

March 5-6, 2020

**ITEM 187-2301-R0320**

**Request for Authorization to Grant an Easement for Triangle Communications on Northern Agricultural Research Center (NARC) Property; Montana Agricultural Experiment Station**

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**THAT**

Northern Agricultural Research Center is asking Triangle Telephone for fiber optic service to the Office Lab building located on 3710 Assinniboine Rd, Havre, Montana, thereby necessitating Triangle Communication an easement to provide the service to NARC. A fiber optic line needs to be placed, running in a shallow trench or directly pulled in, depending upon soil structure along a 3,000-foot line. The line will travel from North of Highway 87 and proceed directly south along Assinniboine Rd on NARC lands in grassed areas west of the county road right of way. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$7,800; however Triangle requires an approval for this easement in order to finalize their scope of work and cost.

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**EXPLANATION**

This project has great benefit and value to NARC. Today's work environment requires adequate technology bandwidth. To achieve this, there is a requirement for a modern transmission line and service. By placing Fiber optics and its service to NARC, it will allow the Center to increase Precision Agriculture Research and other daily necessary internet and connectivity needs at the station. Currently the station service line is obsolete in comparison to fiber optics and is riddled with service faults and connectivity issues. NARC will be able to increase the throughput speed by 100 times the current rate.

Currently, during regular business hours, NARC typically has 20 or more employees (faculty and staff) on site. During summer months and calving season, that number will rise to at least 30. With the 10 extra employees being students and temporary labor, most would need access to a computer or internet for data records. There is also the large data transfer and logging necessary for the GrowSafe Units, a high tech real time on demand cattle feed weigh system; the data logging and precision ag component of our two pivots in the irrigation system; the need for data transfer of high resolution microscope and precision ag UAV footage; and, the multi-spectrum image and data analysis – just as examples (Attachments 1 and 2).

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment #1: NARC Fiber Optic Line Location
- Attachment #2: Easement with Triangle Communications