

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

May 30, 2022

West Piedmont Planning District Commission

PO Box 5268

1100 Madison St

Martinsville, Virginia 24115

(276) 638-3987

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about June 15, 2022, the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) will submit a request to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the release of Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) funds to undertake a project known as the WPPDC Patrick County Universal Broadband Project, for the purpose of funding the following projects: installation of fiber-optic broadband utilities in portions of Patrick County, VA.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The WPPDC has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the WPPDC, 1100 Madison St, Martinsville, VA 24112 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the WPPDC, PO Box 5268, Martinsville, VA 24115. All comments received by June 14, 2022, will be considered by the WPPDC prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The WPPDC certifies to DHCD that Michael R. Armbrister, in his capacity as Executive Director, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. DHCD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the WPPDC to use VATI funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

DHCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the WPPDC's certification received by June 30, 2022 only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the WPPDC (b) the WPPDC has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by applicable laws; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by DHCD before approval of a release of funds by DHCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to be addressed to DHCD at:

Director
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
Attn: Program Administration and Assistance Office
Main Street Centre
600 E. Main St., Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2430
(804) 371-7061 [TTP 371-7089 / FAX 371-7093]

Potential objectors should contact DHCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Michael R. Armbrister
Certifying Officer