Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
"A Phone For Every Farm"
"Broadband For Every Barn"

SMART RURAL COMMUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Breaks Ground on Fiber Network Expansion in Hudson Chapel and Maydelle

Henderson, Texas — May 12, 2026— Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is proud to announce the official groundbreaking of its fiber network expansion in the Hudson Chapel and Maydelle communities, made possible through funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's USDA ReConnect Program.

After careful coordination and completion of all required environmental reviews, permitting, and approvals by the United States Department of Agriculture, Eastex has received final authorization to move forward constructing buried fiber optics throughout a 131 square mile project area. Construction is set to begin immediately, marking a major milestone in bringing high-speed fiber internet to these historically underserved and socially vulnerable areas.

"This project reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every member we serve has access to reliable, future-ready broadband," said Eastex's general manager, Rusty Dorman. "We're excited to finally be able to begin construction and to deliver the kind of connectivity that supports education, healthcare, business, and everyday life."

Residents in Hudson Chapel and Maydelle can expect to see Eastex construction crews and vehicles in their communities in the coming weeks as work begins to deploy Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) infrastructure. In addition, Eastex representatives will be visiting homes and businesses to assist residents with pre-registering for service.

Eastex is offering free standard installation for customers who pre-register during the construction phase, making it easier than ever for residents to connect once service becomes available.

The fiber upgrade will provide fast, reliable internet service designed to meet the growing needs of households and businesses, supporting everything from remote work and online learning to streaming and advanced communications.

Eastex appreciates the patience and support of the Hudson Chapel and Maydelle communities throughout the approval process and looks forward to delivering transformative broadband service in the months ahead.

For more information or to pre-register for service, please visit **www.eastex.com** or contact Eastex's headquarters at 903-854-1000 or 800-232-7839.

About Eastex Telephone

Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc., has over 75 years of experience bringing essential communications technology to twelve counties across rural East Texas. Today, Eastex and its affiliates and subsidiaries Eastex.Net and ECS Security and Automation are proud to deliver top-quality broadband Internet, voice, high-capacity data transport, Wi-Fi, and security and automation services to thousands of subscribers from three regional business offices in Henderson, Livingston and Waskom, Texas.

Media Relations

Dee Dee Longenecker, Director of Business Development / 903-854-1292 / deedee@eastex.com / eastex.com

Kaitlin Puckett, Director of Marketing / 936-967-1119 / kaitlin@eastex.com / eastex.com