

## **INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS RESOLUTION NO. 18-05**

### **A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AND GRANT CENTURYLINK A PERMIT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE FIBER-OPTIC PATH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS, ITS RESIDENTS, AND THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY**

**WHEREAS**, the Incorporated County of Los Alamos ("County") is known as a global center for high-tech innovation, with the highest PhDs per capita, and home to the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) which continues to produce world-changing science and technology with potential new applications for entrepreneurs in the international marketplace; and

**WHEREAS**, Los Alamos County is seeking to recruit the best and brightest professionals to bring their families to live, play and work at LANL, a new or relocated company or branch, or one of our private sector businesses, start-ups and retail enterprises, all in a community whose government is committed to investing in the enhancement and maintenance of its public facilities and infrastructure to keep homes and businesses connected to the outside world at a speed and reliability that reinforces Los Alamos' reputation for high-tech innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, Advanced telecommunications infrastructure is vital to the residents, businesses, schools and libraries in the communities of Los Alamos and White Rock. Such infrastructure allows high-tech industries and entrepreneurs that are attracted to Los Alamos's global innovation reputation to transmit data around the world at the high speeds that are provided in the high-tech hubs and cities around the world with whom Los Alamos is competing for talent and economic opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, Advanced telecommunications infrastructure is vital to the residents, businesses, schools and libraries in the communities of Los Alamos and White Rock. Such infrastructure allows Scientists, businesses, educators, and local government to transmit data around the world at very high speeds; and

**WHEREAS**, Los Alamos and White Rock are currently served by a single fiber-optic path that connects the area to Santa Fe and the world. Any potential disruption to this path would isolate Los Alamos and White Rock, creating an extreme public safety issue for County, its residents, and LANL; and

**WHEREAS**, A second alternative path has been studied by County, LANL, and CenturyLink for several years without success due to right of way issues; and

**WHEREAS**, An alternative path has been proposed that creates a new route through United States Forest Service (USFS) property; and

**WHEREAS**, A new alternative fiber route would create a diverse fiber path that would not only benefit our national security at LANL, but would benefit the entire County by establishing a reliable communications path for both voice and data services; and

**WHEREAS**, Construction of a new fiber alternative path is dependent on CenturyLink obtaining a permit from the USFS to place the facilities on USFS property and such permit has

been applied for by CenturyLink. The process for obtaining this permit involves the USFS studying the environmental effects on USFS lands; and

**WHEREAS**, CenturyLink and other involved parties have made every effort to minimize any impact to Forest lands as a result of the construction of the fiber facilities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the completion of the alternative fiber path is critical to the future of LANL, the public safety of County businesses and residents, and the County's future economic growth. The County Council therefore urges the United States Forest Service to conduct its environmental study as expeditiously as possible and grant the permit application so that CenturyLink may begin construction of the alternative fiber path.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this Resolution will be provided to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation in Washington D.C.; Mr. Sanford Hurlocker, United States Forest Service Espanola District Ranger; and Ms. Heather Snow, United States Forest Service Lands, Special Use Program Manager.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

**COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED  
COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS**

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**David Izraelevitz**  
**Council Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**Naomi D. Maestas**  
**Los Alamos County Clerk**