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PSC Chairman Maxwell Approves \$25.7 million to PearlComm, LLC for Broadband Deployment

Pearl River Valley EPA was awarded these federal funds through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase 1 Auction

(COLUMBIA, MS) – Today, Chairman Dane Maxwell of the Mississippi Public Service Commission joined leadership and staff from PearlComm, LLC, a subsidiary of Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association, to formally sign an order releasing \$25.7 million to bring high-speed internet service to over 51,000 member's homes and businesses in its 12-county service area.

"I am honored for the opportunity to sign off on projects like this that bring such a huge benefit to the people of Mississippi," Chairman Dane Maxwell said. "With the help of this federal funding, PearlComm will be able to provide high-speed internet to its customers who may have never had access to it before."

Last year, Pearl River Valley EPA participated in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I Auction process and was awarded the \$25,700,000. After today's signing, PearlComm, LLC is now approved as a designated Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) which allows PearlComm to accept these federal funds.

In the coming months, PearlComm will work to deploy high-speed internet service to rural homes and small businesses who are currently unserved or underserved.

"We are proud to continue the legacy of Pearl River Valley Electric with a new era of economic, educational and community growth, created by the opportunities that high-speed internet provides," said Pearl River Valley Electric CEO/General Manager Matthew Ware. "We understand the value of this service and will work as fast as possible to serve all our members."

Mississippi was the second highest recipient of these funds with 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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