fact much of the fibre will be lashed to this existing plant). Although there are sometimes a few examples of individual locations that are close to the footprint that could be added on a case-by-case basis, there are no plans to expand this footprint as it is cost prohibitive
- ISPs will have access to this infrastructure through existing and regulated wholesale mechanisms.

While we believe that the original short window within which CCBC has asked for support letters has passed, any formal support the PRRD should wish to provide will be forwarded to the CCBC and may help advance approvals in a timely manner allowing us to commence survey work in 2024.

Thank you,


Kerry Newkirk