

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Fort Valley State University

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** FVSU Rural Broadband Project

Submitter: Plant TeleCommunications

Comment: Plant Telecommunications (“Plant”) is responding to this Public Notice Filing regarding Fort Valley State University’s application for broadband funding under the ARRA. The applicant’s proposed funded service area is located in south Georgia and covers parts of fourteen counties. Plant is an incumbent broadband provider that currently offers broadband service (as defined in the NOFA) to 95% of its service area as outlined in response area map in the fourteen counties that overlap Plant’s service area. For the proposed funded service area which overlaps with Plant’s incumbent service area, the applicant claims that it is “unserved”. The data provided in this response demonstrates that the applicant’s claim that the overlap with the proposed funded service area is “unserved” is not true.

Submitter: ComSouth Corporation

Comment: The proposed funded service area of Fort Valley State University located in the communities of Unadilla, Marshallville, and Elko may not meet the criteria for “Unserved.” The proposed funded service area of Fort Valley State University overlaps the existing service territory of ComSouth Telenet and ComSouth is making broadband services available to some households in the proposed funded service area (PFSA). Although ComSouth does not cover the entire PFSA, Comsouth, along with other service providers in the area may be providing service to more than 40% of the households in the PFSA. In addition, Comsouth along with other service providers in the area may be making broadband service available to more than 50% of the PFSA. Furthermore, Comsouth advertises broadband services at speeds exceeding 3mbps.

Submitter: Main Street Broadband

Comment: Main Street Broadband (MSB) provides broadband internet service to households, businesses and anchor institutions. MSB has secured Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Service (RUS) funding to provide broadband service in 13 counties and more than 49,000 households in this Proposed Funded Service Area. MSB has also requested BTOP/BIP grant funding to provide near ubiquitous coverage of 11 of the 60 counties in this Proposed Funded Service Area.

Submitter: Public Service Telephone Company

Comment: Fort Valley State University has submitted an application to place facilities to provide Broadband service to several areas located within the serving area of Public Service Telephone Company, headquartered in Reynolds, GA. These areas are Butler, Geneva, Reynolds, Roberta and Talbotton, GA. These areas are neither unserved or underserved. As demonstrated, 100% of households in PSTC's service area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services at a minimum transmission speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from PSTC; 100% of the households in PSTC's service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed as set forth in the definition of broadband; PSTC advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout its service area; and the rate of broadband subscribership in PSTC's service area is greater than 40 percent of households.

Submitter: Windstream

Comment: Windstream's data strongly suggest that the proposed funded service area likely does not qualify as an unserved area. Windstream offers facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at advertised speeds of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream to some of the households within the proposed funded service area, and such households can readily subscribe to Windstream's broadband service upon request. Windstream also has reason to believe that competitive broadband offerings are available in exchanges overlapping the proposed funded service area. Given this information, agency officials should further investigate existing broadband offerings within the proposed funded service area, so that officials can be sure that the area, in fact, qualifies as unserved.

Windstream is a communications and entertainment company with more than 1 million broadband customers in 16 states. Investing more than \$200 million in broadband deployment over the last several years, Windstream now offers approximately 89% of its 3 million voice customers access to quality and affordable broadband service.

The agencies define an "unserved area" as follows: "Unserved area means a proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks, where at least 90 percent of households in the proposed funded service area lack access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service, either

fixed or mobile, at the minimum broadband transmission speed (set forth in the definition of broadband above). A household has access to broadband service if the household can readily subscribe to that service upon request.

Submitter: Northland Communications Corporation

Comment: No comment.