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First Fiber-to-the-Home Broadband Connection in Sussex County

Waverly, Va. — Sussex County celebrated its first fiber-to-the-home broadband internet connection on Tuesday, July 16 at Baxter Road, Disputanta, VA. Residents Roy and Janine Townsend mention their satisfaction with their new broadband internet service, RURALBAND. Prince George Electric Cooperative (PGE) and its subsidiary, RURALBAND offers last-mile, fiber-to-the-home broadband, bringing internet service to these unserved rural communities.

Since the dawn of the internet, rural areas of the United States have had less internet access than urban areas. High-speed wired connections are less common, and wireless phone service and signals are weaker than in cities — or absent altogether. Even as rural America's wired-internet speeds and mobile-phone service have improved, the overall problem remains: Cities' services have also gotten better, so the rural communities still have comparatively worse service. With RURALBAND's "future proof" fiber-to-the-home, broadband internet service, our rural communities now have the opportunity to stay connected.

Roy and Janine Townsend discuss their satisfaction with their new broadband internet service, RURALBAND. Their life has changed in many ways since receiving broadband access the week prior, including getting to spend more time with their grandchildren now that their grandparents' home is the place to be with high speed internet.

Janine Townsend mentions that before being connected to RURALBAND, they were paying higher prices for lower quality service. Janine goes on to say how the lack of internet access has affected her children's and grandchildren's lives too. Without internet access at home, the Townsend's grandchildren, and likely many others attending Sussex County Public Schools, would have to stay after school to complete assignments. "The bus ride from the schools is about 30 minutes, so even just staying at school for an extra hour or two, kids don't even get home until dark." With RURALBAND, schoolwork can now be completed at home.

"We wanted to make sure our members have the same opportunities living in rural America as they would in larger cities," explained Casey Logan, The President and Chief Executive Officer of Prince George Electric Cooperative.

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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. PGE Fiber, a cooperative subsidiary, has begun offering broadband service within the cooperative's service territory. For more information, visit www.pgec.coop and www.pgecfiber.com.