Grant Request Number	GRN-000581
Funding Program Name	Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program
Funding Request Name	DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE-Middle Mile-Competitive Application
Applying Organization	DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE
Applicant Name	Jennifer Shilling

Primary Applicant Type Identify the primary applicant type:
Single Entity
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Primary Entity Type Type of entity: Primary entity type, (A) a State, political subdivision of a State, Tribal government, technology company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecommunications company, telecommunications cooperative, nonprofit foundation, nonprofit corporation, nonprofit institution, nonprofit association, regional planning council, Native entity, or economic development authority; or (B) a partnership of two (2) or more entities described in (A). What is the primary applicant's entity type?
Utility Cooperative
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Is parent/owner of applicant a foreign entity?
No
———
Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Brian Treadway; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Director, Transmission Services; brian.treadway@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Brian_Treadway
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Carl Fuhrman; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Director, Project Management Office; carl.fuhrman@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Carl_Fuhrman
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Celia Hewines; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Organizational Change Mgmt Analyst; ceilia.hewines@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Celia_Hewines
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will

play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Dale Noel; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Director, Telecommunications; dale.noel@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Dale_Noel
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Denise Thompson; Dairyland Power Cooperative; IT Project Manager; denise.thompson@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Denise_Thompson
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Elizabeth Ressie; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Director, Human Resources; elizabeth.ressie@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Elizabeth _Ressie
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Greg Flege; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Director, System Operations; greg.flege@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Greg_Flege
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Jennifer Radcliffe; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Sr. Economic Development Representative; jenny.radcliffe@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Jennifer_Radcliffe
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Jennifer Shilling; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Government Relations Manager; jennifer.shilling@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Jennifer_Shilling
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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.
Key Personnel - Kim Helgerson; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Senior Project Manager; kim.helgerson@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Kim_Helgerson

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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Kurt Baumgarten; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Telecommunications Engineer ; kurt.baumgarten@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Kurt_Baumgarten

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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Ron Krizans; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Director, Engineering Services; ron.krizan@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Ron_Krizans

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Managerial Capability Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Tim Lightfoot; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Acting Controller/ Assistant Controller; tim.lightfoot@dairylandpower.com KeyPersonnel_Resume_Tim_Lightfoot

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Organizational Charts Each applicant shall submit any necessary organizational chart(s) detailing all of its parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates.

Letters of Support-09-28-2022 09-10-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.zip, Dairyland Org Chart with BOD and Leadership-09-27-2022 11-05-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf

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Organizational Details Each applicant must also provide a narrative describing the applicant's readiness to manage a middle mile broadband network. This narrative should describe the experience and qualifications of key management set to undertake this project, the applicant's experience undertaking projects of similar size and scope, recent and upcoming organizational changes including mergers and acquisitions, relevant organizational policies, and ownership information consistent with 47 CFR § 1.2112. This narrative shall denote who will own the assets at the end of award period. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) is well-equipped to implement, construct, and maintain the proposed Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project (TSFDP). DPC was formed in December 1941 as a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative and provides the wholesale electrical requirements for 24 distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. These cooperatives and municipals, in turn, supply the energy needs of more than a half-million consumer-members in the four-state service area of Wisconsin (WI), Illinois (IL), Iowa (IA), and Minnesota (MN). DPC delivers electricity via 3,200 miles of transmission lines and 281 substations located throughout the system's 44,500 square mile service area. DPC is a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative providing the wholesale electrical requirements to its 24 distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. As a private, member-owned, 501(c)12 organization, there are no stockholders. Each of the 24 member-owners are also not-for-profit entities and exempt from paying federal or state income taxes. Member control of DPC is vested in its Board of Directors, consisting of representatives of the 24 distribution cooperatives. Thus,

there are no entities to report that own, control, or hold 10% or more of stock the organization, as indicated in 7 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7). There are no parties of interest, indirect ownership interests, limited partnerships, or general partnerships. Neither DPC nor its members are FCC regulated entities, nor are they applying for an FCC license. In 2020, DPC's Board of Directors and Managers' Association collectively approved the development of a Core Fiber Network as part of its overall vision to support the operational needs of DPC and its members while also enhancing rural broadband in the region and enabling internet service providers (ISPs) to provide high-quality service in particularly unserved sectors of DPC's four-state service territory at affordable rates. DPC completed a feasibility assessment for this initiative in 2016 and a subsequent formal feasibility study in 2018. Planning and engineering began in 2018, and the actual deployment of the Core Fiber Network Project (CFNP) commenced in 2020. DPC has completed 184 miles of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) retrofit of existing static ground wire ("retrofit") and 274 miles of complete line rebuild with OPGW ("rebuild") to date, amounting to a total of 458 miles completed thus far. DPC's Director of System Operations, Greg Flege, and Director of Telecommunications, Dale Noel, are leading this initiative with support from their respective divisions and DPC's Finance Department, which is led by Acting Controller/Assistant Controller Tim Lightfoot, and a strong compliance team. Flege's experience includes over 25 years of progressive responsibility in a variety of engineering and electric utility system operations. He joined DPC in 2009 and has served as Director of System Operations since 2016. Noel's experience includes over 40 years of progressive responsibility in the telecommunications industry with major corporations. Noel joined DPC in 2019 and has served as Director of Telecommunications since that time. Lightfoot joined DPC in 2019 with over 20 years of finance and accounting experience. As an electric utility and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utility Service borrower, DPC has a strong capacity for all necessary reporting and compliance activities, along with the financial capability to administer the grant on a reimbursement basis. The TSFDP has been contemplated as part of DPC's overall Fiber Network Deployment vision, and with these federal funds, deployment of this much-needed middle mile infrastructure can go further, faster. With annual operating expenses of $418 million in 2021 and an operating margin of $45 million before interest and other expenses, DPC is well-positioned to deploy a project of this scale. DPC's 2022 capital budget is over $98 million with over $11 million to date spent with third-party contractors. DPC recently completed an enterprise-wide Enterprise Resource Planning project, which included a move of all financial systems to Microsoft D-365, adding to the business process and project management strength of the organization. Microsoft Dynamics 365 is used as the organization's enterprise asset management (EAM) system, an enterprise software solution that maintains and controls DPC's assets and equipment with the goal of optimizing the quality and utilization of assets throughout their lifecycle, increasing productive uptime, and reducing operational costs. DPC uses the EAM system to create work orders as part of the work management process, through which work performed on the organization's assets is identified, planned, scheduled, performed and documented in a systematic manner. The data gathered is used to inform DPC's decision-making process for asset lifecycle determination. DPC is experienced in applying for and managing federal grant awards. In 2021, DPC received an economic development planning grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for which all administration and reporting were handled in a timely manner and in accordance with all reporting requirements. Assistant Controller Tim Lightfoot, Senior Economic Development Specialist Jenny Radcliffe, and Project Manager Denise Thompson collaborated to complete all financial reimbursement draws, and financial and project reporting. DPC will be the sole owner of the TSFDP upon completion. As with all its infrastructure, DPC is committed to a robust maintenance program to maintain reliability for the connected last mile broadband networks and the operational needs of the electric utility systems. This

includes regular line inspections, vegetation management, and assessment and attention to necessary repairs and replacements.

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Form CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying) The applicant must upload a completed form that certifies that Federal funds have not and will not be used for lobbying in connection with this request for Federal financial assistance. A fillable Form CD-511 can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.
DPC_updated CD 511-10-24-2022 04-59-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf, CD511 Dairyland Power Cooperative-09-09-2022 11-27-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf

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Standard Form-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) Standard Form-LLL must be completed and submitted for those applicants that need to disclose lobbying activities that have been secured to influence the outcome of a Federal action. A fillable Form SF-LLL can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.
SFLLL Dairyland Power Cooperative-09-21-2022 09-41-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf, DPC_Updated Standard form LLL-10-24-2022 05-00-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf

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SAM.gov Registration Applicants are asked to upload a screenshot of their SAM.gov registration.
DPC_SAM Registration-04-10-2023 11-54-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.png, 20220810 Sam Registration-08-24-2022 10-46-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf

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Executive Summary Please describe how the applicant's proposal will advance the objectives of the MMG Program, as well as the specific objectives of outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO); An overview of the proposed route or service area(s), including information regarding rurality and socio-economic indicators in the area to be served by the proposed project. This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative.
Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) is seeking federal funding through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program (MMPG) to swiftly provide much-needed middle mile infrastructure that will bring high-speed broadband service to residents in rural Wisconsin (WI), Minnesota (MN), and Iowa (IA). To achieve this, DPC will implement its Tri-State Fiber Deployment Project (TSFDP), which will retrofit 247.36 miles of fiber optic communications network using mostly optical ground wire (OPGW) on DPC's transmission lines in 3 years. DPC's ambitious TSFDP will expand and extend broadband access and reliable communications by connecting last mile networks to network service providers and major carriers. Through the TSFDP, last mile providers in these regions will have enhanced capacity to reach unserved and unserved residents at affordable rates, and subsequently, help bridge the nation's digital divide and close the homework gap for students who do not have the ability to do internet-based schoolwork at home due to a lack of reliable, high-speed broadband service. Rural broadband is essential in community development, public safety, economic growth, and quality of life for residents and businesses of the Upper Midwest and to DPC's consumer-members, specifically. In 2016, DPC identified that the microwave communications backbone was nearing its data capacity and lacked the flexibility to adapt to the changing business environment for grid modernization efforts. DPC also identified a growing and critical need for reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband internet service in rural areas of its four-state service territory (WI, MN, IA, and IL). To support the growing operational needs of DPC and provide fiber capacity for middle mile infrastructure, DPC established a Core Fiber Network Plan (CFNP) in 2019, which will install approximately 1,200 miles of OPGW fiber connectivity to DPC's generation facilities, transmission substations, and service centers. DPC's TSFDP, a component of its CFNP, will utilize this fiber deployment to bring about middle mile connectivity and

grid modernization to improve the quality of life for residents of rural WI, MN, and IA. The TSFDP will complete a significant section of the CFNP and address limitations and operational risks associated with the existing microwave radio system. For DPC's last mile partners and those that may access the middle mile network in the future, it provides the opportunity to reach additional unserved and underserved areas and create redundancy, reliability, and affordability for their systems. For the TSFDP, DPC has identified specific areas within its CFNP that are particularly underserved and would benefit greatly from federal funding given the financial, logistical, and topographical challenges associated with building middle mile infrastructure in sparsely populated areas. These geographic sectors, to include northwest and southwest WI, southeastern MN, northeastern IA, and river crossing in southwest WI and southeast MN, are deficient in middle mile services and are populated by small communities whose income and internet access are less than the national average. Key factors for the lack of middle mile infrastructure in the aforementioned sectors are low density and challenging topography throughout the TSFDP. Various state broadband reports highlight that increased investments in middle mile infrastructure, especially in rural areas, will foster residential and commercial revitalization by providing greater and more accessible employment opportunities for people living in these regions. Originally, the CFNP had a 10-year deployment plan with a completion date of 2030. However, in April 2021, DPC's Board of Directors, recognizing the growing need to enhance the current communications backbone infrastructure and fiber capacity for broadband service, accelerated the timeline for completion of the CFNP with a completion date of 2026. Considerable DPC funds and resources have already been committed to this project and other fiber facilities, including the investment of approximately $20 million in the buildout and retrofitting of 458 miles of OPGW, coordination of DPC's 2021 Cooperative Technology Survey and fiber mapping efforts to augment DPC's Fiber Task Force's due diligence, and consultant engagement to support the DPC's acceleration of CFNP implementation. Without federal funding, DPC will be hard-pressed to meet the accelerated and compressed project timeline, especially amidst the current economic climate and growing inflation, which would adversely impact the increasing broadband service needs of local residents and businesses at a time when they can least afford it. As such, DPC is seeking $14,898,701.79 in federal funds for the completion of its shovel-ready TSFDP which will retrofit 247.36 miles of DPC's fiber optic communications network using mostly OPGW on DPC's transmission lines in 3 years, with two-thirds of the project being completed in the first 2 years across the abovementioned states, and the majority of funds being allocated towards design, engineering, and construction costs. The total project cost is $30,405,513.86 and DPC will contribute $15,506,812.07 in cash as a non-federal cost share contribution towards the project, 51% of the total project cost. The TSFDP is a shovel -worthy, fiscally sustainable project as the pro forma statement reflects positive earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) number and will create roughly 110 full-time equivalent skilled labor jobs in the region. If funded, the TSFDP will advance both goals set forward in the NTIA's Middle Mile Grant Program (MMGP), specifically, to encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the backbone of the internet and to promote broadband connection resiliency through the creation of alternative network connection paths that can be designed to prevent single points of failure on a broadband network. DPC's members and last mile providers strive to bring broadband to residents and businesses in their communities where little telecommunications investments have been made by incumbent providers. The TSFDP will allow the last mile providers with connection to the internet backbone without making expensive investments in middle mile networks on their own. The TSFDP is an eight-segmented project with routes spanning:1) southeast MN, northeast IA, and northwest and southwest WI, and 2) Mississippi River and backwaters in southeast MN. The 247.36 miles of fiber

installation on various terrain using mostly OPGW in replacement of traditional static wire on DPC's 69 kV and 161 kV transmission lines will replace and enhance the current wireless system consisting of licensed and unlicensed communications backbone infrastructure. The project will be installed in eight segments on existing transmission lines, passing through Barron, Polk, Burnett, and Washburn Counties in WI, Winneshiek and Mitchell Counties in IA, and Fillmore, Freeborn, and Mower Counties in MN. The specific segments are as follows and can be viewed in the attached Google Earth file: Range, WI to Barron, WI; Barron, WI to Spooner, WI; Hertel, WI to Spooner, WI; Postville, IA to Harmony, MN; Osage, IA to Adams, MN; Twin Lakes, MN to Adams, MN; Adams, MN to Harmony, MN; and Harmony, MN to Genoa, WI across the Mississippi River. As directed by Section 60401(e) of the Infrastructure Act, DPC makes a binding commitment to prioritize seven out of eight delineated statutory purposes, to include (1) connecting middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide broadband service to households in unserved areas, (2) offering wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis, (3) adopting fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies, (4) offering non-discriminatory interconnect to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request, (5) identifying specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have expressed written interest in interconnecting with DPC's TSFDP and demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to such interconnection, (6) identifying supplemental investments or in-kind support that will accelerate the completion of the planned project, and (7) demonstrating that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense. DPC's TSFDP will connect to some of the most unpopulated, rural areas in the Upper Midwest, including areas that lack internet and cellular service entirely. In WI, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimates that approximately 394,000 people, 385,000 of whom reside in rural areas, lack access to at least one fixed, terrestrial broadband service with a speed of 25/3 megabits per second (Mbps) or better. The MN Office of Broadband Development reports that a large portion of TSFDP's service area in MN is unserved or underserved, and only 80.6% of households have a broadband internet subscription. In Mitchell County, IA, only 82.8% of households have a broadband internet subscription, and this number drops further to 81.3% in Winneshiek County, both of which will be served by the TSFDP. While the TSFDP will not directly connect non-contiguous trust lands, one of its fiber segments ends within one mile of native lands inhabited by the St. Croix Native Americans near Hertel in Burnett County, WI. Approximately 735 tribal members live on reservation, fee, or trust land in this area. Only 79.1% of households in this area have a broadband internet connection, compared with 84.7% in the state of Wisconsin as a whole. As a middle mile provider, DPC commits to offering middle mile services to broadband providers at reasonable rates. This will be done at reasonable market rates on a carrier-neutral basis with respect given to DPC members' interests. Through its TSFDP, DPC is partnering with last mile providers and DPC member cooperatives, Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (partner of Ntera), Jo-Carroll Energy, and MiEnergy (holding company of MiBroadband), all of which have committed to interconnecting with the TSFDP and will benefit greatly from enhanced middle mile infrastructure in the region. Middle mile infrastructure will enable these cooperatives to enhance Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems for their substations, a combination of hardware and software that is used to control industrial processes and equipment; create redundant paths to make their system more fault-tolerant; and reduce the cost of broadband in their rural service areas. Furthermore, DPC will continue to work with its Fiber Task Force in addition to regional broadband taskforces and state offices, including the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium, the WI and MN Government's Broadband Taskforce, WI Office of Broadband, IA Office of the Chief

Information Officer, and the MN Office of Broadband Development to enhance last mile connections and create innovative, competitive, and economically viable communities for present and future generations.

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Level of Need A description of the level of need in the proposed service area(s), including but not limited to communities considered unserved and/or underserved in the proposed service area(s), discussion of the competitive landscape in the area, variations among service areas if there are any, or the general economic conditions in the proposed funded service area. This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative.

DPC and its members are highly engaged in economic development within their local communities and at a regional level. The lack of affordable, high-speed broadband service in the region is one of the biggest challenges facing these communities, many of which lack major employers and high-performing educational institutions. As such, implementing middle mile infrastructure is a high priority among economic development practitioners and educational institutions throughout the service territory to create more digitally inclusive opportunities. Agriculture, tourism, and small businesses are also major economic drivers in these areas. Today's farmers also require quality internet connectivity in a globally competitive market. Ultimately, high quality and affordable connectivity is essential to maintain and attract residents who reside in these rural communities, as it will enable them to work remotely, launch entrepreneurial endeavors, engage in distance learning, utilize telemedicine, and ultimately, live life uninhibited by poor or no internet service. DPC's TSFDP is an eight-segmented project spanning the following regions: 1) southeast MN, northeast IA, northwest WI, and southwest WI, where DPC's headquarters are located, and 2) Mississippi River crossing and backwaters in southeast MN. The specific counties being serviced through this project have been identified as being particularly underserved and in acute need of middle mile infrastructure that will bring about increased connectivity to rural residents in the region. All counties within the project's service area are considered to be rural according to USDA population standards and have median household incomes that are less than the national average of $64,994. Furthermore, all counties served by the TSFDP have low population densities, with the lowest being only 20 persons per square mile in Burnett County, where St. Croix Native American Trust Land is located. In the 2021 WI Broadband Deployment Report by the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimated that nearly 7% of the population in the State (approximately 394,000 people) lack access to at least one fixed, terrestrial broadband service with a speed of 25/3 megabits per second (Mbps) or better, compared to the national average of 4.4%. Of those, 385,000 are in rural areas, which accounts for 21.8% of rural residents in WI lack access compared to the national rural average of 17.2%. Furthermore, it is likely that these estimates are underreported due to the FCC's Form 477 coverage data self-reporting mechanism, where broadband providers file data biannually on their internet offerings at speeds exceeding 200 kbps in at least one direction, which was used for these estimates. Subsequently, the Task Force asserts that these FCC figures are likely significantly underreported in relation to the reality WI residents are experiencing. Barron, Polk, Burnett, and Washburn counties are located in northwest WI, less than 100 miles from the MN border. According to the US Census, Barron County has a population of 46,719 and is considered a rural, nonmetro county by the USDA. There are 19,059 households in Barron County, of which 88.6% have a computer, and 77.4% have a broadband internet subscription, which is 8% less than the national average. The average median household income in Barron County is $52,346, with 10% of the population living in poverty. The census additionally indicates that Barron County has 1,317 employer establishments and approximately 54 persons per square mile, which is substantially lower than the national average.

Polk County has a population of 44,977 with 18,647 households, according to the census. The median household income in Polk County is $61,814, slightly lower than the national average, and nearly 9% of the population lives below the national poverty level. There are 1,118 employer establishments and 14,425 employed persons throughout the county. According to the census, there are 49.2 persons per square mile in Polk County, 47.5% less than the national average of 93.8 persons per square mile. Burnett County is located in the lake country of northwest WI and has a total land area of 822 square miles. There are 24 units of local government in the County, including three villages. Burnett County has a population of only 16,744 and has a meager average density of 20 people per square mile, which can be attributed to the rurality of the region. The county encompasses 110,000 acres of forests, trout streams, 500 lakes and rivers, several state natural areas, fish and wildlife areas, including the General Knowles State Forest and St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. As such, Burnett County has the most designated wildlife acreage of any county in the state. The median household income in Burnett is $53,555, nearly $11,000 less than the median household income in the country, and while 89.9% of the population has a computer, 79.1% have a broadband subscription; 6% less than the national average. In addition, one of DPC's TSFDP's fiber segments is roughly a mile away from St. Croix Trust Land, which is inhabited by members of the St. Croix Chippewa Native Americans. St. Croix Chippewa Indians are a tribe of indigenous Americans located primarily in Burnett County in northwestern WI. 2,126 acres in the area are tribally owned, with additional fee and trust land located in Burnett, Barron, and Polk counties. Approximately 735 tribal members live on reservation, fee, or trust land in this area. WI census data categorizes the area as highly rural based on population, USDA statistics, and economic research. DPC will put forth a concerted effort to work with tribal members and other parties to enable access that will benefit this community through its TSFDP. Washburn County has a population of 16,752, with 7,290 households and 510 employer establishments, according to the Census. 89% of households have a computer, and 80.2% have broadband internet, which is less than the national average. The median household income is $51,711, which is considerably lower than the United States average. The county has a density of only 20.9 persons per square mile. Fillmore, Freeborn, and Mower counties are located in southern MN near the IA border. The area is considered by the USDA to be largely rural, with a cumulative population estimated to be approximately 91,000: 21,271 in Fillmore County, 30,749 in Freeborn County, and 40,158 in Mower County. The census indicates that there are 9,653, 14,102, and 16,945 households and 24.6, 43.7, and 56.3 persons per square mile in the three counties, respectively. In MN as a whole, 93.9% of residents have access to a broadband internet connection. However, in the rural counties served by the TSFDP, these numbers drop significantly. According to the MN Office of Broadband Development, a large portion of Fillmore County is unserved or underserved, and only 80.6% of households have a broadband internet subscription. Mower County and Freeborn County also have limited access, with much of the area having no or limited broadband availability. Approximately 81.8% of Mower County residents and 80% of Freeborn County residents have subscriptions to a broadband connection, with significant portions of the geographic area being unserved or underserved. In MN, 79.8% of broadband internet plans cost more than $60 per month, and each of the counties listed above has a median household income that falls below the state median of $73,382. Freeborn and Mower counties' median incomes are $54,642 and $55,378 respectively, and Fillmore County's is $64,375. Freeborn County is the most economically disadvantaged county of the three—its poverty rate sits at 10% as of the 2020 census, which is 2% higher than that of the rest of the state. Winneshiek County and Mitchell County in northern IA are approximately 100 miles north of Cedar Rapids. Both counties are rural according to USDA population standards, with some small, isolated suburban communities. Winneshiek County has a population of 19,892 and Mitchell County has a population of 10,555. According to the Census, there are 8,997

households in Winneshiek County and 4,903 households in Mitchell County, with 29.1 and 22.5 persons per square mile, respectively. The average median household income in Winneshiek County is $63,162, and $60,260 in Mitchell County, with poverty rates of 9.2% and 8.9%, respectively. In IA as a whole, 90.4% of households own a computer, and 83.1% of households have a broadband internet connection. In Mitchell County, however, only 82.8% of households have a broadband internet subscription, and this number drops further to 81.3% in Winneshiek County. Additionally, DPC's TSFDP will benefit the proposed service area by supporting direct interconnect facilities that may enable the provision of broadband service to the following anchor institutions at speeds of at least 1 Gbps symmetrical: UW-Extension and Forestry Department Washburn County in Spooner, Wisconsin, Apple River Township Fire Department in Amery, WI, Turtle Lake High School in Turtle Lake, WI, US Postal Service in Twin Lakes, MN, and Twin Lakes City Hall in Twin Lakes, MN. Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative (ACEC), one of DPC's member cooperatives in IA, provides electric power and internet to 10,000 meters and nearly 9,000 members on 2,508 miles of line in portions of eight counties in eastern IA. ACEC asserts that the internet speed in its service territory varies depending on location and that some of their most rural areas only have 0.1Mbps and that some sectors of the community have no internet whatsoever, including cell service. The price points vary greatly throughout the area with plans ranging from $40 to $100 per month. Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, another DPC member cooperative in WI, offers broadband in partnership with Citizens Connected under Ntera LLC. Ntera's Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) network delivers speeds up to 1Gbps, with prices ranging from $39.99 to $129.99. In this region, Spectrum offers speeds up to 200Mbps for approximately $75 a month, and CenturyLink offers speeds between 1-2Mbps for approximately $45 a month. MiEnergy, a retail provider servicing southeastern MN, provides broadband at speeds ranging from 10/1 Mbps to 1Gbps symmetrical at prices ranging from $45 to $85 per month, depending on connection speed and location. MiEnergy has been awarded two USDA ReConnect Awards, two MN Border to Border Broadband Grants and four Iowa Broadband Grants, with grants and loans totaling over $22 million. The cooperative is additionally applying for the fourth round of ReConnect grants. DPC's TSFDP will facilitate MiEnergy's mission of delivering faster and affordable broadband service to all its 19,062 members in southeast MN and northeast IA. ACEC has also received over $8 million in grant funding from the IA Office of the Chief Information Officer to deploy broadband, while Ntera has received nearly $7 million in funds from the WI Broadband Expansion Grant program. DPC's TSFDP provides these members the opportunity to reach additional unserved and underserved areas and create redundancy and reliability for their system through retail fiber service that meets all necessary North American Electric Reliability Cooperation (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Security Requirements.

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State Collaboration Acknowledgement NTIA strongly encourages prospective non-state applicants to coordinate and consult with the State Broadband Office or other coordinating body located in the jurisdiction in which the eligible entity proposes to deploy middle mile infrastructure to ensure that the proposal is consistent with the state's broadband plan and priorities. Please confirm collaboration and consultation. Do you confirm collaboration and consultation with the appropriate organization?

Yes

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State and Local Collaboration Narrative Please provide information on the applicant's coordination with applicable State, Territory, Tribal, and local governments, including their awareness of the proposed project and any potential impact to respective service areas; and Information regarding

the applicant's involvement and coordination with community organizations or other relevant partners in the proposed service area. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

As a member-driven and community-focused organization, DPC maintains a network of partners at the state, regional, and local levels to expand and enhance high-speed broadband infrastructure in its service territory, leveraging resources and identifying courses of action that will ultimately help close the digital divide in rural America. With regard to its Core Fiber Network and TSFDP, DPC has successfully raised awareness and garnered support around these initiatives and meets regularly with the below-mentioned organizations to discuss progress and future implementation plans. Jennifer Shilling, DPC's Government Relations Manager, serves on the WI Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access, working closely with the Office of Broadband at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The Task Force recently published its 2022 report and recommendations which includes several references to middle mile infrastructure as a priority, as hundreds of thousands of WI residents remNterain without adequate internet service despite a gradual increase in access. The WI Office of Broadband is eager to work collaboratively with DPC on project implementation and has offered the attached letter of support. In MN, Brian Krambeer, President and CEO of MiEnergy, one of DPC's member cooperatives, and MiBroadband, a subsidiary of MiEnergy and last mile internet service provider looking to connect to the TSFDP, serves on the MN Broadband Taskforce. He is an avid proponent of DPC's TSFDP due to the acute need for enhanced broadband for rural communities in the region. Shannon Clark, President and CEO of Richland Electric Cooperative, one of DPC's member cooperatives, also serves on the WI Governor's Broadband Task Force and is a former chairman of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative. Clark has been actively involved in county-level broadband initiatives in WI. DPC and its members also support these efforts, such as the Taylor County Broadband Project, Sawyer County Connectivity Initiative, and more. These counties are in the early stages of bringing enhanced broadband to their residents and will benefit from the northern portions of DPC's TSFDP. DPC has engaged in ongoing dialogue with members of these initiatives to determine how all organizations can work together to collectively further each region's broadband objectives and identify resources and infrastructure DPC can provide that they may benefit from. In IA, Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative (ACEC) has been actively deploying fiber for over four years. General Manager, Hollee McCormick, has served on the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Task Force for the past four years. ACEC has worked with Upper Explorerland Regional Planning (An Iowa Council of Government organization) for much of its grant writing and grant administration processes. Additionally, Allamakee Economic Development and the City of Waukon have been involved and helpful in ACEC's efforts. To date, ACEC has received over $8.2 million in grant funds, all through Iowa's Office of Chief Information Officer, to deploy fiber. ACEC has deployed nearly 250 miles of fiber and plans to deploy more for broadband services. Additionally, DPC has a relationship with the Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium (CINC), a regional Community Area Network (CAN) made up of 40 institutions that was formed in 1999. CINC is committed to providing broadband that serves the public interest. Through a coordinated regional communication infrastructure, CINC works to position the Chippewa Valley to be innovative, competitive and economically viable for present and future generations. DPC's involvement with CINC began when DPC allowed CINC to implement its communications tower and building space on two of DPC's towers in the Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls area, as the organizations share many of the same customers. DPC has been in ongoing communication with CINC about the ways the TSFDP will bring broadband to the most rural segments of their service areas that are disproportionately impacted by the digital divide. DPC has solidified bipartisan congressional support from Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) Tina Smith (D-MN) and Reps. Ron Kind (D-WI), Tom

Tiffany (R-WI) and Brad Finstad (R-MN), as well as statewide support from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development Office of Broadband Development, the Minnesota Rural Electric Cooperative Association for the TSFDP, the WI Broadband Office, the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and the Iowa Office of Chief Information Office, as indicated in the attached letters of support.

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Will the project connect middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide broadband service to households in unserved areas?

Yes

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Is the project connecting non-contiguous trust lands?

No

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Do you commit to offering wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis?

Yes

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The eligible entity adopts fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies. This strategy should be described in the Budget Narrative. Do you attest to this?

Yes

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The eligible entity commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnect to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request. This policy will be described in the Interconnect Policy. Do you attest to this?

Yes

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The eligible entity identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have(i) expressed written interest in interconnecting with middle mile infrastructure planned to be deployed by the eligible entity; and ii) demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to such interconnection. This may be demonstrated in the Level of Need narrative of the Exec Summary. Do you attest to this?

Yes

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The eligible entity has identified supplemental investments or in-kind support (such as waived franchise or permitting fees) that will accelerate the completion of the planned project. Such acceleration may be described in the Project Timeline narrative. Do you attest to this?

Yes

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The eligible entity has demonstrated that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense. The benefits may be explained in the Benefitting National Security Interests Narrative. Do you attest to this?

Yes

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Please describe:

The installation of OPGW will directly support secure and reliable communications for mission-critical operations of the nation's bulk power system, including the transmission substations located along the

fiber routes. Additionally, the installation of a fiber optic backbone will help advance smart grid capabilities and communication to distributed energy resources throughout DPC's service territory. DPC will not provide retail broadband service to end users, however, it will provide thefiber that is installed as part of this grant application to providers of broadband service to use as a middle mile solution. This middle mile solution can be used to provide last mile service to rural customers. In addition, it can be used to create redundancies within their existing networks to provide more reliable services for rural customers. The additional fiber capacity on the installed segments can also be used by telecommunications service providers to provide traditional telephone services to end users as well as alternative routing for a more robust and resilient telecommunications network overall.

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Project Duration Number of Years

3

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Project Timeline Narrative The narrative requires the Applicant to describe a project with critical path, including key milestones for implementation of the project, preparations, and risk factors; and a capital investment schedule evidencing that the applicant will complete build-out and the initiation of service within five years of the date on which the entity receives the grant and will meet interim buildout requirements set forth herein and in any other binding document. If the project is able to be accelerated with supplemental investments or in-kind support to meet a statutory purpose, this should be explained. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The 247.36 miles of fiber installation for the TSFDP is composed of eight separate segments of overhead OPGW to be installed on existing transmission lines. These segments are scheduled for installation over the next three years, with an anticipated completion date of April 2026. The critical path and key milestones for DPC's fiber build are initial planning, engineering structural review, field review of splice points, procurement and delivery, vegetation management, environmental review and permitting, easement acquisition, construction, and final testing. Project meetings are held on a regular basis and involve all responsible parties for the TSFDP. In addition, DPC also has stringent reviews, chaired by executive management, to ensure that project documentation, scope, schedule, and funding are managed per its overall project management governance strategy. DPC's construction plan to meet the requirements for the installation of the fiber over the buildout timeline, and the corresponding capital investment, is explained below. In year 1, DPC will retrofit 93.86 miles, completing 39.1% of the project, a total capital investment of $13,589,917. In year 2 of the TSFDP, DPC will retrofit 48.89 miles with a capital investment of $ 7,901,098. At the end of year two, 59.4% of the project will be complete, a cumulative total of 142.75 miles. In year 3, DPC will retrofit 97.48 miles, a total capital investment of $ 8,914,498.86 (total capital investment includes dollars from federal award and non-federal cost-share.) The total project, 247.36 miles, will be completed by the end of year 3. The DPC risk management template is a tool that is used as another part of its overall project management process. Risks are identified by the project team and include a probability and an impact rating. Based on these two factors, the funding and schedule impacts are determined. In addition to being monitored during all phases of a project's lifecycle, risks are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Risk factors for the proposed fiber implementation include supply chain issues or delays, easement acquisition difficulties, environmental concerns and permitting delays, the structural integrity of the transmission poles, and potential risks involving a river crossing on an older transmission line. As stated above, DPC intends to complete the installation of the proposed fiber within a three-year period. Project risks such as permitting and unforeseen environmental or legal issues could potentially delay the project, particularly the Mississippi River crossing segment.

Nonetheless, DPC, with support of its Board of Directors, will ensure that the project is completed within the five-year requirement of the MMPG if not legally prevented from doing so. The supplemental investment of $15,506,812.07 will enable DPC to immediately begin activities in the planning phase of the TSFDP, including permitting, engineering and design, securing rights-of-way (ROW), and establishing easements, among other things, which will help DPC reach key project milestones quickly, thereby accelerating the completion of the project. With a portion of the supplemental investment, DPC will conduct assessments of the ROW, existing structures, land use, and environmental status and perform appraisals for easements, including estimated site and ROW acquisition costs (including purchase, lease and/or easements); processes that are both costly and time -consuming and could otherwise set the project back several months. This supplemental investment will also allow DPC to source construction materials from local and regional vendors early on which would help lower construction costs, mitigate the impacts of rising inflation and potential supply chain disruptions, and limit project cost overruns. With the current tight labor market and skilled trade shortage, DPC will use portions of its cash match to recruit, hire and train a local workforce to ensure the sustainability and scalability of the TSFDP beyond the 3-year project timeline period. As mentioned previously, DPC has already invested approximately $20 million in the buildout and retrofitting of 458 miles of OPGW towards the CFNP and has coordinated DPC's 2021 Cooperative Technology Survey and fiber mapping efforts to augment DPC's Fiber Task Force's due diligence. DPC has also engaged with consultants to support DPC's acceleration of the CFNP implementation timeline. Ultimately, the supplemental investment, in conjunction with the federal grant funding, will ensure that the construction of TSFDP is on time, on task, and on budget and that DPC meets its commitment of a 3-year timeline to complete CFNP implementation.

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Project Timeline File Applicants are asked to upload a template which will denote key milestones for implementation of the project, including but not limited to field survey, network design, equipment/material procurement, environmental assessment, permitting, construction, network testing, network activation and completion.

DPC_TSFDP Project Timeline Question 3_Fiber I-09-29-2022 01-00-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.xlsx

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Is an extension being requested?

No

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Special Rules for Tribal Governments and Native Entities The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act permits the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with Tribal governments and Native entities, to waive, or specify alternative requirements, in connection with most directives governing the MMG Program if the Assistant Secretary finds that waiver or modification of the requirement is necessary for (a) the effective delivery and administration of middle mile grants to Tribal governments or (b) the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure on trust land. Is a waiver or alternative requirements requested?

No

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Fair Labor Practices Applicants must have a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws as described in III.H in the NOFO. This will help ensure that projects are carried out in accordance with the law, assist NTIA in ensuring that a prospective awardee is capable of carrying out activities funded by an award in a competent manner in

compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and promote the effective and efficient completion of high-quality middle mile broadband infrastructure projects by ensuring a reliable supply of skilled workers and minimizing disruptive and costly delays. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

DPC emphasizes fair labor practices during every stage of a project, and plans for the TSFDP to ensure that all employees, including contractors and subcontractors, will be treated in compliance with local and federal labor laws. The project is planned and budgeted to adhere to the Service Contract Act and the Davis-Bacon Act for wage and labor standards in order to offer wages above the prevailing rate, as needed to comply with the requirements of the NTIA's Middle Mile Grant Program. DPC has worked with several contracting companies in the past, including a collaboration with Hooper Corporation and Michels Cooperation as recently as 2022 for the construction of transmission power lines. Both contractors provided relevant personnel for this project and all contractors were paid competitive wages based on the services provided. DPC's existing labor agreements would be used for the payment of wages and terms of employment for the duration of the project. DPC's first union certification by the Employment Relations Board dates back to November 10, 1947, and most recently, the unionization of fleet operations in 2021. The results of the election were uncontested. DPC has a track record of maintaining labor harmony through negotiating in good faith, open and honest communication with the workforce and union leadership, and conducting business in accordance within the guidance of its labor agreements. In addition, there have been no strikes or lockouts in bargaining agreements. Furthermore, DPC uses mediation and binding arbitration if an agreement cannot be reached through labor negotiations. Furthermore, neither DPC, its contractors, nor subcontractors have been found to have violated applicable labor and employment laws over the past three years, including, but not limited to, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. DPC's Legal and Human Resource departments remain abreast of all applicable labor laws and consult with the Department of Labor in its service territory to continually remain aware of all labor requirements. This information is then compiled into a compliance checklist and subsequent policies, guidelines, and programs that are disseminated to and reviewed with all DPC staff to reduce incidents or misunderstandings that could contribute to the violation of labor laws. DPC's Human Resource staff additionally conduct discrimination audits to ensure that the organization adheres to all applicable anti-discrimination rules. Lastly, DPC engages in employment agreements with all staff, contractors, and subcontractors to protect their rights and the rights of the organization and to ensure a mutual understanding of the employment relationship. Additionally, a unit of DPC's employees voted to be unionized in August 2021, to which DPC did not object. Both of DPC's current labor agreements include languages pertaining to no strikes and lockouts. DPC and IBEW 953 have binding arbitration in labor agreements if the parties cannot reach an agreement during labor contract negotiations. DPC prioritizes hiring locally, which lends itself not only to the financial sustainability of the TSFDP, but to the economy and job market of the areas in which construction will take place. To attract an appropriately skilled workforce for the project, DPC will participate in local job fairs and work in partnership with local colleges and universities. Registered apprenticeships will be organized for those who are still pursuing the proper degrees and certifications, and these apprentices will earn progressive wages as their skills and productivity increase in accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor. Ensuring the safety of both workers and the general public is a principal mission of DPC. DPC has equipped its workforce with tools, processes and rules that ensure that work can be completed safely in even the most challenging conditions. By implementing programs such as DPC's Safety Culture Systemwide team, DPC has cultivated a trusted forum for its field workers, managers, and executives to share what they have learned and what their

challenges are in a learning and collaborative environment. DPC staff participate in professional forums across the industry to share experiences, learn from others, and implement best practices to remain on the cutting edge of worker safety. DPC demonstrates its commitment to safety and learning in its professional community by hosting an annual “hot-stick” school for other utilities to participate in and where DPC employees lead sessions on how to safely perform complex energized transmission work. DPC has also created a human performance program that focuses on reducing the likelihood of an error through a robust suite of Human Performance Tools. DPC has continually trained its workforce on these tools as they evolve and how they can be utilized to recognize and mitigate hazards. DPC also employs a team of accredited safety professionals with hands-on experience in their respective fields who serve as the governance and oversight of the safety program, field safety experts for resolving safety challenges, and instructors for the organizations they serve. DPC anticipates that all staff responsible for managing administrative, engineering, and design aspects of the TSFDP, including award and contract management, reporting, accounting and bookkeeping, general project oversight and design, and other relevant roles, will be directly employed by DPC. DPC is evaluating the use of a third-party firm to assist with grant administration and potentially design and engineering to ensure that DPC can successfully execute all aspects of the project in accordance with NTIA requirements.

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Officer Certification In order for NTIA to evaluate an applicant’s demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws, each applicant must provide examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO. Applicants are asked to upload a Certification from an Officer/Director-level employee (or equivalent) of the applicant evidencing consistent past compliance with federal labor and employment laws by the applicant, as well as contractors and subcontractors.

Certification Re Labor Employment Laws - Dai-09-29-2022 01-03-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf

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Highly Skilled Workforce To ensure that applicants have the technical and operational capacity to carry out the project, applicants must submit a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce (including by the applicant and each of its contractors and subcontractors). The plan for a highly skilled workforce should include the information described in III.I in the NOFO. This response is limited to 6 000 characters as an open field narrative.

DPC acknowledges the importance of a highly skilled workforce to ensure the success of its TSFDP and is committed to providing all of its staff and contractors with the resources necessary to effectively carry out their roles. All employees and contractors are trained extensively on procedures and safety protocols specific to the project at hand, and open forums are held regularly by the workplace safety committee to address questions and concerns. All DPC lineworkers participate in and must complete the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Program in order to become a journey-level lineworker. There is a great need for skilled labor to complete this project in a timely manner. DPC has a strong working relationship with several local construction companies. DPC utilizes union contractors to support work that internal union craft would perform. All internal and external union lineworkers come through IBEW Local Union 161. DPC’s contracts and agreements with partners include a standard compliance statement ensuring workers assigned to work on DPC-related projects are current on their licensures and certifications. In addition to fully licensed and certified contractors, DPC provides opportunities for apprentice-level lineworkers to receive the hours and education needed to successfully work through and complete Journeyperson Certification. This will provide an invaluable opportunity to

recent graduates, particularly those of underserved groups, to participate in a large-scale project and gain experience. DPC is committed to using local construction companies, when possible, to save costs and stimulate the local economy. Over the project management life cycle, the TSFDP would provide approximately 110 full-time equivalent skilled labor jobs in the region, many of which will not require a four-year degree. Moreover, DPC is committed to directing its outreach and recruitment efforts towards people who have been historically disadvantaged and underrepresented in broadband and information technology jobs, including, but not limited to, women, people of color, disabled persons, and persons for whom English is not a primary language. DPC uses anonymous demographic surveys to determine the diversity of its applicant pool. If it is determined that the demographics do not meet the U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission requirements and DPC's internal diversity goals, steps are taken to ensure that underserved groups are aware of the job opening(s).

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Advancing Workforce Development A skilled workforce is critical to meeting infrastructure buildout timelines under the Infrastructure Act and connecting households across the country to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband. A well-trained workforce will also allow for the safe deployment of sustainable networks. To meet the workforce needs of the MMG Program, applicants must make appropriate investments to develop a skilled, diverse workforce. Each applicant must provide as part of its application examples of items described in III.J in the NOFO. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

DPC is taking various measures to ensure that all employees, contractors, and subcontractors employed under its TSFDP are highly skilled and fully equipped to carry out their roles successfully. Such efforts start at the time of hire, as DPC engages in thorough hiring and vetting processes for all its staff and contractors to ensure that their qualifications and skillsets are closely aligned with their potential roles and are suitable for the overall goals and objectives of the project. In addition to hiring highly skilled and qualified individuals, DPC offers recurring employee training in the areas of safety, environmental, HR compliance, human performance, cyber security, general safety, leadership and change management as a further means of advancing their competency and confidence in their roles. DPC engages in ongoing dialogue with its employees to both give and receive feedback in order to enhance their professional development and competency while also ensuring their satisfaction and attending to their needs. In this respect, DPC managers provide formal evaluations of their employees to address any challenges they may face and provide assistance and/or intervention as needed. Management additionally provides employees with specific lessons learned for each project they work on to improve performance on future projects. To gauge employee success and ensure that they are adequately fulfilling their roles, DPC management clearly defines success and failure for each respective role. Furthermore, DPC participates in sector-based partnerships among education and training providers, the State of Wisconsin Apprenticeship Program, and unions to provide training and/or registered apprenticeship program. In a further effort to support its workforce, DPC provides a competitive benefits package that includes benefits such as medical, dental and vision plans, life and AD&D, supplemental, child and spousal life insurance, short and long-term disability coverage, bereavement leave, 401(k) pension plan, paid time off, wellness reimbursements, spending accounts (HSA, FSA – medical and dependent care), financial advice services, employee assistance programs, etc., to attract, train, retain, or transition to meet local workforce needs and increase high-quality job opportunities. DPC additionally engages in partnerships with unions to ensure skill development and employee rights as well as to create viable job opportunities for historically marginalized populations, including, but not limited to, women, people of color, disabled persons, and persons for whom English

is not a primary language. DPC will put forth a concerted effort to market employment opportunities for its TSFDP to members of the aforementioned populations through partnerships with unions and other community-based organizations that serve such populations. For example, DPC is a member of the Greater La Crosse Diversity Council, Vets Power Us, and Greater La Crosse Talent Campaign, among others. Additionally, DPC strives to stimulate the local economy by hiring personnel and contractors in their service areas and surrounding regions.

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Climate Resiliency Please demonstrate that the applicant has sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new MMG Program infrastructure projects. In particular, each applicant should clearly demonstrate how it is conducting the items listed in III.K in the NOFO. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

DPC's TSFDP has been strategically designed and engineered to account for current and future climate-related risks. This is achieved by standardizing the project's load needs to ensure that all segments of the lines can withstand potential hazards, and by installing OPGW along the electric transmission system, which will ensure its longevity and resiliency. DPC has backup generation and battery systems at communication sites, designed for a minimum of eight hours of backup for critical communications. In addition, DPC utilizes a power management system with real-time monitoring to determine battery health, find issues before they are service-affecting, and uses adaptive charging to extend battery life. The WI State Climatology Office indicates that Barron, Burnett, Washburn Counties, and in particular Polk County, are at risk of severe thunderstorms. According to a fact sheet titled "Wisconsin Tornado and Severe Weather Statistics" by the National Weather Service, WI experiences thunderstorms approximately 30 days per year. Tornadoes pose an additional threat in the state of WI. The U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's public service advertising campaign, ReadyWisconsin, indicates that WI averages 23 tornadoes per year. While tornadoes are most prevalent in the spring and summer months, they can happen at any time of year. Tornadoes and snowstorms also occur in IA, whereas MN is prone to extremely cold temperatures and occasional floods, wildfires, and tornadoes, according to Iowa PBS and the MN Dept. of Health. DPC recognizes the need to build a robust infrastructure that can endure the specific environmental conditions of TSFDP's service area. Their Transmission Design Engineers use a worst-case scenario approach when installing fiber, standardizing loading conditions to ensure the entire system can withstand any potential weather hazards. With extensive experience in the service area, DPC's Transmission Design Engineering team understands the geographic landscape and knows that north and south running lines in IA and MN, with flatter terrain, are more likely to experience heavy wind and ice loading. Hence, they increase their focus on the design and engineering of the structure and its components. DPC's designs adhere to all applicable transmission line codes including, but not limited to the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), as well as local and State requirements. The OPGW will be installed on the electric transmission system to ensure that it is reliable and can withstand the environmental conditions it will face during its service life. DPC also follows any maintenance and inspection requirements and meets industry best practices by engaging in the following maintenance practices: monitoring via helicopter and flying each transmission line yearly; inspecting transmission lines on a four-year cycle by DPC maintenance personnel; conducting a 10-year cycle test and treat program to monitor and address any issues with the wood pole in terms of degradation at the ground line; and engaging in vegetation management on a six-year cycle in the transmission line right of way. Additionally, DPC will patrol its retrofitted OPGW equipment every five years to prevent it from sustaining secondary damage and ensure the successful operation of the equipment by identifying any abnormalities in the OPGW early on, which entails a general assessment

based on a visual inspection of its physical appearance. Using these design standards and maintenance practices, DPC has consistently maintained the transmission system in a safe and reliable state with an expected life of over 65 years. For its TSFDP, DPC will use an AlumaCore OPGW by AFL Global, the top provider of OPGW in the U.S., which has been providing this service for over 25 years. AlumaCore OPGW has been used worldwide in some of the world's harshest conditions, ranging from the Siberian Tundra to the rainforest of Brazil. The OPGW cable design is constructed of a fiber optic core (with multiple sub-units depending on the fiber count) encased in a hermetically sealed, hardened aluminum pipe with a covering of one or more layers of steel and/or alloy wires, ensuring that it can withstand the harshest of weather conditions. Furthermore, as a part of DPC's Asset Management Program, the organization utilizes an advanced Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system to track physical assets owned and/or operated by DPC. Microsoft Dynamics 365 is used as the EAM tool as part of an overall enterprise software solution encompassing the organizations accounting, procurement, supply chain, project management and work management process areas. DPC uses the EAM system to create work orders as part of the work management process. Through the work order process, work performed on the organization's assets is identified, planned, scheduled, performed and documented in a systematic manner. Once work is performed and documented, the maintenance and inspection data within the system is then used in the decision-making process for the asset lifecycle determination on run, repair, replace, and retire decisions. Another aspect of DPC's Asset Management Program is with the development and use of Asset Management Plans. The asset management plans are developed for specific asset classes or asset types and lay the groundwork for managing the overall asset lifecycle (including needs analysis, design, procurement, installation, operation, renewal and retirement phases). Asset management plans determine the appropriate failure mechanisms and strategies to detect, correct or avert maintenance issues in a proactive manner in order to maintain or extend the useful life of the asset. The resulting maintenance strategies are carried out through the work management process as preventive maintenance activities that align with the plan.

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Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance Prior to distributing any MMG Program funding to a prospective awardee, NTIA will require the prospective awardee to agree, by contract or other binding commitment, to abide by the non-discrimination requirements set forth in III.J in the NOFO. Do you agree to abide by the non-discrimination requirements?

Yes

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Certification of Technical Capability Each applicant must supply a certification attesting that it is technically qualified to complete and operate the proposed project.

Certification of Technical Capabilities - Dai-09-21-2022 09-43-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf

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Interconnect Policy The Applicant must describe in detail the nondiscrimination, interconnection, and network management practices that would be adopted for the project facilities. The Applicant should describe how it will comply with nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations, particularly with connectivity to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. In addition to describing network management practices, the Applicant should disclose any practices in place to block access to illegal or harmful content. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

In accordance with Section 60401(d)(2) of the Infrastructure Act, DPC commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnection to terrestrial and wireless last-mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request in perpetuity while simultaneously honoring the inherent parameters associated with being a generation and transmission cooperative and owner/operator of bulk electric system facilities. DPC is well-positioned to build, operate and maintain middle mile infrastructure in the Midwest due to its extensive planned fiber network and the valuable river crossings and remote, difficult-to-build routes that exist on its electrical transmission system. DPC's commitment is to allow non-discriminatory, carrier-neutral interconnection with other parties and providers, provided they meet the requirements under 60401(d)(2)(C) and with consideration given to DPC's business model and member cooperatives' agreements and fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies. DPC will continue to offer nondiscriminatory access in perpetuity so long as the organization owns the network. Interconnection is permitted at points within the federally funded portion of the network where it is technically feasible to do so, including all splicing points designated by DPC where sufficient excess capacity exists, and the reliability of the transmission system is not jeopardized. DPC will negotiate fair market terms and rates with those parties requesting interconnection services, provided that third parties are responsible for securing all their own easement and governmental permitting, or other rights legally required for last mile infrastructure. DPC will not connect to the public internet, nor provide broadband services to end users through its TSFDP but will use the fiber installed in this grant program to provide middle mile services to those broadband service providers and anchor institutions in the vicinity of the proposed facilities. As such, DPC will ensure that any master service interconnection agreement with a third party includes a liability clause that holds each party responsible for internet breaches caused by their own failure to ensure adequate security and protections.

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Technical Overview Please describe targeted last mile service objectives, including last mile service provider letters of commitment, agreements, or contracts; and a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing of the services to be offered over the proposed facility. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The TSFDP will provide services for three general applications, including 1) middle mile, open access wholesale fiber, 2) connectivity to DPC member cooperatives for both internal operations and internet service provider (ISP) communication connectivity to last mile rural areas, and 3) internal operations to communicate between DPC generation, transmission, and office facilities, including critical infrastructure. These multiple-use applications will allow DPC to support retail broadband services, as directed by Section 60401(e)(3)(A) of the Infrastructure Act, and offer competitive pricing to regional middle mile fiber users that are fair and reasonable as compared to the regional market prices. As middle mile infrastructure, the TSFDP provides an opportunity for last mile network providers to lower retail broadband prices and provide an improved quality of service, which are required to attract and maintain all types of last mile connections. Furthermore, the TSFDP will help last mile providers in the region reach unserved and underserved areas; particularly, areas with broadband speeds of less than 10/1 Mbps with the new regional middle mile infrastructure. When only a single network is available to support last mile service, a monopoly route is formed, and there is no competition to increase the quality or lower the price of last mile services. Multiple studies have shown that open-access, middle mile infrastructure reduces capital expenditures that prevent the buildout of last mile connections, promoting rapid connections and spurring competition to build last mile services in rural areas. Making access to major internet hubs more affordable through middle mile networks like the TSFDP allows last mile providers to use their capital to expand their networks and reach more broadband customers with

more affordable service. In addition, through the TSFDP, last mile providers will have access to high-capacity circuits needed to interconnect a growing bandwidth demand, specifically in the mobile cellular sector. The TSFDP aims to future-proof Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) and provide reliable mobile cellular coverage access. The Project will provide geographically diverse route options to the local and regional markets as well as new on-net and near-net last mile opportunities to enable such connections as Fiber-to-the-Tower (FTTT) for the fast-growing mobile cellular network and its ever-increasing bandwidth needs throughout DPC's rural service territory footprint. The TSFDP will also enable faster service by providing a communication medium with larger transport capacity, scalability through ever-advancing technology, and additional path redundancy which allows providers to manage/avoid congestion, thereby improving latency. The 240.23 miles of OPGW retrofit will total 17,136 fiber strand miles and will allow last mile networks to provide the level of service required to attract and support all types of last mile connections, especially businesses and those with critical uptime requirements. In addition, access to new regional middle mile infrastructure through the TSFDP will allow ISPs to greatly improve the overall reliability of their last mile network by interconnecting to larger, geographically diverse fiber networks and offer redundant paths to make targeted last mile providers' systems more fault-tolerant and allow these providers to serve areas that are currently cost-prohibitive. DPC will provide middle mile services by initially providing dark fiber access and colocation services. The costs for dark fiber leasing are relatively fixed and enable organizations to easily increase bandwidth by changing the equipment at the end of the fiber. With this, there is unlimited scalability and future growth potential, as well as increased security and control over the core fiber network. DPC will also provide additional transport services in the future such as point-to-point circuits, wavelength division multiplexing (WDM), and ethernet, making services more accessible, cost-effective and sustainable. A Point-to-Point Circuit is a private data connection that securely connects two or more locations for private data services. Point-to-point connections offer high -quality, reliable service, as they are not a shared service and consistently follow the same direct network path. WDM allows different data streams to be sent simultaneously over a single optical fiber strand, subsequently increasing bandwidth and optimizing network investments. Ethernet warrants high speed, security, and reliability for local networks used by specific organizations and anchor institutions. DPC anticipates pricing for dark fiber access in the range of $600-$2,000 per strand-mile depending on location, facility availability, and current market factors. DPC anticipates pricing for colocation services in the range of $300-$1,000 per premise depending on location, facility availability, current market factors, and specific services provided. Initial telecom service revenues will be based on dark fiber leases and indefeasible rights of use (IRUs) agreements and colocation services with scalability to include future services such as wavelength and lit ethernet circuits. To date, DPC has obtained letters of commitment from last mile providers including MiEnergy Allamakee Clayton Electric Cooperative, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, and Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc., who have agreed to interconnect with DPC's TSFDP.

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Competitive Landscape The Applicant should describe existing middle mile offerings in the area, if any, including competitor data if applicable. This should include a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing and technology of the services to be offered over the proposed facility. Where possible, Applicant's project should be able to demonstrate a decline in middle mile costs that are likely to flow through to consumer broadband prices. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The TSFDP area is currently significantly deficient in middle mile services due to its rural nature, low density, and lack of infrastructure investment. The construction and commercial availability of new

fiber infrastructure will increase supply of and access to much needed middle mile services. New fiber infrastructure will provide communication customers seeking middle mile services with regional connections, backhaul services, and access to competitively priced web access located in major markets. These enhanced capabilities will allow communication providers to offer more services options and reduce consumer broadband prices. With regard to current middle mile offerings, the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) services all 99 counties in Iowa, including schools and state government agencies, though there are still several highly rural regions in northern Iowa that ICN's middle mile infrastructure has been unable to reach. ICN does not currently serve individual households, instead focusing on businesses and institutions. In northwest WI, Ntera's fiber to the home network delivers speeds up to 1Gbps. Using the same fiber that delivers 1Gbps service to its customers, Ntera interconnects its nodes with speeds of 100Gbps. Ntera offers internet plans as low as $39.99 per month, with the most expensive option priced at $129.99. Ntera has expressed interest in interconnecting with the TSFDP. t. In addition to this interest, Ntera is partnering with DPC to provide strands on approximately 25 miles of existing and planned fiber construction between Gilman and Holcombe, WI. This eliminates the need to retrofit an additional 26 miles of OPGW construction, saving DPDC dollars and resources. Partnerships like this enable DPC to build its network more efficiently and affordably by leveraging existing assets where feasible. In southeast MN, MiEnergy's service territory, there are various retail broadband providers, including, but not limited to, MediaCom, Windstream, Frontier, CenturyLink, AcenTek, and LTD. Broadband speeds and pricing in this region vary, ranging from 30 Mbps/30 Mbps at $45 per month, 60 Mbps/60 Mbps at $60 per month, 100 Mbps/100 Mbps at $70 per month, 250 Mbps/100 Mbps at $85 per month. MiEnergy also offers 1Gbps of symmetrical speeds available upon request. In Allamakee-Clayton's service area in northeast Iowa, pricing for broadband ranges from $40 to $100 per month, with speeds ranging from 10/1 Mbps to 2g. DPC's TSFDP will enable Allamakee-Clayton to offer lease fiber space instead of deploying its own fiber, ultimately creating resiliency and lowering costs for its end-users. Jo-Carroll Energy (JCE) in northwest IA offers internet plans with download and upload speeds of 25 Mbps, 250 Mbps, 1000 Mbps, and 2000 Mbps, priced at $59.99, $74.99, $99.99, and $299.99 per month, respectively. Competitor pricing in the area ranges from $30 to $200 and often includes data caps, and contracts, and is delivered via DSL, coax, wireless, or satellite as a non-fiber solution. Thus, any internet service that is not provided by fiber is not considered scalable to meet fast-growing high symmetrical bandwidth and low latency demands and is therefore not future proof. As an example, JCE currently purchases a 10G wholesale bandwidth circuit from "Provider A" for $1,300 per month. Recent competitive pricing from "Provider B" for the same type of service was 30% less and would be accessible via the TSFDP project. Additionally, JCE facilitates the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and Lifeline Program which subsidizes broadband access for qualifying households within its rural service area with at $30 and $9.25 monthly credit, respectively. DPC and many last mile broadband companies will all benefit greatly from the TSFDP, both in terms of cost-saving and an increased ability to reach highly rural areas and connect underserved communities with broadband service, as middle mile networks such as that provided by the TSFDP can provide the savings that enable last mile providers to build further and faster to connect difficult to reach residences. As such, the TSFDP will reduce company investments in infrastructure, thereby providing existing consumers with faster, more reliable broadband options at lower costs. Additionally, more last mile broadband options can be implemented for those in rural areas that are currently entirely without broadband access and/or cellular service. Case studies on middle mile infrastructure projects in other parts of the country demonstrate a decline in middle mile costs that flow to consumer broadband prices due to a resulting increase in competitive routes. A 2020 study titled, "If We Build It, Will They Come? Lessons

from Open-Access Middle mile Networks” by Jordan Arnold and Jonathan Sallet indicates that in Elko, Nevada, costs on a monopoly route are roughly six times more expensive than on routes where there are competitive choices. The study goes on to assert that the demand among businesses, the military, and last mile providers other than the incumbents is significant for leased dark fiber on competitive routes, where competitive pricing can lead last mile providers to reduce their prices for middle mile connections by half (https://www.benton.org/publications/middle mile).

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Type of technology to be used in proposal:

Fiber Optic Technology

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Each applicant of an award to build middle mile infrastructure using fiber optic technology shall certify that the proposed project, upon completion, will include direct interconnection facilities that will facilitate the provision of lit broadband service, at speeds not less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads to anchor institutions located within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure, as detailed in the Template CAI below. Do you agree to certify to the above?

Yes

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Upload Template CAI. Required for Fiber Optic Technology, optional for Wireless or Other.

DPC TSFDP Community Anchor Institution Final--09-29-2022 01-46-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.xlsx

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An eligible entity applying for a middle mile grant may seek, and the Assistant Secretary may grant, a waiver of the requirements set out in the previous paragraph, in full or in part, to the extent the eligible entity demonstrates that the requirement is not technically or economically feasible. Do you plan to apply for a waiver? If yes, please attach the waiver application in the Application Workspace, the Application Information section, Required Documents under Required Document Question 4 "Additional Waiver Upload".

No

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Network Route Maps Applicants should provide a physical network map that includes the following (if applicable): The Project Area and those unserved and underserved areas which it will enable. Applicant‘s pre-existing service area that demonstrates current service levels. The physical path of the network‘s transmission medium (e.g., backbone and lateral cable routes, microwave links), transmission type, technology, operating bandwidth, capacity (e.g., dark vs. lit strand count), and cable placement (e.g., aerial, burial) should be displayed. Points of interconnection (purely passive and non-environmentally controlled nodes, e.g., splice points are optional):Provider Facilities Collocation Facilities Private Interconnection Points with partnering service provider/private network Wireless towers and associated coverage areas. Anchor institutions within 1,000 feet, if desired. Additionally, the maps should delineate between network and facilities that are:Part of the Applicant's/key partners' existing network; Proposed as part of this project; Leased from a third party; Utilized under some alternative arrangement; or Relevant to interconnection with either Last Mile or Middle Mile service providers. PLEASE NOTE: Only ESRI Shapefiles will be accepted and uploaded.

DPC TSFDP Network Route Maps-09-29-2022 01-32-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.zip

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Data Submission Specification There is a template "Upload Template Data Submission Specification" which shall be uploaded. Applicants must complete the table with information for all interconnection points proposed for the network. This table has three required fields: Point Name, Latitude and Longitude. This should accommodate all of the points of interconnection (passive, non-environmentally controlled points of interconnection, e.g., splice points, may be excluded), collocation facilities, central offices, head ends, and other centralized facilities, network access points to Last Mile service providers, Internet peering points, and towers.
DPC TSFDP Data Submission Specification-09-29-2022 01-33-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.docx, DPC_Updated Data Submission Specification-10-24-2022 05-20-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.xlsx
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Network Diagram The Applicant must provide a high-level network diagram to be uploaded for the project that is a representation of the network, capacities, and facilities. The diagram must clearly denote which of the network elements already exist. The diagram should show: The links between the network nodes. The types of facilities used in connecting the network elements (fiber, wireless microwave, etc.). The points of interconnection and collocation facilities, including Internet peering points, access to local exchange carriers, central offices, or cable head ends. The proposed aggregation node facilities that will provide the egress point(s) from the broadband backbone to the networks of the selected service provider(s), named Last Mile service providers, and the selected named Internet Service Provider(s) in the new infrastructure. The Applicant should show which technologies are used and include bandwidth capacity constraints.
DPC TSFDP Network Logical Diagram-2-09-29-2022 01-35-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf, Technical Detail Q5 - Network Logical Diagram-06-14-2024 02-01-DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE-GRN-000581.pdf
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Environmental Narrative Any project-related activity that may adversely affect the environment must not be undertaken prior to the completion of the environmental review process prescribed by NTIA. Doing so may jeopardize consideration of the application. All Applicants for MMG projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable environmental regulations. Please provide a service-area environmental description that describes the physical project area and its surroundings (e.g., disturbed or developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forestlands; and any protected lands or resources in or near the project area), including site photographs and aerial photographs (e.g., Google Earth or Google Maps images), if the project includes construction and/or ground disturbing activities. This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative with image files to be uploaded.
As mentioned previously, DPC obtains financing for its projects primarily through the US Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Historically, OPGW retrofit projects have qualified as RUS Categorical Exclusions under 7 CFR 1970.53 d(1). However, recently, some of these projects have been reviewed per 7 CFR 1970.54, in which case an environmental report would be prepared. Under either scenario, the environmental review for the projects assures compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act, and the Federal Endangered Species Act. Additionally, all applicable state and local regulations related to threatened and endangered species, wetlands, waterways, floodplains, and cultural resources will be evaluated and addressed prior to the commencement of the TSFDP. The TSFDP consists of retrofitting the existing transmission lines with new OPGW in the static wire position. This is a static wire replacement, not a

complete transmission line rebuild. Structures will only be replaced if they are found not to be structurally able to support the OPGW addition, and re-enforcement is not an option. For these projects, no structures have been identified for replacement at this time. To date, DPC has not had to replace a structure due to structural insufficiencies related to OPGW installation. If a structure did need to be replaced, digger derricks and bucket trucks would be used to pull the old pole from the ground and place the new pole. The existing hole would be modified if required and a new pole that is structurally sufficient would be installed. It is possible that new ground rods would also need to be replaced in the event they become damaged during the removal process. With proper equipment and trained lineworkers, this replacement process can typically be completed within one day. Access to the pole would be gained by a temporary access road which is environmentally compliant under NEPA. The pole that has been removed will be reviewed by a third party, who will then determine if it can be reused as part of an electrical distribution line, or if it needs to be disposed of in an environmentally compliant manner. Based on engineering evaluation of the transmission lines within the TSFDP, some structures may require reinforcement, including the installation of reinforcement c-channels and upgraded guy anchor points. DPC will work within and follow all environmental regulations for the construction of the TSFDP The TSFDP routes are surrounded by agricultural land, forestland, wetlands, waterways, and rural residences. Small portions of the project will be completed in urban areas. DPC will work within and follow all environmental regulations for the construction of the TSFDP. Temporary access roads will be used to access the existing right of ways from public and private roads, which are environmentally compliant under NEPA. Temporary access roads will be used to access the existing ROW from public and private roads. In all cases, DPC will work within and follow all environmental regulations for the construction of the TSFDP. Specific environmental descriptions for each segment of the project are as follows: The first segment from Apple River (Range, WI) to Barron (Barron, WI) consists largely of roadside and overland agricultural and forested lands. It passes through the city of Range, and near the cities of Turtle Lake, Almena, Poskin, and Barron. A significant portion of the route is along Highway 8, which crosses north Branch Beaver Brook, Turtle Creek, Skinaway Lake, Lightning Creek, Hay River, Sweeny Pond Creek, Quaderer Creek, and several unnamed waterways. Lightning Creek and Hay River are both classified as Class II trout streams. Small portions of the route run along the northern boundary of the Joel Marsh Wildlife Area, the south boundary of the Lightning Creek State Wildlife Area, and adjacent to the Cattail State Trail, all of which are Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Managed Lands. Additionally, the segment runs through an extensive Wisconsin Habitat near Barron which is included in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) State Natural Areas. The second segment from Barron (Barron, WI) to Washco (Spooner, WI) consists of mostly overland forested areas and some overland agricultural lands. The route crosses Little Ripley Lake, Sucker Creek, Little Bear Creek, Hickey Creek, Engle Creek, Yellow River/Barron Flowage, Quaderer Creek and multiple unnamed waterways. The Little Bear Creek and Yellow River/Barron Flowage are both classified as Class II trout streams, and Hickey Creek and Engle Creek are both classified as Class I trout streams. A small portion of the route overlaps with Barron County and Washburn County Forest Land. Additionally, a small portion runs adjacent to the west boundary of the Engle Creek Springs State Public Fishing Area, and also the west boundary of the REM-Hickey Creek Public Fishing Area. Both are WDNR Managed Lands. This segment also runs through an Extensive Wisconsin Habitat (purpose WDNR managed lands) in the northwest portion of the State near Barron, which is included in the WDNR State Natural Areas. The third segment from Big Sand (Hertel, WI) to Washco (Spooner, WI) consists of roadside and overland agricultural and forested lands including significant areas along Highway 70, as well as urban and suburban areas in the city of Spooner and Chicago Junction. The segment is near several lakes and wetland complexes, and crosses the Yellow

River and an unnamed stream. The unnamed stream is a backwater of Beaver Brook which is a Class 1 trout stream. The segment is located adjacent to Beaver Brook State Public Hunting Grounds and Spring Creek Fishing Area, both of which are Wisconsin DNR Managed Lands. The fourth segment, Postville (Postville, IA) to Harmony (Harmony, MN) consists of roadside and overland agricultural land, forested areas, and suburban areas in the city of Freeport. The segment crosses Pine Creek, East Pine Creek, Canoe Creek, north Canoe Creek, Upper Iowa River, several unnamed waterways, and minor wetland complexes. Nearly the entire route of the fifth segment, Orchard (Osage, IA) to Adams (Adams, MN) consists of roadside agricultural lands. The segment crosses Burr Oak Creek, Little Cedar River, and several unnamed waterways. No trout streams are crossed by this segment. The sixth segment, Twin Lakes (Twin Lakes, MN) to Adams (Adams, MN), consists of roadside and overland agricultural land. This route crosses Shell Rock River, Mud Lake Creek, Cedar River, Otter Creek, Little Cedar River, several unnamed streams, and minor wetland complexes. No trout streams are crossed by this segment, although it does cross Interstate 35. The Shell Rock Wildlife Management Area is near this project, but outside of the project limits. This segment runs along the north and east borders of the Red Cedar State Wildlife Management Area, as well as along the south border of the Lena Larson State Wildlife Management Area. Adams (Adams, MN), to Harmony (Harmony, MN), the seventh segment, consists of roadside and overland agricultural lands. The segment passes north of the city of Harmony, Minnesota. The route crosses the Little Iowa River, Beaver Creek, Canfield Creek, Willow Creek, Camp Creek, Partridge Creek, and South Fork Root River. Willow Creek and Camp Creek are both trout streams, but not in the area where the project will be crossing them. In addition to the above waterways, the segment will cross other unnamed waterways as well as some minor wetland complexes. This segment will border the northern edge of Lake Louise State Park and will cross the Shooting Star Prairie Scientific and Natural Area. The segment also borders and crosses the Harmony-Preston Valley State Trail. The final segment, Harmony (Harmony, MN) to Genoa (Genoa, WI), consists of roadside and overland agricultural and forested land, as well as going through the town of Lenora. Additionally, there is a crossing of the Mississippi River and its backwaters. The Mississippi River crossing and backwaters run for approximately 2.45 miles, the majority of which is in the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The segment crosses Wisel Creek, Sorenson Creek, Riceford Creek, Winnebago Creek, several unnamed waterways, and some minor wetland complexes outside of the Mississippi River backwater areas. Wisel Creek, Riceford Creek, and Winnebago Creek are all classified as trout streams. Wisel Creek is a trout stream with special regulations. This segment runs through the Wisel Creek Aquatic Management Area and the Winnebago Creek Management Area. It also runs along the northern border of the RJD Memorial Hardwood State Forest, and then again along the southern border of an additional RJD Memorial Hardwood State Forest site closer to the Mississippi River.

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Upload Map Images:

DPC TSFDP Segment Maps-09-29-2022 01-41-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pptx

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Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement This is a document published to reflect an estimate of indirect cost rate negotiated between the Federal Government and a Grantee's organization which reflects the indirect costs (facilities and administrative costs) and fringe benefit expenses incurred by the organization. This must be completed, if applicable.

Letter Re Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agree-09-21-2022 09-24-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf

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Template Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators List all funded and unfunded project collaborators, including partners, subrecipients, match providers, major contractors/supplies, details on role/scope of work for project. A fillable Template of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.
Version2- Dairyland Power Cooperative - Table-04-06-2023 07-42-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581. and Unfunded Collaborators.xlsx, Dairyland Power Cooperative - Table of Funded-09-27-2022 11-39-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581. and Unfunded Collaborators Final.xlsx
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Certificate of Operational Capability Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting to the applicant's operational capability to complete and operate the proposed project. If the applicant has provided a voice and/or broadband internet access service, it must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it has filed FCC Form 477s and the Broadband DATA Act submission, if applicable, to the extent required during this time period and otherwise complied with the Commission's rules and regulations. Alternatively, the applicant must explain any pending or completed enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which it was alleged to have failed to comply with Commission rules or regulations. If the applicant has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, it must submit qualified operating or financial reports that it has filed with the relevant financial institution for the relevant time period along with a certification that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution. If applicable, the applicant must submit a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) that is has operated a middle mile broadband network for at least two years or that it is a wholly owned subsidiary of such an entity and must specify the number of years the applicant or its parent company has been operating.
Certification of Operational Capability - Dai-09-21-2022 09-45-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf
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Certification of Financial Capability Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it is financially qualified to meet the obligations associated with a project, that they will have available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant, and that they will comply with all MMG Program requirements, including service milestones.
Certification of Financial Capability - Dairy-09-21-2022 09-27-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf
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Letter of Credit During the application process, each applicant must submit a letter from a bank meeting eligibility requirements consistent with those set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) committing to issue an irrevocable stand-by letter of credit, in the required form, to the applicant. The letter shall at a minimum provide the dollar amount of credit offered and the issuing bank's agreement to follow the terms and conditions of NTIA's model letter of credit. NTIA shall publish on its website a model letter of credit substantially similar to the model letter of credit established by the Federal Communications Commission in connection with the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order, 35 FCC Rcd at 773-77, Appx. C.). NTIA will ensure, prior to issuing a middle mile grant award, that each eligible entity obtains an acceptable, irrevocable standby letter of credit in a value of no less than 25 percent of the award amount. Each eligible entity shall provide with its letter of credit an opinion letter from its legal counsel clearly

stating, subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications, that in a proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. (the "Bankruptcy Code"), the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit or proceeds of the letter of credit as property of the winning bidder's bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.
2023-04-12 letter of credit Dairyland Power C-04-12-2023 09-20-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf, 2022-09-20 Pre-Letter of Credit - Dairyland P-09-20-2022 04-23-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf
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Audited Financial Statement (Previous 3 Years) Each applicant shall submit financial statements from the most recent fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the applicant is not audited in the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements it must submit unaudited financial statements from the three prior fiscal years and certify that it will provide financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant by an NTIA specified deadline. *You must provide 3 years of audited financial statements.
2019 - 2021 Financial Statements - Dairyland -09-12-2022 01-49-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf
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Historical Financial Statements (Previous 3 Years) Each applicant shall submit financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the applicant is not audited in the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements it must submit unaudited financial statements from the three prior fiscal years and certify that it will provide financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant by an NTIA specified deadline. *You must provide 3 years of historical financial statements.
2019 - 2021 Financial Statements - Dairyland -09-12-2022 01-50-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.pdf
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Budget Narrative Applicants will create and submit a budget narrative that adequately describes all proposed activities and costs for their grant-funded project. Applicants must complete the file template, fill in all required information, and upload the file . The file must be uploaded as a Word file, and not converted to a PDF. You can find additional guidance in the MMG Application Guidance.
DPC TSFDP Budget Narrative-09-29-2022 07-24-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.docx, 4-04-06-2023 08-01-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.6.23_DPC TSFDP Budget Narrative.docx, 6.12.24_DPC TSFDP Budget NarrativeupdatedVers-06-14-2024 01-55-DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE-GRN-000581.pdf
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Template Detailed Budget Justification The Detailed Budget Justification spreadsheet must reflect the cost categories that appear on the SF-424 and SF-424C and include itemized calculations for each cost placed under those categories. A fillable Template Detailed Budget Justification can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.
DPC_TSFDP_MMGP Detailed Budget Justification-09-29-2022 07-24-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.xlsx, 4-04-06-2023 08-10-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.6.23 DPC_TSFDP_MMGP Detailed Budget Justification-2.xlsx
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Any other funding provided for this project?

No

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Template Pro Forma Pro forma financial projection and analysis related to the project's sustainability, inclusive of subscriber (e.g., last mile network connections, other wholesale services), across an eight-year forecast period. A fillable Template Pro Forms can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

DPC TSFDP Pro Forma -09-29-2022 01-57-Dairyland Power Cooperative-GRN-000581.xlsx

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