

CHAIRMAN DANE MAXWELL

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SOUTHERN DISTRICT

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PSC Announces Awards to Grant Applications for MS Electric Cooperatives Broadband COVID-19 Act

This is part of the ongoing efforts to bring reliable, affordable internet services to rural Mississippi

(JACKSON, MS) – The Mississippi Public Service Commission and the Public Utilities staff have reviewed and awarded the applications submitted by local electrical cooperatives for the Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband COVID-19 Act. The following Co-Ops were awarded:

Provider Name Telepak Networks, Inc. dba C Spire Fiber	Amount Awarded	
	\$	850,658
North Lauderdale Water Association	\$	175,000
Sebastopol Water Association	\$	100,000
Uplink Internet	\$	150,000
Alcorn County Electric Power Association	\$	4,911,998
Coast Electric Power Association	\$	5,425,826
Delta Electric Power Association	\$	4,431,896
Dixie Electric Power Association	\$	3,324,675
East Mississippi Electric Power Association	\$	5,425,826
4-County Electric Power Association	\$	5,425,826
Monroe County Electric Power Association	\$	3,804,101
Natchez Trace Electric Power Association	\$	3,942,547
North East Mississippi Electric Power Association	\$	3,706,380
Northcentral Electric Power Association	\$	2,486,837
Prentiss County Electric Power Association	\$	4,521,522
Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association	\$	4,080,917
Tippah Electric Power Association	\$	5,425,826
Tishomingo County Electric Power Association	\$	4,288,654
Tombigbee Electric Power Association	\$	3,797,167
Total	\$	66,275,658

"This is an exciting day toward progress in the effort to connect every Mississippi home to high-speed internet access," Chairman Dane Maxwell said. "While money is not a simple solution to our problems, this program puts us in a much better place to prepare for the future. We're excited about this program going through and we will continue to work on partnerships and initiatives to further connect Mississippians to these services until we solve this widespread issue."

The Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband COVID-19 Act (SB3046) was passed in the State Senate and signed by Governor Reeves earlier this year making it the largest funding of rural broadband in state history. The PSC and Public Utility Staff worked closely alongside Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann, Senator Joel Carter, Speaker Philip Gunn and Representative Scott Bounds to make this progress possible.