

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Jefferson Communications LLC

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** SE South Dakota Broadband Project

Submitter: Santel Communications

Comment: Santel Communications demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout Southeast South Dakota which is encompassed in the proposed funded Service Area in the Jefferson Communications LLC application and that the proposed funded Service Area is not unserved or underserved.

As demonstrated, 80% of households in Santel's service territory within the proposed funded Service Area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services with an advertised speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from Santel; 80% of the households in Santel's service territory within the proposed funded 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; Santel advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout the proposed funded Service Area; and the rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded Service Area is greater than 40 percent of households.

Submitter: Golden West Telecommunications

Comment: Golden West is providing information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband in the area that the applicant's PFSA overlaps the respondent's service area. Golden West is also providing information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in the area of overlap. Golden West's overlapping broadband service area, at a minimum defined as 768k downstream and 200k upstream are displayed on the associated mapping tool. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service. Golden West also advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream within the area of overlap. Accordingly, the area of overlap is not underserved. The number of business establishments reported is inaccurate as it includes business establishments with zip codes from the area of overlap even though the businesses are physically

located outside the area of overlap. Due to this fact, the broadband penetration may be calculated to be much lower than it actually is.

Submitter: Midstate Communication, Inc.

Comment: This application overlaps our entire serving area. We are currently providing high speed internet in all of our areas. See attached advertisement of broadband transmission speeds.

Submitter: Venture Communications Cooperative

Comment: Venture Communications Cooperative demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout the Southeast South Dakota area which is encompassed in the proposed funded Service Area in the Jefferson Communications LLC application and that the proposed funded Service Area is not unserved or underserved.

As demonstrated, virtually 100% of households in Venture's service territory within the proposed funded Service Area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services with an advertised speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from Venture; virtually 100% of the households in Venture's service territory within the proposed funded 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; Venture advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout the proposed funded Service Area; and the rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded Service Area is greater than 40 percent of households.

Submitter: Knology, Inc.

Comment: Knology is making broadband services available to approximately 7% of areas designated as "Underserved" in the Jefferson Communications' proposed funded service area (PFSA) in South Dakota. Jefferson Communications may not be meeting the definition of "Underserved" because Knology, along with other service providers in the area may be providing service to more than 40% of the households in the PFSA. Knology, along with other service providers in the area, may also make broadband service available to more than 50% of the PFSA. Furthermore, Knology is advertising broadband service exceeding 3 mbps in underserved areas of the Jefferson Communications' proposed funded service area. Information regarding Knology's subscriber penetration and plans for upgrade are provided in the comments section.

Submitter: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company

Comment: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company is providing information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband in the area that the applicant's PFSA overlaps the respondent's service area. Beresford is also providing information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in the area of overlap. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service and the rate of broadband subscribership exceeds 40%.

Submitter: McCook Cooperative Telephone Company

Comment: McCook Cooperative Telephone Company ("McCook") is providing information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband in the area that the applicant's PFSA overlaps the respondent's service area. McCook is also providing information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in the area of overlap. McCook's overlapping broadband service area, at a minimum defined as 768k downstream and 200k upstream are displayed on the associated mapping tool. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service and the rate of broadband subscribership for residential households and business establishments exceeds 40%. McCook also advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream within the area of overlap. Accordingly, the area of overlap is not underserved. The number of business establishments reported is inaccurate as it includes business establishments with zip codes that are in the area of overlap even though the business is located outside of the area of overlap. Due to this fact, the broadband penetration rate appears much lower than it actually is.

Submitter: Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative

Comment: Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC) demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout many portions of the Jefferson Communications LLC application which is encompassed in the proposed funded Service Area in the Satellite Broadband ARRA Application and that the proposed funded Service Area is not unserved or underserved. As demonstrated, 100% of households in ITC's service territory within the proposed funded Service Area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services with an advertised speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from ITC; 100% of the households in ITC's service territory within the proposed funded 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; ITC advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout many portions of the proposed funded Service Area; and the rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded Service Area is 6.2% of households.

Monies are currently being expended to upgrade facilities to offer minimum 1.5Mbps and higher speeds to the entire service area.

Submitter: Midcontinent Communications

Comment: While Midcontinent Communications supports the goals of the ARRA and the need to provide service to rural states like South Dakota with limited population densities, Midcontinent has determined that it already provides broadband service to much of the area proposed to be served by this grant. Supporting information for this determination is contained elsewhere in this filing. Since its initial launch in 1995 when Midcontinent became the first company in the state to offer cable modem broadband Internet services, Midcontinent has continually upgraded services for both business and residential customers throughout its service area. Those services are delivered over a very high capacity 16 Gb middle mile network that provides services to Midcontinent's residential and business customers as well as capacity for those large data customers that need customized services. Today the standard Internet speed is 15 Mbps with 25 Mbps available. By the end of 2010, Midcontinent customers will have access to speeds of 50 Mbps. The areas that this grant applicant proposes to serve are already served by Midcontinent and other providers. This application as proposed is not eligible for grant funding.

Submitter: Swiftel Communications

Comment: Brookings Municipal Utilities d/b/a Swiftel Communications, a department of the City of Brookings, South Dakota ("Swiftel"), demonstrates herein that it provides broadband service throughout the entire area in which the Swiftel incumbent service area overlaps the Proposed Funded Service Area ("PFSA") in the application of Jefferson Communications LLC ("Jefferson" or "Applicant"), and that that this portion of the PFSA is neither "unserved" nor "underserved" pursuant to the applicable definitions. The relevant portion of the PFSA is not "unserved" because well over 90% of households in such PFSA are able to readily subscribe from Swiftel alone (not to mention Mediacom Communications Corporation ("Mediacom"), an unrelated competing provider of broadband services) upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services with an advertised speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream. This portion of the PFSA is not "underserved" because: (1) well over 50% of the households in the 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; (2) Swiftel itself (as well as Mediacom) advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout the overlapped portion of the Proposed Funded Service Area; and (3) the rate of broadband subscribership for Swiftel and Mediacom in the PFSA is greater than 40 percent of the households therein.

Submitter: HANSON COMMUNICATIONS

Comment: Fort Randall Telephone Company (“Company”) a wholly owned subsidiary of Hanson Communications, Inc., has been providing telecommunications service to the communities of Centerville Lake Andes, Tabor, Tyndall, Viborg and Wagner, SD which covers a portion of the proposed funded service area (“Area”) since 1996 after purchasing them from Qwest Communications. In 2004, the Company began providing broadband service to the communities and the surrounding area.

We disagree with the Applicant’s assertion the area is either unserved or underserved. At no time did the Applicant contact us to determine areas that presently have broadband services. In fact, they apparently did not conduct research with the FCC to determine if a service provider was in the area. Had they checked, they would have found that our FCC form 477 indicates our Company is capable of providing broadband service to 97% of our end users and of those 100% are above the NOFA defined broadband speeds for unserved areas.

Submitter: Splitrock Properties, Inc. dba Alliance Communicat

Comment: Splitrock Properties, Inc. dba Alliance Communications demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout Howard, Oldham, Ramona and Carthage which are encompassed in the proposed funded Service Area in the Jefferson Communications LLC application and that the proposed funded Service Area is not unserved or underserved.

As demonstrated, xx% of households in Alliance’s service territory within the proposed funded Service Area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services with an advertised speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from Alliance; 100% of the households in Alliance’s service territory within the proposed funded 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; Alliance advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream in the Howard area within the proposed funded Service Area; and the rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded Service Area is greater than 40 percent of households.

Submitter: Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc

Comment: Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. (KTC) offers broadband speeds of 1.5 Mbps and 3 Mbps throughout the area where the applicant's PFSA overlaps our service territory. KTC has provided information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of

receiving broadband in the area of overlap, and has also provided information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in this area. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service and the rate of broadband subscribership exceeds 40%. Therefore, according to the terms and definitions provided, this area of overlap is neither unserved nor underserved.