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DISTRICT HEAT
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NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release February 13, 2001

At its regularly scheduled meeting today, the Board of Public Utilities voted to enter into a 5-year contract with DFT Communications to lease surplus BPU dark fiber optic cable. DFT, through its Internet service corporation Netsync®, will in turn have exclusive use of the fibers that they lease, with all regulatory compliance responsibilities, and may provide its customers with products and services on that fiber.

Two years ago, the BPU began installing the first of two fiber optic cable rings between all of its equipment to communicate throughout its power, water and sewer network making information, such as remote readings, available immediately from its reservoirs, substations and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The utility communicates only with its own properties on the fiber ring. It also makes space available on this fiber ring to the Jamestown Public School system.

Until such fiber is needed for BPU services, the utility can lease it out to anyone, with the community being the benefactor of such a lease.

The Board contracted with consultants to develop a pricing structure that would cover BPU costs while enhancing economic development in our community. Telecom companies such as DFT may lease dark fiber and they then provide services and products from the fiber to their customers.

