Richard Estrada, Regional Vice President, Construction, Ezee Fiber June 5, 2025 - Albuquerque Dept of Municipal Development

Hearing for Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - Regulations Governing Public Right-of-Way Excavation and Barricading for Fiber Infrastructure Purposes

My name is Richard Estrada, and I'm Regional Vice President of Construction at Ezee Fiber and a life-long New Mexican who has lived in the Albuquerque metro for the last 25 years.

Ezee Fiber supports the majority of the proposed rules, and in fact, is already in compliance with most of them. That said, we do have concerns about a few specific areas:

Regarding the notification to homeowners, 48 hours prior to construction.

We fully support transparency and proactive communication with residents. However, the proposed regulation creates a procedural conflict by requiring that resident notifications include traffic control plans and exact construction dates and times—details that are not available until a permit is issued. At the same time, permits are withheld until proof of such notice is provided, making the requirement impractical to implement.

We are committed to providing residents with ample notice, as we generally do up to 6 months in advance, and are eager to work with the city on finding a feasible alternative.

Trenching and Conduit Sharing

Joint trenching and sharing conduit is one of the most complex and important areas. Trenching decisions are highly site-specific.

 Joint trenching will cause more problems than it will solve. Joint trenching means larger conduit packages that will cause more disruption than what is currently being done. Joint trenching requires much larger equipment, leading to a higher likelihood of sinkholes, damaged driveways, and public inconveniences.

We request that this provision be removed and allow providers to continue deploying independently, while adhering to standards that already safeguard public infrastructure **Six Month Cooling-Off Period**

In proposing a six-month moratorium between providers, rather than slowing activity, this provision could inadvertently encourage providers to accelerate deployment in competitive areas, increasing the risk of utility strikes and construction-related damage due to rushed timelines.

In summary, we believe many of the proposed rules are on the right track—and we're eager to partner with the City to make fiber deployment smoother, safer, and more predictable for everyone involved.