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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2025

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**State broadband office helps resolve frequent broadband
blackouts in Gallup and McKinley County**
Office to provide funding in new partnership to fix region's outages

SANTA FE – Today, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) announced it is playing a key role to finally solve a decade-long broadband outage issue in Gallup and McKinley County.

OBAE and Ethos Broadband, a rural telecommunications company based in Yatahey, N.M., have signed an agreement aimed at establishing resiliency in Gallup and McKinley County. OBAE will be paying \$500,000 through the Statewide Education Network (SEN) in equipment to ensure Ethos Broadband's construction of redundant connectivity and, in turn, stop broadband blackouts.

OBAE has documented that during the past 10 years there have been eleven blackouts of broadband service on the sole fiber broadband connection into Gallup. Ethos Broadband, however, has built a separate feed through Gallup to serve the Navajo Nation, and the new equipment from SEN will be used by Ethos Broadband to strengthen its connectivity. This will enable Ethos Broadband to act as a redundant line to the existing fiber as a back-up connection should service be cut.

SEN is administered by OBAE, and the network was a vital component in this three-party solution between OBAE, Ethos Broadband and Lumen.

“This is a great achievement--a tremendous win for SEN--and will mean that McKinley County has a secondary broadband connection so service will continue if past problems happen again,” said **Drew Lovelace**, OBAE acting director. “McKinley County residents can rest assured that their broadband service will no longer be interrupted.”

“This partnership will deliver a robust solution to eliminate large-scale internet outages that disrupt essential services, impacting local businesses, schools, and families in McKinley County,” said **Nectarios “Neo” Nicolaou**, Ethos Broadband General Manager. “We are bringing an end to rural and tribal communities feeling left behind. I want to thank OBAE, the City of Gallup and McKinley County officials that supported our efforts. Together, we are paving the way for a more connected and resilient community.”

The SEN resiliency project is expected to be completed in the next 5-6 months.

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The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is dedicated to serving New Mexico with a commitment to make high-speed broadband accessible to all New Mexicans. OBAE’s mission is to expand and improve high-speed internet service with passionate leadership that drives bold, equitable, affordable and inclusive broadband solutions. OBAE seeks results that honor the state’s rich heritage and elevate quality of life for all.