



NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

*For Immediate Release:
April 7, 2021*

Central and Northern Commissioners Announce Delta Fiber LLC Receiving Funds for High-Speed Internet Deployment

Delta Fiber LLC approved to receive \$46,942,795 for broadband expansion

GREENWOOD, MS— Central District Commissioner Brent Bailey and Northern District Commissioner Brandon Presley announce the final approval for federal funds to Delta Fiber LLC to support the deployment of high-speed internet service to customers across 12 counties served by Delta Electric Power Association.

Commissioners gathered for a ceremony Wednesday at Delta Electric Power Association to issue the final documents and approval to Delta Fiber LLC for the release of \$46,942,795 from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I auction. Delta Fiber LLC is now approved as a designated eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) and in time will deploy high-speed internet service to 13,535 rural homes and small businesses who are unserved or underserved.

"I am thrilled with the incredible success of this auction as we know the need for rural broadband in Mississippi's rural communities has never been more apparent than it is now," Commissioner Bailey said. "Access to telehealth services, remote learning for school children and remote business operations all require reliable broadband connectivity. Expanding access to this critical infrastructure in the Mississippi Delta will help ensure Mississippi prospers for years to come. When rural Mississippi thrives, all of Mississippi thrives."

"Broadband is the electricity of the 21st century and rural Mississippians deserve access just like anyone in New York, Los Angeles or Chicago. These funds will go to connect homes and businesses as an investment in the future of our families, education system, economic development and quality of life." Commissioner Presley said. "I am bound and determined to see that the modern economy and education opportunities come to every Mississippian through a world-class broadband connection. We will not stop until the last home and the end of the last dirt road is connected."

Overall, Mississippi had a total of 21 winning bidders of RDOF funds who will potentially receive a collective total of \$495,725,799.60. More information on the RDOF Phase I auction is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904>, including complete auction results and a map of winning bids.

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