



FRUITA
COLORADO

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

TO: FRUITA CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR

FROM: KIMBERLY BULLEN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

DATE: MARCH 19, 2024

AGENDA TEXT: Presentation – Doug Seacat, Deeply Digital Owner/President and Jonathon Cook, Project Manager to address Council concerns regarding utility strikes and provide update on buildout of fiber infrastructure

BACKGROUND

Deeply Digital is a privately owned fiber company out of Montrose, CO that builds out last mile fiber. The City of Fruita has issued Right-of-Way (ROW) permits to Deeply Digital to install conduit/fiber throughout the City of Fruita and connecting to the middle mile through the City's Carrier Neutral Location (CNL).

The City of Fruita and Deeply Digital have also entered into a Location Extension Agreement allowing the City ten business days from the time the locate is called in to locate the underground facilities if the City is experiencing staffing shortages. The extensions under this agreement have not been required as Public Works staff has been able to keep up with requests for locates.

With construction in the public right-of-way (ROW), the City has seen a significant number of utility strikes by Deeply Digital including natural gas utility lines. Several of these strikes were the result of utility gas lines not being marked correctly by Xcel Energy's locators, but others were the result of the Deeply Digital construction crew hitting a located utility. The City Council is concerned about the number of utility strikes and is interested in understanding what actions Deeply Digital is taking to protect the residents of Fruita as it continues to install conduit/fiber throughout the community.

Deeply Digital will also provide an update on the buildout of last mile fiber in the Fruita Community.