

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: NTCH, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Alabama

Submitter: Utopian Wireless Corporation

Comment: Proprietary data regarding actual service provider broadband penetration in the proposed service area for this application demonstrates the area is already served by broadband options and therefore this application is ineligible for funding pursuant to the requirements of the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

Submitter: AT&T

Comment: AT&T is providing data about its wireline and mobile broadband footprint to assist in determining whether the applicant's proposed service area, which may be part of a larger application and project, satisfies the unserved and underserved eligibility requirements.

Additional information regarding other broadband service providers' currently operating in the service area may be needed in order to make a reasonable analysis or a conclusive determination.

Submitter: MetroCast Communications of Mississippi, LLC

Comment: MetroCast Communications of Mississippi, LLC offers broadband service to approximately 3% of the applicant's proposed service area.

MetroCast offers residential broadband transmission speeds in applicant's proposed service area up to 10Mbps downstream and 1Mbps

upstream, with MetroCast's most highly-subscribed broadband service having a transmission speed of 7.0Mbps downstream and

512kbps upstream. MetroCast's business broadband service offerings start at 3Mbps downstream and 512kbps upstream, with

advertised offerings of up to 15Mbps downstream and 3Mbps upstream. Higher business speeds are available with customized service

options including direct fiber connections. Over 9% of the households and businesses within the applicant's proposed overlapping service

area currently subscribe to MetroCast broadband services. MetroCast is aware of other providers of high speed broadband service in

applicant's proposed service area, including AT&T. According to an FCC report (<http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/comp.html>), as of June 30,

2008, 7 other companies reported providing high-speed service to this service area. Based on the information provided above, applicant's

proposed service area certainly does not meet the definition of "unserved" or "underserved" as those two terms are defined in the

NTIA/RUS NOFA. MetroCast has invested millions dollars of private capital on advanced fiber optic networks to provide broadband services to the communities it serves, including the City of Red Bay and other areas of Franklin County which encompasses a material portion of the applicant's proposed service area. Further details regarding the broadband services MetroCast provides in applicant's proposed service area are

provided below.

Submitter: National Telephone Company, Inc.

Comment: National Telephone of Alabama (NTA) is an existing RUS Traditional Telephone Borrower and since the early 1920's has served as the existing Incumbent Local Exchange Company (ILEC) for 3 exchange areas within the rural county of Colbert in the State of Alabama, portions of which are proposed to be served by NTCH, Inc. in their ARRA Broadband Stimulus application.

NTA currently advertises and provides broadband services, at speeds up to 3 Mbps to residential and up to 10 Gbps to business subscribers within the area proposed by this applicant. In addition, broadband service, at speeds greatly in excess of the minimum broadband speed defined by the ARRA NOFA is currently available through the NTA broadband network to approximately 86% of homes and businesses within the NTA service territory. This has been confirmed by Governor Riley's "ConnectingALABAMA" Broadband Availability mapping project. The area proposed to be served by the applicant contains

70,797 households according to the 2000 U.S. Census, of which 452 residential and business subscribers are already served by NTA. For these reasons the applicant's request for funding to overbuild areas already served by NTA should be denied.