

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Small Town Fiber, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Small Town Fiber: Wells Warsaw

Submitter: Cannon Valley Telecom, Inc. d/b/a BEVCOMM

Comment: Respondent serves a portion of applicant's proposed service area with broadband service, as defined by the FCC and the NOFA, which we offer to 100% of our customers within that portion of applicant's proposed service area as indicated on the map of our existing service area. In addition, 40% of our internet customers receive broadband internet service at speeds of 768 kbps down load and 256 kbps and above. Depending upon location, we offer up to 15 mbps download/1 mbps upload speeds to our customers.

-----**Service Area:** Small Town Fiber: Sibley Mcleod

Submitter: CenturyLink Corporation

Comment: The proposed service areas are not wholly underserved or unserved.

CenturyLink is submitting data that shows the application's proposed service area is not underserved or unserved, under program guidelines. Accordingly, the application must be denied as ineligible. With limited funding and a large pool of applications, program grants and loans must be directed only to areas that are truly underserved or unserved, as stipulated in the program guidelines.

CenturyLink can certify that its affiliates currently offer broadband service in some or all of the applicant's proposed service areas. Attached is a state map that is a representative sample of areas where the application overlaps our existing broadband deployment. CenturyLink also provides data showing broadband availability in our local telephone exchanges within the proposed service areas. We will provide additional information on request if that will further assist the agency's review.

This data is not exhaustive; the application may include other areas also currently served with broadband by other providers, which should be considered in the assessment of the application. Our data combined with that of other broadband providers would likely show further duplication and overlap of broadband services in the proposed service areas.

CenturyLink has committed to upgrade and extend broadband.

CenturyLink has an extensive broadband footprint today, and has committed to extend that service even further. As part of its merger commitments to the Federal Communications Commission, CenturyLink committed to offer retail broadband Internet access service to 100% of its broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2012. Consequently, virtually no areas served by CenturyTel or Embarq local operating companies, in any state, will be underserved or unserved at the end of three years.

CenturyLink also agreed to meet targets for minimum download speeds. CenturyLink will ensure availability of retail broadband Internet access service with a download speed of 1.5 Mbps to 87% of the broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2011. It will ensure availability with a download speed of 3 Mbps to 75% of broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2010, to 78% of broadband eligible lines by July 1, 2011, and to 80% of broadband eligible lines within 3 years of the close date. Nationwide, our average tele-density is 23 customers per square mile. This commitment ensures availability of broadband even to very rural consumers.

The agency should consider the importance of this commitment, as CenturyLink's continuing investment inevitably will make applications that overlap CenturyLink service areas less viable. CenturyLink has proven, industry-leading experience in deploying broadband networks and services using both wireline and wireless technology, and a strong commitment and focus on rural areas. Today, it serves over 7 million access lines and 2.1 million broadband customers in 33 states.

-----**Service Area:** Small Town Fiber

Submitter: Crystal Communications, Inc. dba HickoryTech

Comment: The data provided in this response is specific to a rural development outside St. Peter, MN in Applicant's service area. Respondent Crystal Communications, Inc. dba HickoryTech ("Crystal") is a competitive local exchange provider in this community. Crystal advertises and provides broadband services in this community. Of its subscribers who choose digital subscriber line service, 65% choose broadband levels. This area does not qualify as underserved.

Submitter: Mediacom Communications Corporation

Comment: A large number of households in applicant's proposed service area are currently served by Mediacom. Broadband speeds well in excess of the minimum broadband speeds set forth in the NOFA are currently available within the applicant's proposed service area. For its part, Mediacom advertises and provides broadband services within the proposed service area at speeds up to 20 Mbps.

Submitter: Mid-Communications, Inc. dba HickoryTech

Comment: Respondent Mid-Communications, Inc. dba HickoryTech ("Mid-Com") is the incumbent local exchange carrier in the community of Madison Lake, MN, which is within the Applicant's proposed service area. Mid-Com advertises and provides broadband in this service area, and therefore it does not qualify as underserved. For this reason, Applicant's application should be denied.

Submitter: Mankato Citizens Telephone Company dba HickoryTech

Comment: Respondent Mankato Citizens Telephone Company dba HickoryTech ("MCTC") serves one census tract within Applicant's proposed service area. High-speed internet is advertised in the proposed service area and MCTC has a take-rate of 59%. Of those subscribers, 40% choose service at speeds which meet the definition of broadband.

-----**Service Area:** Small Town Fiber: New Market

Submitter: Mediacom Communications Corporation

Comment: A large number of households in applicant's proposed service area are currently served by Mediacom. Broadband speeds well in excess of the minimum broadband speeds set forth in the NOFA are currently available within the applicant's proposed service area. For its part, Mediacom advertises and provides broadband services within the proposed service area at speeds up to 20 Mbps.

Submitter: Scott Rice Telephone Company dba Integra Telecom

Comment: Small Town Fiber, Inc.'s proposed project covers the New Market exchange area that is currently served by Scott Rice Telephone Company dba Integra Telecom. We currently serve the exchange by an existing fiber-to-the-node network. In the public notice response Integra Telecom is providing; 1) a map of the overlapping area Integra provides broadband services, 2) Integra's DSL high speed internet advertising 3) the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband services, 4) the number of residential households and business establishments subscribing to our broadband, 5) the advertised download and upload speeds and service rates, and 6) comments addressing the existing services offered within the proposed funded service area.

-----**Service Area:** Small Town Fiber: Hayward

Submitter: Qwest

Comment: As authorized by the BIP and BTOP Notice of Funds Availability and the Public Notice associated with the publication of BIP and BTOP broadband infrastructure project funding applications found on the BroadbandUSA.gov website, Qwest responds with broadband service data to the application of Small Town Fiber, Inc. for funding for an area represented as "unserved" that is located, in whole or in part, in Qwest's broadband service area.

Submitter: Charter Communications

Comment: Charter Communications ("Charter"), a broadband service provider, has invested capital to provide a full range of Broadband services, including High Speed Internet services, in this service area. The applicant's request in the proposed under-served and under-served service areas would create an overlap in Charter's service area. Charter's response includes the necessary information to validate the overlapping condition as a result of this applicant's request.

-----**Service Area:** Small Town Fiber: Fillmore Area

Submitter: Mediacom Communications Corporation

Comment: A large number of households in applicant's proposed service area are currently served by Mediacom. Broadband speeds well in excess of the minimum broadband speeds set forth in the NOFA are currently available within the applicant's proposed service area. For its part, Mediacom advertises and provides broadband services within the proposed service area at speeds up to 20 Mbps.