

## Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** Valnet Telecommunications, LLC

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### Public Notice Submissions

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**Submitter:** Cable One, Inc.

**Comment:** Valnet Telecommunications, LLC Wilson and Montgomery Counties, Kansas Independence and Neodesha, Kansas

Cable One, Inc. is a multi-system broadband provider operating in 19 states. Cable One offers residential broadband service with speeds up to 10 MB and customizable commercial solutions with flexible bandwidth offerings from 5Mbps to 1 Gbps. By November 1, 2009, the majority of Cable One systems will also be offering 12 Mb residential broadband service with a 20 MB boost. Cable One provides its subscribers with quality service offerings at competitive rates. Cable One expends substantial capital and resources to ensure that customers enjoy the latest technology and the highest standards of customer service, and has made its customers and its communities its first priority.

Please refer to our supporting documentation and comments that establish that Cable One already operates in census tract(s) encompassing or included in Applicant's Proposed Funded Service Area. The uploaded document includes maps showing census tracts and homes passed for each the applicable systems, current advertisements for residential and commercial broadband offerings, and subscriber data by census tract.

Cable one's current broadband service offerings are as follows:

Residential:

Economy, Speed (Down/up) - 1.5 Mb/150 kbps, Service Rate - \$20.00

Standard , Speed (Down/up) - 5 Mb/500 kbps, Service Rate - \$43.00

Premium, Speed (Down/up) - 10 Mb/1 Mb, Service Rate - \$53.00

Commercial:

Economy, Speed (Down/up) - 5 Mb/1.0 Mb, Service Rate - \$69.65

Standard, Speed (Down/up) - 10.0 Mb/1.0 Mb, Service Rate - \$85.95

Premium, Speed (Down/up) - 12.0 Mb/1.5 Mb, Service Rate - \$99.95

Ultra, Speed (Down/up) - 15.0 Mb/2.0 Mb, Service Rate - \$199.95

Enterprise Plus, Speed (Down/up) - 20.0 Mb/2.5 Mb, Service Rate - \$299.95

Discounted bundles and promotional pricing are also available.

**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:** Cox Communications Inc

**Comment:** Cox Communications, Inc.(Cox) is a broadband communications and entertainment company, providing advanced digital video, Internet, telephone and wireless services over its nationwide IP network. The third-largest U.S. cable TV company, Cox serves over 6.2 million residences and businesses.

Cox operates in hundreds of communities in 18 states and has invested over \$16 billion in private capital in its network over the last ten years. Cox provides its customers in Kansas with 21st century infrastructure that provides advanced broadband, video and telephone services. More than 99.5 percent of the households in our service areas have access to Cox high-speed Internet, at some of the fastest broadband speeds available in the nation.

Cox supports the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to extend broadband to parts of the country that are unserved or underserved. We appreciate the efforts of the Rural Utilities Service and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in making sure that the limited amount of broadband stimulus funding available under the ARRA is targeted toward those consumers in greatest need, rather than to areas that already have access to broadband service.

To assist your agencies in ensuring that ARRA funds are directed to truly unserved and underserved areas, Cox is providing supplemental information that demonstrates, for the above-referenced application, the following: the location of Cox's broadband infrastructure; broadband service levels provided; number of customers served; pricing for each service tier; and marketing materials which demonstrate service availability. Consistent with the statutory requirement to expend funds only for projects in eligible areas, we trust that your agencies will use this information -- along with information from other broadband providers -- to obtain a clear picture of service availability in the area covered by the application. We encourage the use of independent due diligence to determine the extent of other broadband service offerings in the proposed funded service area covered by this submission, if other providers fail to submit information prior to the submission deadline.

We request that this data be treated as confidential and proprietary. Much of the information provided with this letter constitutes trade secrets or commercial information that is privileged and confidential and therefore exempt from public disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). Cox does not disclose this information to the public, and release of this information could cause competitive harm, by enabling other broadband providers to tailor their business strategies to unfairly compete with Cox.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information. We trust that it will be helpful in your analysis, and will inform your final decision concerning the application.

**Submitter:** Allegiance Communications, LLC

**Comment:** Allegiance Communications (Allegiance) currently provides a wide array of broadband offerings within the proposed funded service area. Allegiance has offered broadband services in excess of the 3 MB bandwidth requirement as set forth in the ARRA, NOFA and BIP/BTOP guidelines, all prior to the ARRA approval. Allegiance's service area already provides for "sufficient access to broadband service to facilitate rural economic development", as well as allows for choice of service providers through competing with Local Exchange Carriers, and allows for leasing of services through our own facilities. Allegiance's opinion of the proposed funded service area is that of excess spending where

funds could be better used in other portions of the country to deploy broadband service in accordance with the ARRA, NOFA and BIP/BTOP programs. Through funding the proposed service area, excessive competition will be created for all, which may create a short term economic boost, but have severe long term ramifications which may force service providers out of business.

**Submitter:** LaHarpe Telephone Co., Inc.

**Comment:** LaHarpe Telephone Company, Inc has expended more than \$2,500,000 of a loan from USDA to construct a fiber to the premises in LaHarpe, KS and the surrounding rural area. The fiber to the premises build is complete and the citizens in the area have one of the most advanced systems in the nation with internet capability in the range of 100M/sec. Overbuilding with grant money could put repayment of our loan in jeopardy.

**Submitter:** Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

**Comment:** Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (CKT) is a telecommunications company serving rural areas of Southeast Kansas, Southwest Missouri and Northeast Oklahoma with high quality communication services for more than 55 years. As a full service provider, CKT was among the first in the area to provide broadband service to rural customers. CKT has diligently worked to extend broadband services to over 97% of our customer base. CKT counts among its broadband service customers community anchor institutions including public safety agencies, schools, libraries and healthcare providers. CKT is in the midst of a Fiber to the Home project to provide additional broadband capability in an ever evolving industry.

**Submitter:** Totah Communications, Inc.

**Comment:** Totah Communications, Inc.

OMB Control Number: 0660-0031

OMB Control Number: 0572-0142

Valnet, LLC (Valnet) a wireless broadband provider with offices in Independence, Kansas has incorrectly filed for ARRA funding for areas that include a portion of Totah Communications, Inc.'s (Totah) rural exchange areas in Kansas. The areas involving Totah in which Valnet has incorrectly filed include Havana, Liberty, Hewins, Elgin, Niotaze, Elk City and Tyro. Valnet has wrongly identified these Totah service areas as being underserved. All of these areas are already being served with broadband by Totah at speeds equal to or in excess of 768 kbps. In addition, these areas are also currently being served by at

least one wireless carrier or a cable company and or a combination of a cable company and at least one wireless provider.

We strongly oppose the Valnet filing and their request for funding on the basis that they have incorrectly identified the Totah service areas of Havana, Liberty, Hewins, Elgin, Niotaze, Elk City and Tyro as underserved and recommend that it be rejected on the grounds that the incumbent ILEC, Totah Communications, Inc. is already providing broadband access in these areas at speeds equal to or in excess of 768 kbps.

If you have any questions, or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Keith E. Watson

Totah Communications, Inc.

**Submitter:** The Southern Kansas Telephone Co., Inc.

**Comment:** The Southern Kansas Telephone Co., Inc. (SKT) has been providing service to rural Kansas communities for 70 years. SKT is committed to providing rural Kansans broadband service that helps both increase the quality of life and allows them to conduct business in a much more productive manner. As an example of this commitment, SKT began offering broadband service in 2001. SKT has continuously upgraded its fiber network over the years to meet the service needs of its customers. SKT currently offers broadband service up to and exceeding 12.0 M downloads and 1.0 M uploads. SKT customers benefit from local customer care, 24/7 support, multiple service discounts, free hardware and installation options that make broadband service more affordable and easier to get connected. SKT's owners and 54 employees are local Kansans who understand the needs of their customers and the importance of supporting the rural communities they serve. To help these communities flourish in the future, SKT provides complimentary broadband service to all local municipalities, including city, police, fire, and EMS locations, as well as libraries and senior centers. SKT will continue to focus on providing vital broadband services for rural Kansans.

**Submitter:** Mercury Wireless, LLC

**Comment:** Mercury Wireless currently provides up to 3 mbps wireless Internet access to sections of the applicant's proposed service area.