



NEKCV Operating Principles

- Make informed decisions about how to implement reliable and extensible technology based on what is available now, while leaving the door open to adapting to future changes in the technology landscape.
 - All internet technologies, with the exception of satellites, require a strong fiber middle-mile infrastructure.
 - Mixing supported technologies (e.g. Fiber To the Home [FTTH] and wireless) introduces additional operational complexity and overhead.
 - FTTH delivers the most reliable and extensible service which meets the 100/100 Mbps mandate. As such, this technology should be prioritized for deployment over other wired or wireless technologies where appropriate. Wireless should be reserved for point-to-point or point-to-multipoint applications that connect a small number of addresses where costs and topography make fiber prohibitive.
- Resiliency is a critical requirement for reliable, quality service. As such, investment in a well-designed middle-mile network infrastructure is paramount. This means:
 - Utilize best-of-class established network design architecture, such as resilient rings, to ensure there are no single points of failure.
 - When relying on partners, require exceptional Service Level Agreement provisions and/or proof of resilient architecture to ensure reliable backhaul service.
 - Plans should account for the fact that typical wireless provider data caps are not an acceptable condition for quality, long-term broadband service.
- Make decisions based on existing technology. Evaluate emerging technology as it is adopted in other communities so that we can plan for migration should that be justified.
- Champion education, economic prosperity, civic health, freedom of information exchange, competition, privacy, and innovation through:
 - Support of strong net neutrality policies. 8
 - Adoption of open-access policies to allow surplus network capacity to be leased to partners that share our vision and further our mission.
 - Pursuit of mutually beneficial partnerships with other like-minded organizations including local utilities and other communications providers.
 - Modeling our commitment to these principles through transparent and inclusive operation of NEKCV and related enterprises.
- Keep it local.
 - When possible, NEKCV will hire a local workforce.
 - When possible, NEKCV will utilize businesses with local ties for construction and operation.
 - Profits from NEKCV will be reinvested in the network or used to increase affordability once the network is built.
- Work to expand participation of under-represented population segments in the workforce. Eliminate barriers for businesses owned by women and minorities.

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NEKCV is a Communications Union District (CUD) delivering high-speed internet services to support economic growth, community development, and digital equity across the Northeast Kingdom and Central Vermont.