



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development

FEB 16 2017

SUBJECT: "Dig Once"

FROM: CHRISTOPHER A. MCLEAN  
Acting Administrator  
Rural Utilities Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher A. McLean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TO: Keith B. Adams  
Assistant Administrator  
Telephone Program  
Rural Utilities Service

Christopher A. McLean  
Assistant Administrator  
Electric Program  
Rural Utilities Service

Lorenval D. Evans  
Acting Assistant Administrator  
Water and Environmental Programs  
Rural Utilities Service

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) encourages all its stakeholders to consider best practices of "Dig Once" policies. Construction costs can be lowered when local infrastructure projects are coordinated to allow conduit for broadband to be placed alongside water, electric, and other projects. RUS Programs support intelligent and efficient planning around infrastructure investments. Such action includes allowing excavation to occur once for multiple utility construction purposes thereby reducing costs.

RUS supports all collaboration efforts that promote accelerating utility construction investments in rural communities at reduced costs.

This policy also supports the recommendations included in the August 2015 Broadband Opportunity Council report.

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Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

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