

Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone Inc. Announces Major Business and Industry Attraction and Economic Development Initiative

Today, Ivan “Sonny” O’Neil, President of the Board of Directors of Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc. (SKSRT) and Vickie L. Colaw, General Manager of SKSRT announced that the Cooperative has retained the services of NCS International to conduct Business and Industry Attraction and related economic development activities within its service area in Pendleton County WV.

This project is being jointly funded by SKSRT and CHS Preservation, Inc. According to Mr. O’Neil, “This Business and Industry initiative is especially needed as Pendleton County is in need of new jobs and investment.” Communities targeted in this effort are the SKSRT serving areas of Riverton, Seneca Rocks, Onego, Circleville and Cherry Grove.

Vickie Colaw stated the efforts will be focused on Call Centers, Customer Service Operations and other types of Information Intensive firms. The effort will also include High Tech Manufacturing companies that can produce attractive jobs in the area for the current and future work force. Colaw further stated that “The timing for this initiative is especially good as many US firms are reexamining their Offshore and Foreign Investment expansion strategy in light of consumer resistance and escalating costs.”

Jim Beatty, President of NCS International which is based in Omaha, Nebraska is regarded as one of the top site selection and economic development consultants in the

United States. NCS specializes in Call Centers and Customer service operations and is a leading proponent of developing opportunities for Corporate Expansions and Investment in Rural America.

Carl Warner, representing CHS Preservation, Inc., lauded the efforts of SKSRT in providing the leadership in development of this worthwhile initiative for Pendleton County.

SKSRT was formed as a Non Profit Corporation on July 1, 1972 to provide telephone service to the people of the Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks area. The cooperative has evolved into becoming the first company in the State of WV to provide Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) to all customers residing in their service area. This new offering will pave the way for deployment of new technology such as state-of-the-art voice, video and data services.

CHS Preservation, Inc. was formed in 2000 by members of the North Fork area of Pendleton County. The purpose of the organization was to preserve the once stoic Circleville High School Building and to provide economic development for the community by creating jobs.