

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: GlenMartin, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** 18 Bixby Reynolds

Submitter: Ellington Telephone Company, Inc.

Comment: Ellington Telephone Company provides DSL Broadband Service (at speeds of at least 768 Kbps downstream and 200 Kbps upstream) that is available to more than 95% of the households within the GlenMartin, Inc. proposed funded service area application overlapping Ellington Tel's exchange area boundaries. Forty percent (40%) of Ellington Tel's telephone service customers currently subscribe to Ellington Tel's Broadband Service; and, the majority of Ellington Tel's Broadband customers can receive downstream speeds of 3 Mbps or higher.

Submitter: Boycom Cablevision Inc.

Comment: Boycom Cablevision Inc. is a borrower in the RUS Broadband loan program and currently has an upgrade project in progress using the RUS loan program funding. The upgrade will cover its Butler County, Wappapello, Puxico, Fisk and Qulin MO service areas. Once completed it will allow high speed data services in excess of 10 Mbps Downstream and 3 Mbps Upstream. Boycom Cablevision Inc. also has cable service in the Ellington, MO in Reynolds Co. This system is planned to be tied to our Butler County system via fiber to access high speed data.

-----**Service Area:** 18 Bixby Washington

Submitter: Fidelity Communications Co. and subsidiaries

Comment: Fidelity Telephone Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fidelity Communications Co., is an ILEC providing telecommunications services in a portion of the Applicant's unserved proposed funded service area in Washington County, Missouri. Fidelity has provided quality service in rural exchanges since the 1940's and has built a robust broadband network, providing DSL services since 2002 at current speeds up to 5 bps.

Submitter: CenturyLink

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.