

County of Aroostook

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DOUGLAS F. BEAULIEU



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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September 16, 2010

RE: ConnectME Grant Request/ Pre-application Letter
For Sinclair

To the ConnectME Authority:

The County of Aroostook, on behalf of the Unorganized Territory of Sinclair, Maine, is seeking funding from ConnectME to provide high speed internet service to the unserved Township of Sinclair, Aroostook County, Maine.

BACKGROUND

The Township of Sinclair is located in the St John Valley along the shores of Long and Mud Lakes. The neighboring Town of St. Agatha currently receives high speed internet service from Time Warner Cable. Included in this pre-application letter is a description of the proposed expansion area, with an estimated cost of the project by Time Warner Cable as the primary service provider.

The residents of Sinclair have expressed an urgent need for high speed internet access.

AREA TO BE SERVED BY THIS GRANT

Proposed extension area covers 9 miles serving 247 homes and 7 Businesses. Proposed extension will be from the existing cable system in St Agatha and proceed down Route 162 - Shore Road; covering the village area in the thoroughfare between Long Lake and Mud Lakes.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH EXISTING BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The County has chosen Time Warner Cable as the primary and preferred provider for this project. Time Warner currently serves most of the communities in Northern Aroostook County. Expansion by Time Warner into Sinclair will also allow households the option of cable television and digital telephone service.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Time Warner will use their hybrid fiber/coax system, utilizing DOCSIS cable modem technology providing 512K upstream/ 6mb downstream speeds as standard service.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED:

Homes passed: 247
Businesses: 7
Total Passings 254:
Mileage 9

Estimated total cost of project: \$234,000
Time Warner Contribution: \$ 63,500

Estimated Grant amount requested: \$170,500

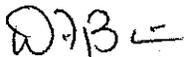
Funding for the project will come from the ConnectME Authority with Time Warner Cable providing approximately 27% (\$63,500) of the actual project cost. The project is expected to be completed within the 12 month period required by the ConnectME Authority. Grant request is based on the assumption of \$26,000 per mile construction costs. Extenuating circumstances (high make ready costs, engineering challenges, or other unforeseen costs) may increase the actual cost of the project. Actual cost will be determined by engineering and design after acceptance of pre-application and will be included in the actual grant.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This project has the strong support of the Aroostook County Commissioners, Sinclair Fire Department, and Sinclair residents. We also believe we have strong support from local elected officials. Letters of support will be provided with our final grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator

Pc: County Commissioners
Paul Bernier, Public Works Director