

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## BEK Communications Responds to COVID-19 with Complimentary Internet Speed Upgrades, No Late Fees or Disconnects and Hardship Service Availability

March 17, 2020, Steele, ND - BEK Communications (BEK) announces plans to support its customers in response to the COVID-19/Coronavirus pandemic. BEK will immediately double customer internet speeds at no additional charge and help ensure connectivity by implementing a no late fees or disconnects policy due to economic hardships. In situations where there is a household within BEK's footprint without Lightband Internet service with telehealth, education and work from home needs, BEK will provide its Lightband Internet service free for 4 months.

"In this time of uncertainty, BEK's customers do not have to be concerned about staying connected with family, school, work or friends," said Derrick Bulawa, CEO, BEK. "As a Cooperative, we are here to serve our customers, meet their needs and support North Dakota's social distancing efforts."

Effective immediately, customers subscribed to 250 Mbps now have 500 Mbps; 500 Mbps subscribers now have 1 Gig; and 1 Gig customers will be upgraded to 2.5 Gbps. For customers that don't have Lightband internet services yet, BEK will upgrade the internet speeds to the maximum supported at their location. The upgrades come at no additional charge to subscribers as the country pulls together to defeat this pandemic.

"Our customers do not have to be concerned about late fees or services being terminated due to the current economic hardship," said Brett Stroh, president, BEK board of directors. "We want to remind everyone that their cooperative will provide broadband and phone service to anyone who needs connectivity, within our footprint and business services to businesses in need statewide," he added.

BEK's commitment to keeping its customers and community connected is unwavering. We are ready to take your call with questions at 888-475-2361 or <a href="mailto:bekcomm@bektel.com">bekcomm@bektel.com</a>, BEK continues to monitor COVID-19 updates closely and will follow recommended practices as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other state and local public health agencies.

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## **About BEK Communications Cooperative**

BEK Communications Cooperative, founded in 1952, is a communications services company headquartered in Steele, North Dakota. In the last 68 years, the company has grown to include branch offices in Bismarck and Valley City and now serves nearly 11,000 customers. BEK provides fiber-based voice, Gigabit broadband and IP television services; cloud-based security, automation, surveillance, voice and storage services; and hospital and business communications solutions in North Dakota. The company also provides statewide sports broadcasting and national news reports on the BEK TV Network, and television content across North Dakota through KNDM, KNDB, KRDK.

BEK emphasizes their fast, friendly, local service experience and a broad portfolio of high-quality communications, broadcasting and advertising services.