



## APPLICATION

# South Carolina 2021 Rural Broadband Grant Program

### Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001887025**

Primary Contact Name **F. Bradley Erwin**

Title **CEO**

Mailing Address **1101 E. Main Street**

Phone Number **843-382-1225**

City, State, Zip **Kingstree, SC 29556**

Email **erwinb@ftc.org**

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### Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **12/31/1999**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **12/31/2020**

Applicant and/or Project Partner has Experience:

- Delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- Delivering broadband service via fixed wireless infrastructure
- Building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- Operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

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### Project Area Information

#### Eligible County Impact

Counties  
(list) **Williamsburg**

Cities/Towns/Municipalities  
(list)

Households **224**

Businesses **5**

Health Care Facilities **0**

Community Anchor Institutions **6**

Educational Institutions **0**

## Contiguous County Impact

Counties  
*(list)*

Cities/Towns/Municipalities  
*(list)*

Households

Businesses

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

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## Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.

*Fiber to the Premises* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 100/20

*Hybrid fiber-coax* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  
*(symmetrical upload/download speeds)*

*Hybrid fiber-coax* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds  
*(non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)*

*Fixed wireless* Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

### Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for wireline projects of at least 100/20 Mbps or fixed wireless at 50/5 Mbps or faster that will be offered to customers in the project area:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates less than \$10/month         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$10 - \$14.99/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month |   |

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### Project Timeline

Project Start Date 7/19/2021

Project Construction Activity Begins 7/19/2021

Project Construction Activity Complete 10/28/2022

Customer Premises

*Installations Begin* 8/9/2021

*Installations End* 10/28/2022

Overall Project Completion Date 10/31/2022

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### Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$1,258,400.00

Upfront Cost Requirements

Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises

Average Cost per Location Served  
*(all locations or structures)* \$5,355.00

Average Cost per Housing Unit \$5,355.00

Average Cost per Business \$5,355.00

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### Project Funding Information

South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Funds requested (\$) \$629,200.00

Applicant-Provided Funding (\$) \$629,200.00 - FTC, Inc.

### Non-Public Funding

Amount (\$) NA

Source(s) NA

## Additional Information

- 1) Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Founded in 1951, Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. was created as a means for those in the rural areas to receive communication services. In 1995, FTC was the first company in its five-county service territory to launch internet service which began as traditional dial-up systems. Just six years later in 2001, FTC established itself as an internet service provider and the first broadband connections were deployed starting with an internet speed of 1.5 Mbps downstream by 512 Mbps upstream. In 2006, the Cooperative began offering broadband over fiber and currently serves more than 10,500 internet customers with a fiber connection. This fiber is almost 100% buried, which adds additional protection to the network. FTC has 19 years' experience designing, building, and operating broadband networks.

- 2) Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."

The locations selected for our applications are considered by ORS as priority areas. With fiber to the premise, FTC will enhance the community and families it serves by future proofing their broadband connection providing unlimited capabilities for telemedicine opportunities, online learning, work from home applications, and the bandwidth capability to handle numerous devices working within the home network simultaneously. As a Cooperative, we are committed to bringing the most advanced technologies in the industry to improve the lives of our members/customers and building fiber to the communities we serve leads the way.

- 3) Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Please include letters of support from key community partners that indicate their awareness of your project.

Over the years, FTC has placed a significant focus educating our members/customers on the importance of having an internet connection. In addition, consistent messaging to educate the consumer on bandwidth requirements based on the number of devices being used in the home and the strain being placed on the home network when you are not on the right internet plan.

To also assist with adoption, the Cooperative has excellent internet plan pricing with multiple speed options. FTC's current internet plans include basic wi-fi at no additional charge and beginning October 1, 2020, our plans will include enhanced wi-fi coverage as well as parental controls guided by a new FTC Wi-Fi app. FTC has a very rewarding multi-service discount program that provides pricing incentives to assist customers with their respective monthly billing.

Our fiber internet plans are symmetrical. Please review the fiber delivered symmetrical speed options that are available:

50 Mbps/50 Mbps  
100 Mbps/100 Mbps  
500 Mbps/500 Mbps  
1 Gig/1 Gig

Please see attached pricing sheet.

- 4) Provide documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

Please see attached Bank of America note.

- 5) List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

- necessary highway permits

## Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to application:

- Map of project area (*PDF and Shapefile formats*)
- Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships
- Any additional information evidencing community need for project
- Most recent FCC Form 477 filing

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## Certification and Signature

**CERTIFICATION:** The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

Signature:



**Print Name of Signatory:** F. Bradley Erwin

**Title of Signatory:** CEO

**Date:** 5/10/2021

*All questions and completed applications should be submitted to [Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV](mailto:Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV)*

*Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.*



**South Carolina**  
Department of Commerce



# County of Williamsburg

## Council Members

Eddie Woods, Jr.  
**Vice Chairman**  
Joseph Lee  
Torrance T. Wilson  
Jonathan Miller



## Council Members

Sulondia R. Hammond  
Samuel L. Floyd  
Carolyn G. Lemmon  
Tammi Epps-McClary  
**Clerk**

**Dr. Tiffany Wright**  
**County Supervisor/Chairperson**

5/4/2021

Dear Grantee,

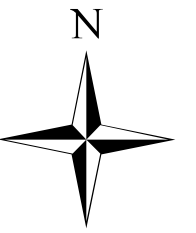
Williamsburg County Government is writing a letter of support for Farmer Telephone Cooperative. We are aware that they are pursuing project funding for \$1,258,400.00. The project will benefit Williamsburg County by working on fiber for some of the lines in our county.

Farmers Telephone Cooperative is one of the largest employers in the county and a partner in creating innovation in our county. We hope you consider this a viable project and if there is anything we can do to help, please let us know.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tiffany Wright".




Tiffany Wright, Ph. D.  
Williamsburg County Supervisor



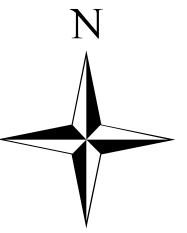
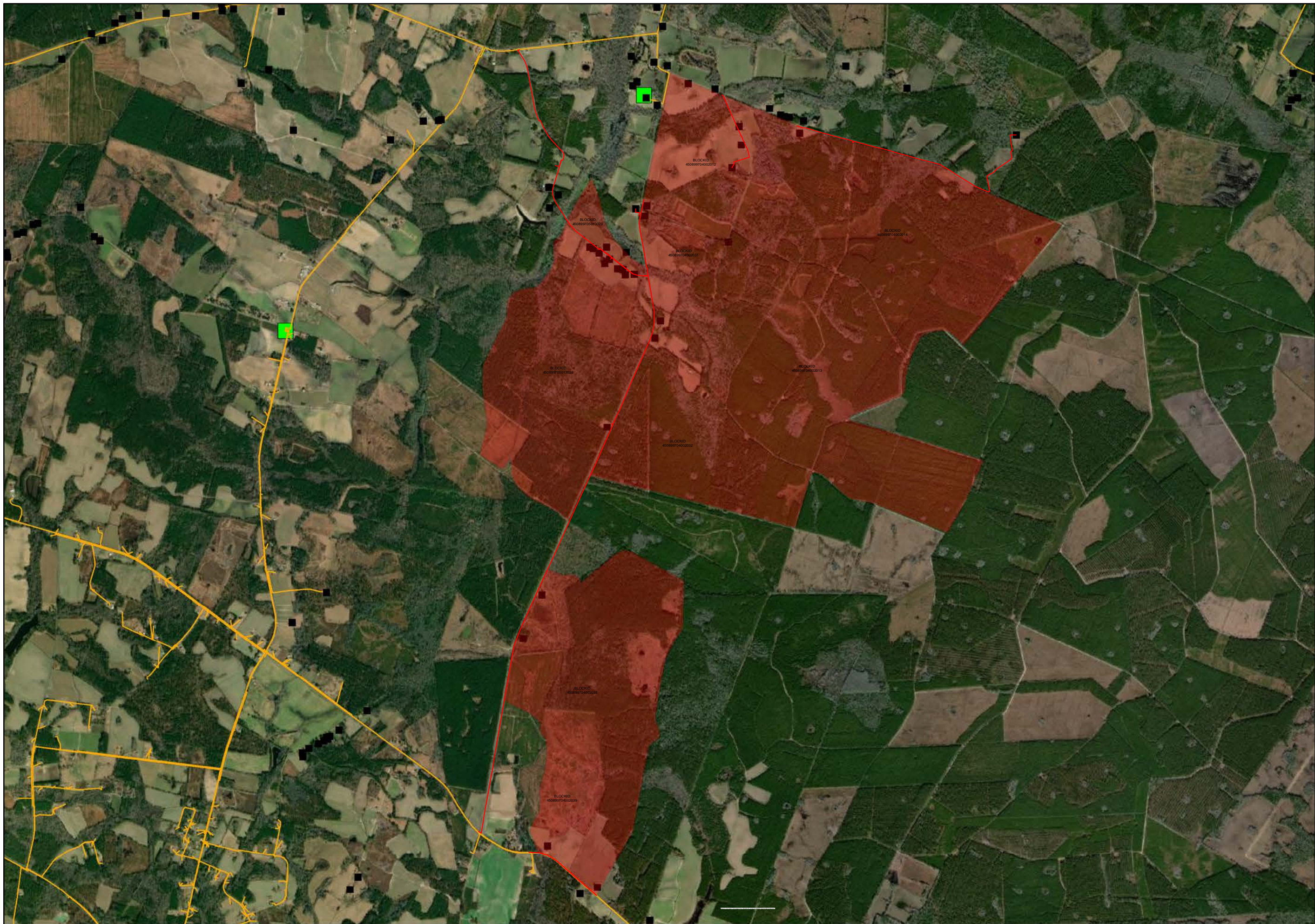
Work Order

WMBG\_1

Printed  
APR 27, 2021

- Legend**
-  WMBG\_PRO\_CABLE
  -  0% Blocks
  -  Unserved Addresses








Work Order

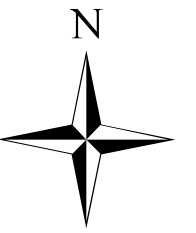
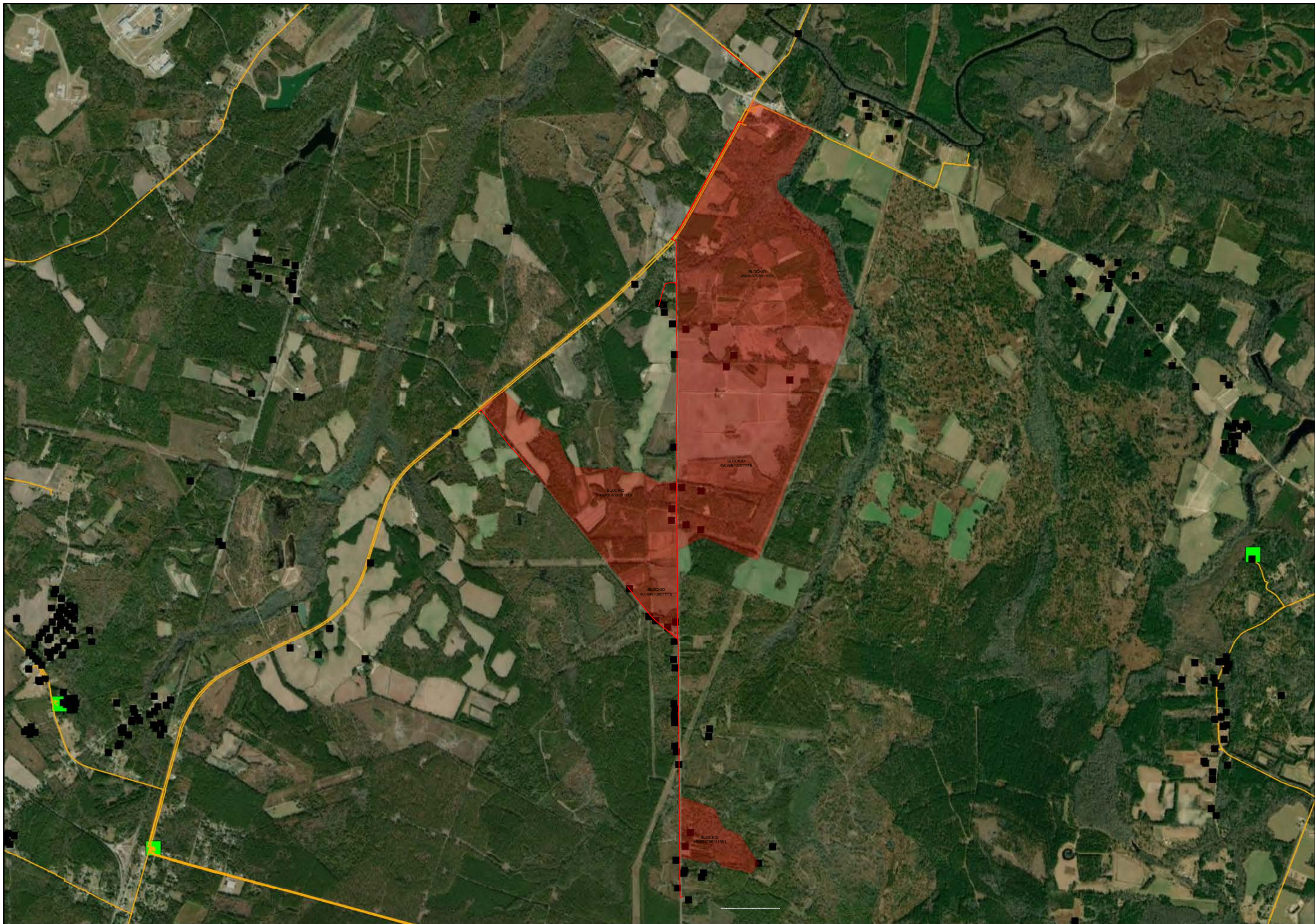
WMBG\_2

Printed  
APR 27, 2021

- Legend**
-  WMBG\_PRO\_CABLE
  -  0% Blocks
  -  Unserved Addresses

1,100 550 0 1,100 Feet








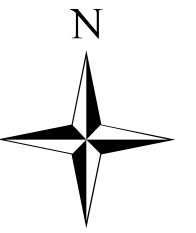
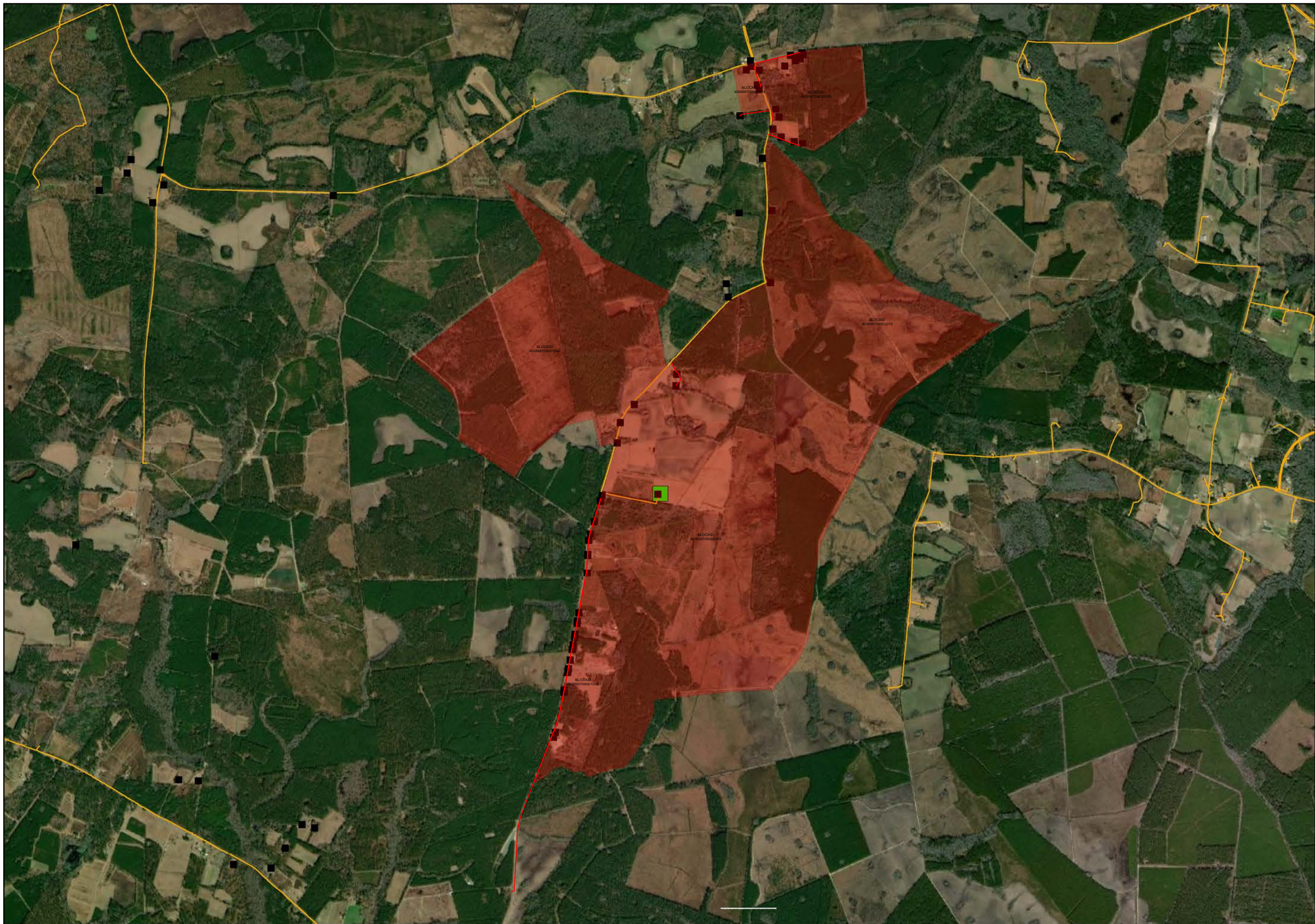
Work Order

WMBG\_3

Printed  
APR 27, 2021

- Legend**
-  WMBG\_PRO\_CABLE
  -  0% Blocks
  -  Unserved Addresses








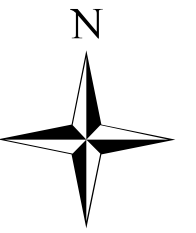
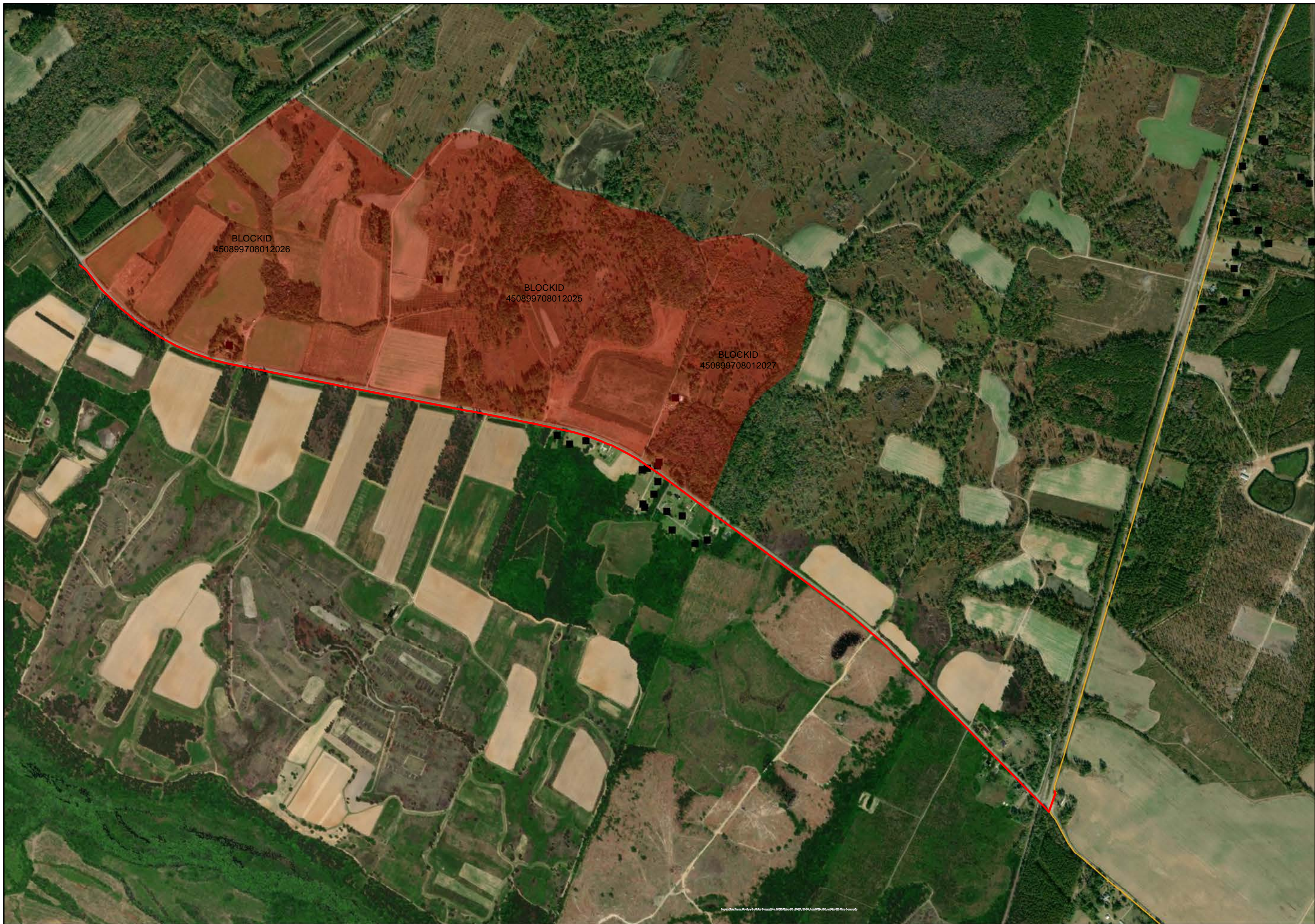
Work Order

WMBG\_4

Printed  
APR 27, 2021

- Legend**
-  WMBG\_PRO\_CABLE
  -  0% Blocks
  -  Unserved Addresses








Work Order

WMBG\_5

Printed  
APR 27, 2021

- Legend**
-  WMBG\_PRO\_CABLE
  -  0% Blocks
  -  Unserved Addresses

490 245 0 490 Feet

## Fiber Internet Residential Plans

25 Mbps/3 Mbps	\$34.95
50 Mbps/50 Mbps	\$39.95
100 Mbps/100 Mbps	\$49.95
500 Mbps/500 Mbps	\$59.95
1 Gig/1Gig	\$69.95