

For Immediate Release

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NMSURF Completes Gigabit Internet Wireless Ring from Santa Fe to Albuquerque

Santa Fe, NM, (Oct 6th, 2020) NMSURF finalized a link between Algodones and Rio Rancho, completing its Gigabit wireless ring between Santa Fe and Albuquerque. This redundant wireless link runs from Santa Fe, Sandia Peak, Rio Rancho, Algodones, Budaghers, La Bajada, and the Rest Area back to Santa Fe. With this redundant ring, if any link within the wireless ring between Santa Fe and Albuquerque is severed, traffic will reroute through the ring until the link is restored. The wireless ring also provides broadband internet service to the communities along its path including, Cochiti, Cochiti Lake, San Felipe, Peña Blanca, Santo Domingo, Santa Ana, Placitas, Sandia Peak and Sandia reservation, and Budaghers. Additionally, NMSURF has added a fully redundant transit traffic Gigabit connection at its Rio Rancho site, so that in the event Fiber is severed between Santa Fe and Albuquerque, NMSURF traffic will continue to route over the ring and through Rio Rancho.

Now more than ever during the pandemic, delivering a faster and more reliable connection to rural areas will provide desperately needed Internet services to the citizens of the

nearby towns and reservations, and the surrounding areas with these new small wireless facility sites. New Mexico remains one of the least connected states to broadband. Nearly half of the homes in New Mexico currently do not have a high speed broadband connection. The Native American population remains one of the least connected to the internet. The new redundant link further promotes the goals of Congress to bring better broadband to areas that desperately have inadequate or no broadband access. The wireless ring also further NMSURF goals of a fully redundant network, so the customer has more online time in the event of an unplanned outage.

Bringing broadband Internet to rural areas is a top priority for Congress, the State of New Mexico, and the FCC. The FCC declared in 2017 that 25Mbps is the new standard for broadband. New Mexico is ranked 48th for broadband connectivity and is currently amongst one of the least connected states for broadband Internet. The digital divide between rural and urban Internet subscribers is still a major issue in the United States. Please contact the above for more information.