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<th><strong>Case Number (if already assigned)</strong></th>
<th>PUR-2019-00145</th>
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<td><strong>Case Name (if known)</strong></td>
<td>Petition of Appalachian Power Company For approval of a broadband capacity pilot</td>
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<td><strong>Document Type</strong></td>
<td>OTHR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Document Description Summary</strong></td>
<td>Appalachian Power Company's Grayson Broadband Biannual Report</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Pages</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Submission ID</strong></td>
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March 7, 2022

By Electronic Filing

The Honorable Bernard J. Logan, Clerk
State Corporation Commission
Document Control Center
Tyler Building, First Floor
1300 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Petition of Appalachian Power Company
For approval of a broadband capacity pilot
program pursuant to § 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia
Case No. PUR-2019-00145

Dear Mr. Logan:

Attached for filing in the above-referenced case please find the Appalachian Power Company’s Grayson Broadband Pilot Biannual Report.

Sincerely,

Noelle J. Coates

Attachment
cc: Raymond L. Doggett, Jr., Esq.
    Kiva Bland Pierce, Esq.
    C. Meade Browder, Jr., Esq.
    Audrey T. Bauhan, Esq.
    James G. Ritter, Esq.
    James R. Bacha, Esq.
Appalachian Power Company  
Case No. PUR-2019-00145  
Grayson Broadband Pilot Biannual Report  
March 2, 2022

Summary

This report will discuss the status of Appalachian Power Company’s (“Appalachian” or “Company”) broadband capacity pilot program in Grayson County, Virginia (“Grayson Broadband Pilot”), which the Company proposed and the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) approved pursuant to § 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia.

Grayson Broadband Pilot

The Company filed its Petition under § 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia, a law enacted in 2019. The Company has received approval to build and own “middle-mile” broadband infrastructure. The nongovernmental Internet service provider (“ISP”) can then lease that capacity and use it to deliver Internet service to customers in unserved areas.

For this project, Appalachian will install fiber-optic cable in Grayson County that it will lease to GigaBeam Networks, LLC (“GigaBeam”), which is the nongovernmental ISP. Grayson County is sparsely populated and largely unserved with modern broadband. The opportunities to grow the local economy and create jobs without broadband are limited. Among other benefits, the proposed Pilot will help the county in its economic development efforts. In addition to benefiting Grayson County, the Pilot also will benefit Appalachian. The Company will use the infrastructure to support its installation of smart-grid technologies like AMI and DACR, which need a communications network to function.

In receiving Commission approval in Case No. PUR-2019-00145, the Company presented two alternative scenarios for deploying fiber. The Commission approved the scenario involving the installation of 238 miles of fiber optic cable. It was also the scenario used by Grayson County and GigaBeam when applying for funds from the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative.

In its Final Order approving the Grayson Broadband Pilot, the Commission directed Appalachian to submit biannual reports that include the following information:

- Miles of fiber installed and miles of fiber remaining to be installed;
- A tabular breakdown of the number of poles replaced and rationale for replacement;
- A tabular breakdown of GigaBeam customers by the speed offerings, rate of offerings, the number of fiber residential subscribers, wireless residential subscribers, fiber business subscribers, and wireless business subscribers;
- A tabular breakdown of economic benefits resulting from the Pilot; and
- Copies of the quarterly reports given to Grayson County by GigaBeam.
The Company submits this report in order to comply with that requirement and provide the Commission and Staff with biannual updates on the status of the Grayson Broadband Pilot.

Pilot Update

Exhibits:

GRAYSON COUNTY FIBER MILES

GRAYSON COUNTY POLE REPLACEMENTS

Key

Pending Poles

Pre - Fiber Poles

Post - Fiber Poles

Actual Total

Total Poles

Poles identified for replacement but have not yet been replaced
Poles that need to be replaced prior to the fiber being hung
Poles that need replaced due to the installation of the fiber optic cable
Poles that were actually replaced
Poles that have been identified to be replaced and poles that have been replaced

All were due to space on the fiber
75% 3 - Space due to fiber, 2 - Strength
100% 16 identified so far due to fiber
19% 17%
**GRAYSON COUNTY GIGABEAM CUSTOMERS**

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<th>Residential Subscribers</th>
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*Currently developing projections/reporting with ISP as we move into test/turn-up year*

**ECONOMIC IMPACT & GIGABEAM REPORTING TO GRAYSON COUNTY:**

At this time, there is insufficient data to quantify economic impact. No reports have been provided to Grayson as of March 4th, 2022.