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Dear Valued NU Customers,

On December 27, 2016 I announced that we had approval from our Board to continue our Smart-Grid project which will allow us to provide Fiber Optic Broadband including triple-play (phone, entertainment and internet) service to our entire community. We now have more exciting news!

On January 10, 2017 the Newport City council agreed with our Board and approved our plan to continue down the road in providing fiber throughout our community. On January 24, 2017 the NU Board approved our funding strategy and request for interim financing so we can get started as quickly as possible. On February 14, 2017 the Newport City Council approved our request to pursue necessary interim financing.

We now have submitted our Plan and are currently awaiting State Comptroller approval. Once we have that approval, we will hold a public hearing where we will discuss details of our Smart-Grid project which enables us to provide these Broadband Services.

During the public hearing we will discuss our Phase 1 roll-out plans which include connecting the following to fiber:

- Electric Substations
- City of Newport
- Emergency Services Providers (Police, Fire Departments, Ambulance Providers)
- Schools

Following that Public Hearing, we will need one additional approval from our NU Board and Newport City Council respectively. Once we have those final approvals we will be able to begin construction of our Fiber Optic Broadband Network.

We will then continue with completing a Phase II Build Out Strategy for all of NU's Service Area. NU anticipates an aggressive Road Map and Timeline for phases beyond the first phase build.

As the General Manager of Newport Utilities, I continue to protect our electric, water, and sewer Customers from risk. The due diligence to ensure a prudent business plan is absolutely necessary and I am confident that we will continue with that objective as we move forward.

Best regards,

Glenn Ray  
General Manager

*"Newport Utilities is an equal opportunity provider and employer"*