

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Office of Commissioner Brandon Presley MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NORTHERN DISTRICT

### **Presley Signs Final Approval for \$91,380,620 in FCC Broadband Funding Benefitting 42,153 Homes and Businesses**

Tupelo, Mississippi (April 5, 2021) - On Robins Field in Tupelo where President Franklin Roosevelt announced Tupelo as the first TVA city and cemented North Mississippi as a leader in public power, Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley signed orders designating nine local electric cooperative subsidiaries for \$91,338,620 in monies from the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund to expand broadband access. Official state designation as approved carriers by Presley was the final step before cooperatives could begin receiving the dollars, which will benefit 42,153 homes and businesses in North Mississippi. Similar ceremonies will be held Wednesday with 4 County Electric and Delta Electric and on Friday with East MS Electric.

"Broadband access in 2021 is as important as electricity was in the 1930s. These funds will now flow to connect North Mississippians to world-class broadband service in rural communities and small towns across the region. Rural Mississippians deserve the same quality of internet service as folks living in our nation's biggest cities and these funds will make that happen." Commissioner Presley said. "Whether it be online education, telework, telehealth or improving the quality of life, broadband access is a necessity, not a luxury. I look forward to working with these cooperatives as we strive to get broadband deployed. I will not stop on this mission until the last house at the end of the most rural road is connected."

The following electric cooperative subsidiaries were winners in the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund:

First Light Fiber by Alcorn County Electric \$5,510,502 to serve 3,428 locations

M-Pulse Fiber by Monroe Co. Electric: \$8,191,008 to serve 3,881 locations

NT Spark by Natchez Trace Electric: \$10,310,590 to serve 3,297

NE SPARC by Northeast Mississippi Electric: \$12,717,168 to serve 5,593 locations

Prentiss Connect by Prentiss Co. Electric: \$6,803,151 to serve 3,218 locations

TVI Fiber by Tallahatchie Valley Electric: \$20,173,977 to serve 8,695 locations

TEPA Connect by Tippah Electric: \$6,766,360 to connect 2,163 locations

Tombigbee Fiber by Tombigbee Electric: \$9,885,213 to serve 6,962 locations

Tishomingo Connect by Tishomingo Co. Electric: \$10,980,762 to serve 4,916



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