5G FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions about 5G technology

QUESTION #1:

Is 5G technology being used in the fixed wireless network project(s) being deployed to serve unserved and underserved homes on the reservation?

A: No! 5G technology is not being utilized for this network. Standard technology that is commonly used for wireless internet service is being utilized. This type of equipment is used by nearly every Internet Service Provider (ISP) and likely every reservation in one form or another. The frequencies involved are in the license free band of 5 Ghz.

QUESTION #2:

What wireless technology will be used to provide service on the reservation?

A: The new network will primarily utilize standard WiFi based radios operating at 5Ghz to connect from a central tower to towers located in the neighborhoods. The signal is distributed to each home using a radio receiver and antenna mounted to the outside of the home. A small cable is routed into the house where is connects to a common broadband router that provides the in home WiFi capability.

QUESTION #3:

What is 5G?

A: 5G is the next evolution of radio technology that allows greater speeds and many more connected devices and is primarily deployed to augment the 4G cellular networks and prepare the networks to handle a massive amount of new Internet of Things (IoT) devices such as connected homes, monitoring systems and autonomous cars. Nearly everything is anticipated to be connected to the cloud in the future. Most rural areas won't see 5G for 2-3 years and it will be deployed at much lower frequencies than in metropolitan areas.

QUESTION #4:

Why do some people think 5G may be dangerous?

A: Some doctors, scientists and engineers believe the high frequency being used with some 5G networks in metropolitan areas can cause damage to human DNA with prolonged exposure. These higher frequencies above 30 Ghz are limited to very short distances so therefore more sites are required. 5G networks at these high frequencies are not likely to be deployed in rural markets except in downtown areas, sports stadiums or other places where larger crowds may be present or for some businesses who need to connect many devices in close proximity, such as manufacturing or processing plants.

QUESTION #5:

What frequency is being used for rural and less populated areas?

A: Most rural networks are deploying 5G networks using much lower frequencies known as mid-band these frequencies range from 2.4Ghz to 6Ghz. These frequencies are already commonly used in most rural communities today.

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