

MAPLE ROCK SYSTEMS
804 Pendexter Road
PO Box 717
Parsonsfield, Maine 04047
207-625-1392 FAX: 207-625-4838

CONNECTME Grant Pre-Application

June 1, 2009

Good morning:

This letter will serve as my CONNECTME Grant Pre-Application letter for the third round of the grant process.

As an introduction, Maple Rock Systems is a locally owned and operated Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP). Three years ago, I looked at the local need for high speed internet access. The incumbent cable and phone operators were unable or unwilling to expand their internet services, except at high cost to the end user. I investigated possible ways to implement a high speed network, and settled on the WISP scenario.

Within six months, I had an operational installation, with a high speed line piped into my office and an antenna on the roof to supply users. This setup was my proof of concept, and it worked to my expectations. However, I could only serve those in the immediate vicinity of my office, as the antenna lacked the height necessary to overcome some of the local terrain.

I then started the application process to allow installation of my equipment on an existing local tower. This proved to be a long process, as a local ordinance precluded the installation of the type of equipment I needed to use. I worked with the Cornish Planning Board, and they ultimately reworked their tower ordinance to be more in line with federal standards.

On February 24th, 2009, the installation of my three antennas and support hardware was completed on the Hessian Hill tower in Cornish. After a month of configuration and checkout, I started user installations. This installation has been operational since then, and has been failure free.

The technology I use is in the 900MHz unlicensed band. Using this band allows a small company to compete in an arena that has many large players. I have not seen any interference issues along the way. Raw data rates of 13.5Mbps are possible, with user data rates of up to 8Mbps, both upstream and downstream.

I currently serve customers in Parsonsfield and Cornish. My current installation will also serve parts of Limerick, Porter and Newfield. However, there are many portions of those locales that still cannot receive my signal. The signal will travel up to 25 miles, but, again because of local terrain, hills still block some areas in those towns. I would like to be able to better serve these areas. While data on other providers is hard to come by (Time

MAPLE ROCK SYSTEMS

804 Pendexter Road
PO Box 717
Parsonsfield, Maine 04047
207-625-1392 FAX: 207-625-4838

Warner has the contract for Parsonsfield, but doesn't reach over half of the residences), at least half of the residents do not have any terrestrial broadband currently available.

My proposal is to add two towers to my array. Both towers that I would use are existing, are higher than my current installation and would provide a triangulation of signals, to cover a broader area and areas currently unreachable because of terrain. Hiram and Baldwin would also be served by me expanded service. I would again use the 900MHz band, with speeds the same as above. Completion, which would include the acquisition, lab testing, installation and final checkout, would be within six months of grant approval. Actual time to deploy would probably be much quicker than that timeframe.

My grant request is for \$114,000. This would cover hardware purchase, installation, tower lease and increase in bandwidth for a one year period. Coverage analyses show that more than 75% of the targeted area could receive the signal, with greater than 50% of the people in that area being unserved. The 2000 census shows a total of 10,500 residents for the towns in my extended service area. The expansion would serve at least 50% of these residents.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F Bower". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

David F Bower
Owner