# DELTA ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION BROADBAND PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On July 28, 2020, Delta Electric Power Association ("Delta") was awarded a \$4,431,896 grant by the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff ("MPUS") to build a fiber to the home (FTTH) network and make broadband internet services available in certain areas of Carroll and Grenada counties by year end. Delta Electric will match this grant with funds, dollar for dollar, to complete this project by the end of 2020.

# What is being constructed?

A high speed, high capacity aerial fiber to the home (FTTH) network will be built on Delta's existing electric distribution infrastructure that will take fiber directly into homes or businesses that subscribe to the service. Information on the network will be transmitted using bursts of light through fiber optic cables made up of thin glass strands, which provide the fastest and most reliable internet speeds available.

# When will construction begin?

Almost immediately.

#### How will internet service be offered?

Internet service will be offered through Delta's wholly owned subsidiary, Delta Fiber LLC doing business as **DE LightSpeed**.

#### Where will the internet service be offered?

Initially, internet service must be offered in grant areas made up of certain census blocks of Carroll and Grenada counties that are designated as unserved and underserved by the MPUS. See the attached map for grant areas.

# Why this area?

The grant areas are primarily in Carroll County, which has the highest concentration of unserved and underserved internet service areas across Delta Electric's service territory according to the Federal Communications Commission. All feeder lines out of Delta Electric's Carrollton Substation were chosen for fiber construction in order to maximize the grant award. Only a very small area of Grenada County will be served.

## How can I determine if I am in the grant area?

**DE LightSpeed** will launch a portal in September where customers can enter their home or business address and determine if the household or business is in the grant area. The portal will be accessible through smart phones and other electronic devices. An announcement will be made when the portal is available.

# Can I preregister for the internet service?

Yes. Potential subscribers can preregister for services once the **DE LightSpeed** portal is activated.

# What internet packages will be available?

**DE LightSpeed** will offer a package with 100 Megabits per second minimum upload and download speeds (symmetrical service). We will also offer a maximum speed of 1,000 Megabits (gigabit) per second upload and download speed service along with managed Wi-Fi services. We will make an announcement concerning this when the **DE LightSpeed** portal is activated.

# Are there data caps with this service?

There are no data caps or throttling with this service.

# Will voice and TV services be available?

Yes, but not initially. **DE LightSpeed** will eventually offer voice and video services in addition to broadband internet service.

#### How much will the internet service cost?

We will announce pricing when the **DE LightSpeed** portal is activated in September.

## Will a contract be required?

No.

# Will my electric rates go up because of the fiber deployment?

No. Delta Electric cannot raise its electric rates to subsidize the broadband operation.

# What is the earliest internet services can be installed in my home?

Internet service installations will likely begin in these grant areas during October or November on a first come, first serve basis. We encourage potential subscribers in the grant areas to preregister at the **DE LightSpeed** portal as early as possible to get on the list.

# What if I am in a non-grant area?

We plan to expand internet service to the adjacent non-grant areas as soon as possible but the terms of the grant award require us to serve the grant areas first. We encourage households and businesses in the non-grant areas to preregister at the **DE LightSpeed** portal so we will know who wants service in these areas.