

January 29, 2008

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Southeast Colorado Power Association awarded Community Connect Grant for \$743,281.00**

La Junta, CO – On January 29, 2008, the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Division awarded a Community Connect grant to Southeast Colorado Power Association in the amount of \$743,281. The Community Connect program was developed to aid broadband providers in rural areas to install and provide high speed broadband internet connectivity. Southeast will use the grant to construct fiber optic backbone infrastructure from Pueblo, Colorado, where Southeast currently has fiber optic assets to Aguilar, Colorado.

The fiber optic system will provide Aguilar residents, businesses, public safety, and education facilities access to high speed data communications and internet connectivity. Construction will commence this spring and by early fall 2008, the system should be operational. Aguilar will become a stop on the high speed broadband railroad.

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*Southeast Colorado Power Association is a not-for-profit cooperative electric utility serving 11 counties in southeast Colorado and has a membership of over 5400 members.*