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FairPoint Commits to Leadership Role in Providing High-Speed Data Solutions in Northern New England

Appoints Karen A. Mead Senior Vice President, External Relations and Community High-Speed Internet Development

Portland, Maine (March 12, 2015) - FairPoint Communications, Inc., a leading communications provider, today announced it has added a senior leadership position designed to work with economic and community development leaders across northern New England. Karen A. Mead, a 30-year telecom industry veteran, will assume the newly created role of Senior Vice President, External Relations and Community High-Speed Internet Development.

In this important role, Mead will serve as FairPoint's community high-speed Internet development liaison and work closely with community and economic development organizations to define and develop solutions to meet the growing infrastructure needs through creative and collaborative solutions using Ethernet and fiber-based solutions.

"FairPoint is committed to finding solutions to meet the growing needs of communities across the region," said Michael A. Reed, Maine state president for FairPoint. "We know that fiber optics and Ethernet connections are the engines that fuel the information age economy and are critical to business formation and economic growth. With Karen now focused on partnering with community leaders, we are confident the company can be a resource in evaluating, developing and deploying network solutions in the region."

FairPoint has over 16,000 miles of fiber across its network in northern New England, the largest fiber-based footprint in the region and a strong platform on which to build. "FairPoint can offer speeds up to 1 Gigabit in many towns and cities," said Mead. "Our goal is to work with the communities to assess their needs and present network and technology solutions to meet those needs."

Mead went on to say, "Our advanced services include monitoring and managing a highly resilient network capable of delivering services to consumers and carriers alike." She pointed out that FairPoint has extensive experience in building, managing and maintaining next generation networks and cited three examples:

- FairPoint now has more than 300 Ethernet fiber connections to healthcare facilities – with speeds up to 1 Gigabit – through its partnership with the New England Telehealth Consortium.
- The company delivered the IP-based NG911 system that serves the public safety needs of more than 1.3 million people in Maine and leveraged that experience to win a similar contract in Vermont.

- The company continues to make progress with its fiber-to-the-tower project, ending 2014 with 1,100 cellular towers connected with fiber.

Mead served most recently as FairPoint's Senior Vice President, Operations and Engineering for New Hampshire. Prior to joining FairPoint she worked at Verizon Communications for 25 years in various positions. She began her career as a civil engineer responsible for utility and site plan layouts. Mead is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering, and received an M.B.A. from Plymouth State College in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Mead resides in Bedford, New Hampshire and is an active member of the community having served on both the Greater Manchester United Way and the YMCA board of directors. Currently, she serves as a member of the New Hampshire Enhanced 9-1-1 Commission.

Community leaders and local government officials interested in contacting Mead can do so by email at kmead@fairpoint.com or by phone at 603-656-8190.

About FairPoint Communications, Inc.

FairPoint Communications, Inc. (Nasdaq: FRP) provides advanced data, voice and video technologies to single and multi-site businesses, public and private institutions, consumers, wireless companies and wholesale resellers in 17 states. Leveraging an owned, fiber-core Ethernet network - including more than 16,000 route miles of fiber in northern New England - FairPoint has the network coverage, scalable bandwidth and transport capacity to support enhanced applications, including the next generation of mobile and cloud-based communications, such as small cell wireless backhaul technology, voice over IP, data center colocation services, managed services and disaster recovery. For more information, visit www.FairPoint.com.

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