

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Big River Broadband, LLC

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Washington County

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 underserved 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 Mbps.

-----**Service Area:** Cape Girardeau County

Submitter: Semo Communications, Incorporated

Comment: Semo Communications, Incorporated advertises and provides high speed data service in speeds of up to 8 mbps download and 768 kbps upload in the proposed funded 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 service area 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:** St Francois County

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 service area 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:** Bollinger County

Submitter: Boycom

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 Marble Hill, MO in Bollinger Co. This system is planned to be tied to our Puxico system via fiber to access high speed data.

-----**Service Area:** Perry County

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 service area 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:** Wayne County

Submitter: Boycom Cablevision Inc.

Comment: Boycom Cablevision, Inc. currently offers high speed data services in it's Butler County and Wappapello systems in excess of 3 Mbps Downstream and up to 1 Mbps upstream. Boycom Cablevision, Inc. is also a borrower in the RUS Broadband loan program, , and currently has an upgrade project in progress, loan # MO1102C, using the RUS loan program funding. The upgrade will cover it's 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.

Submitter: Windstream

Comment: Windstream's data strongly suggest that the proposed funded service area likely does not qualify as an underserved area. Windstream offers facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service (meeting the definition set forth in the Notice of Funds Availability) to some of the households in 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 underserved.

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 "underserved area" as follows: "Underserved area means a proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks meeting certain criteria that measure the availability of broadband service and the level of advertised broadband speeds. These criteria conform to the two distinct components of the Broadband Infrastructure category of eligible projects- Last Mile and Middle Mile. Specifically, a proposed funded service area may qualify as underserved for last mile projects if at least one of the following factors is met, though the presumption will be that more than one factor is present: 1. No more than 50 percent of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed (set forth in the definition of broadband above); 2. No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least three megabits per second ("mbps") downstream in the proposed funded service area; or 3. The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40 percent of households or less. A proposed

funded service area may qualify as underserved for Middle Mile projects if one interconnection point terminates in a proposed funded service area that qualifies as unserved or underserved for Last Mile projects.”

-----**Service Area:** Madison County

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 service area 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.