



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 22, 2020

Contact: Renee Chapline

VP of Government Relations & Communications, Prince George Electric Cooperative

rchapline@pgec.coop

(804) 834-8550

Surry County Awarded \$2.25 million in Broadband Buildout Funding

Waverly, Va. — Surry County and Prince George Electric Cooperative’s subsidiary, RURALBAND, is one of 12 broadband expansion projects awarded a grant from the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) on Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

Governor Ralph Northam announced that Surry County will receive, in the form of a grant through VATI, \$2.25 million to provide broadband service to 1,253 homes. The VATI program provides targeted funding to extend service to areas that are unserved by a broadband provider.

Delegate Emily Brewer of Surry County’s 64th District stated, “the announcement of broadband expansion is very exciting news for the citizens of Surry County. Since I was appointed to the Broadband Advisory Council, it has been my mission to secure funding for our region. Students, families, and small businesses deserve quality access to broadband services.”

“PGEC has been at the forefront of the broadband initiative,” states PGEC board chairman, Paul Brown. “We are very pleased Governor Northam has made broadband a priority in his administration, and Virginians will reap the rewards of this investment for years to come.”

Prince George Electric Cooperative serves Prince George, Surry, Sussex, Dinwiddie and Isle of Wight counties. “PGEC’s revolutionary high-speed internet has been exceedingly well received throughout our service territory, we’ve been able to witness firsthand how broadband internet access can help to improve our rural communities,” said Casey Logan, PGEC President and CEO.

The state-funded program, VATI, is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and the \$18.3 million in grants will go to localities and broadband authorities to provide “last-mile” fiber to unserved communities.

“The award of the VATI grant funds to bring broadband access to Surry County is a huge win for the County’s economic development efforts. We look forward to working with PGEC in providing this vital utility to meet the social, economic, educational and business needs of this community,” says Robert Elliot, chairman of the board of supervisors of Surry County.

###

Headquartered in Waverly, Prince George Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit member-owned energy provider that serves over 12,000 homes, farms and businesses in Dinwiddie, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, and Isle of Wight counties. PGEC Fiber, a cooperative subsidiary, has begun offering broadband service within the cooperative’s service territory. For more information, visit www.pgec.coop and www.RURALBAND.coop.