



DANUBE, Minn., April 18, 2016 - Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association's Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund was recently utilized to help move a solid concept forward bringing much-needed technology services to rural areas. The REED Fund, a joint economic development fund managed by Renville-Sibley and 21 other electric cooperatives in South Dakota and Minnesota, is used to fund projects to promote economic development and enhance the lives of people in rural communities. Renville-Sibley was able to assist another cooperative business fill a need in the rural area. The electric cooperative, which serves rural areas of Renville County and portions of five other counties, including Sibley County, exists due to the efforts of those who believed the way to a better future was by providing electricity to people in rural areas who did not have access to power. The cooperative continues to believe in the concept of providing unserved and underserved areas with the technology necessary to make people's lives better.

Renville-Sibley recently closed a \$1.5 million loan from the REED Fund to RS Fiber Cooperative of Gaylord, Minn. RS Fiber is a newly-formed cooperative created through a community-driven effort to bring a high-speed fiber-optic connection to everyone in the project area and provide low-cost, reliable high-speed internet, crystal clear video and phone services. In addition to providing access previously unavailable to rural consumers, businesses, schools and health care facilities in the region's cities will also benefit from access to faster service. This infrastructure is required to keep small communities vital and give the next generation of citizens something to build upon.

"A successful day is when you can bring technology to rural areas where over 6,200 potential rural consumers will have access to improve their lives through technology." Renville-Sibley Co-op Power CEO DeeAnne Newville said. "We are happy to help a fellow cooperative by providing a loan from our REED Fund for this project. It is an example of many entities coming together for the good of the people in our rural communities."

RS Fiber Cooperative is a community-driven project, governed by community leaders who recognize rural residents need access to 21st century technology tools that need the speed and reliability fiber has to offer. RS Fiber Cooperative will work with Hiawatha Broadband Communications to reduce construction and operation costs for the cooperative.

If you are planning a new business or looking to expand, or if your community needs financing for facilities or services, please contact Renville-Sibley Co-op Power for an application or contact the REED Fund at (605)256-8015 for more information. This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider.