

## **Description of Network Openness:**

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative will provide its members with an open network capable of offering multiple, video, internet, and voice providers and will give service providers wholesale access to the network at reasonable rates and terms . The open network utilize scalable, high-bandwidth passive optical fiber and readily available, off the shelf RUS-approved components. The network will have the capacity to allow customers to choose from up to two different video providers, each delivering up to 300 digital channels, up to eight Internet Service Providers, each offering up to 50 Mbps download speed, and several VOIP telephone providers facilitating several triple play alternatives. In addition to these anchor services Broadband Boulevard will also allow an endless number of applications such as home protection features, telemedicine (broadband access to medical professionals), and distance learning (high school, college, specialized degrees). The open access architecture will also include new services that will address issues important to rural broadband users such as weather planning, agricultural-themed programming, and video-on-demand for current movies, specials, and local events.

Network interconnection, where technically feasible without exceeding current or reasonably anticipated capacity limitations, will be according to a reasonable rate structure making it financially attractive for various providers to connect and market to the end user. Each provider will enter the electric network through a centrally located Service Interface Point (SIP) located on cooperative property. The SIP will be constructed to provide security for each provider's equipment and allow the network to be monitored 24/7 from a central location. From this secure central access point, the forward and return path for each provider's signal will travel to the customer over the cooperative's passive fiber network. Connectivity between the customer's home and the public Internet will travel from the home or business to the SIP over the fiber network. Connectivity from the SIP to the public Internet will be delivered utilizing a high capacity optical circuit from the closest point of presence (POP) to the Internet and return to the coop's network connection at the SIP. POP connectivity will be negotiated utilizing Cogent Communications, Level 3 Communications, or Qwest. This ensures that the network is not a private, closed network.

The network management policies of each ISP will be displayed in a prominent location on its web page and will be maintained according to Service Level Agreements (SLAs) outlined in a uniform Network Access Contract. Each ISP also agrees to publicly notify customers of any changes to its network management policies. Regardless of the amount of bandwidth required to enable multiple connections to the cooperative network no favoritism will be provided to any lawful Internet application and content provider(s). Kit Carson also agrees to use binding private arbitration as the last step to resolve interconnection or other disputes. Multiple service providers will enable customers to access the lawful Internet content of their choice, run applications, connect their choice of legal devices, and enjoy the benefits of real competition among network, application, content and service providers.