

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: NEW EA, INC. FLOW MOBILE

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Flow Mobile- Wakefield, Dixon County, NE

Submitter: American Broadband Cable TV (cable modem)

Comment: HunTel CableVision is an incumbent cable television provider with municipal franchise authority to offer cable television service in 20 communities in northeast Nebraska. HunTel Cablevision offers broadband internet and data services utilizing cable modem (within municipal franchise boundaries) and high speed wireless technologies in rural areas that extend beyond the municipal boundaries of its franchised cable television serving areas. HunTel Cablevision is also classified as a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC), and is designated by the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for purposes of receiving Federal Universal Service Support (FUSF). HunTel CableVision offers broadband services at speeds that meet and exceed the minimum download (768 Kbps) and upload (200 Kbps) speeds defined in the NOFA. HunTel CableVision does business as (dba) American Broadband in Nebraska. This specific response is from the perspective of the cable modem broadband service that is offered within the municipal franchised areas that overlap with the Flow Mobile Last Mile Stimulus Application.

HunTel CableVision (dba American Broadband) advertises broadband service alternatives that meet and exceed minimum download and upload speeds defined in the NOFA.

HunTel CableVision enjoys broadband penetration rates that exceed 40% of households in many of census blocks contained within its serving areas, and this does not count/include the penetration of Qwest, which is the ILEC in communities where HunTel CableVision operates as a CLEC, or other broadband competitors that operate in the service area that Flow Mobile has applied for.

Flow Mobile has submitted a last mile broadband stimulus application that overlaps HunTel CableVision serving areas. The Flow Mobile application overlaps with 45 census blocks in which HunTel CableVision offers cable modem broadband services. In these 45 census blocks, HunTel CableVision provides broadband service to 167 residential customers and 10 business customers. HunTel CableVision approaches 40% penetration amongst residences all by itself and this does not include the number of residences served by Qwest and other broadband competitors. Thus, the overlap area in the Flow Mobile application is not unserved and it is not underserved. Furthermore, HunTel CableVision offers its cable modem broadband service at speeds that exceed the NOFA minimums and exceed 3 Mbps, and HunTel CableVision (doing business as American Broadband) advertises speeds that exceed 3 Mbps.

The Flow Mobile stimulus application should be rejected for several reasons, which include but are not limited to:

1. Flow Mobile applied for Stimulus dollars in areas (Census Blocks) that are not unserved or underserved.
2. The Flow Mobile application is overly broad because it did not seek to perform validations of broadband penetration rates at the Census Block level, whereas HunTel CableVision currently provides, advertises, and tracks broadband penetration to the Census Block level within its designated serving areas.
3. Broadband stimulus dollars should not be directed to areas that do not meet the definitions of unserved or underserved territory.
4. Flow Mobile proposes a 4G wireless technology solution. Only Fiber-to-the-Premise solutions offer a long term future-proof solution for meeting the challenge of a rapidly increasing definition of minimum download and upload speeds. Flow Mobile is only one of several wireless providers within the geography applied for that have 4G network deployment plans (Verizon, AllTel, United States Ceullular, etc.)
5. Flow Mobile's application overlaps with the designated service areas of HunTel CableVision. It is not apparent that Flow Mobile has addressed the challenge of its application's ability to be economically sustainable in areas that lack population density since Flow Mobile is not designated by the Nebraska (PSC) as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for purposes of receiving Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) support.
6. Beyond initial network deployment, wireless infrastructure solutions have not demonstrated the ability to create sustained employment opportunities within the immediate service area. This is contrasted by the fact that HunTel CableVision has a resident work force, located within its designated serving areas in Eastern Nebraska, and it has a history of sustained employment.