

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: MCG PCS of Charleston, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Pennsylvania

Submitter: Commonwealth Telephone Company

Comment: A portion of the applicant's territory is already served by the respondent. 3MG speed or higher is available and advertised.

Submitter: Pencor

Comment: RESIDENTIAL PACKAGES

Blue Ridge Communications offers Residential High Speed Internet Packages that range from:
1.5 Megabits Downstream / 384 Kilobits Upstream to 15Megabits Downstream /2 Megabits Upstream.

COMMERCIAL PACKAGES

Blue Ridge Communications Commercial High Speed Internet Packages range from:
3 Megabits Downstream / 800 Kilobits Upstream to 15 Megabits Downstream / 2 Megabits Upstream.

Blue Ridge Communications/PTD Commercial High Speed Internet Packages range from:
2 Megabits Downstream / 2 Megabit Upstream to 12 Megabits Downstream / 2 Megabit Upstream

Submitter: Gans Communications LP dbaMetroCast Communications

Comment: Gans Communications, L.P. dba MetroCast Communications offers broadband service to 100% of the applicant's proposed service area. MetroCast offers residential broadband transmission speeds in applicant's proposed service area up to 10Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream, with

MetroCast's most highly-subscribed to broadband service having a transmission speed of 7.0Mbps downstream and 512 kbps upstream. MetroCast's business broadband service offerings start at 3Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream, with advertised offerings of up to 15Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Higher business speeds are available with customized service options including direct fiber connections. Over 12% of the households and businesses within the applicant's proposed service area currently subscribe to MetroCast broadband services. MetroCast is aware of other providers of high speed broadband service in applicant's proposed service area, including Verizon. According to an FCC report (<http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/comp.html>), as of June 30, 2008, eleven other companies reported providing high-speed service to this service area. Based on the information provided above, applicant's proposed service area certainly does not meet the definition of "unserved" or "underserved" as those two terms are defined in the NTIA/RUS NOFA. MetroCast has invested several million dollars of private capital to build an advanced fiber optic network to provide broadband services in Northeastern Pennsylvania, which encompasses most of the applicant's proposed service area. Further details regarding the broadband services MetroCast provides in applicant's proposed service area are provided below.

-----**Service Area:** New York

Submitter: Chautauqua & Erie Communications

Comment: Chautauqua & Erie Telephone Company ("C&E") is responding to this Public Notice Filing regarding MCG PCS of Charleston, Inc.'s application for broadband funding under the ARRA. The applicant's proposed funded service area is located in southwestern New York. C&E is an incumbent broadband provider that currently offers broadband service (as defined in the NOFA) to 92% of its service area as outlined in the response area map in southwestern New York. For the proposed funded service area which overlaps with C&E's incumbent service area, the applicant claims that it is "underserved". The data provided in this response demonstrates that the applicant's claim that the overlap with the proposed funded service area is "underserved" is not true.

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.”

Submitter: Time Warner Cable

Comment: As shown in the attached map and exhibit, TWC currently provides broadband Internet access service in the Proposed Funded Service Area. In addition, we advertise service of speeds above 3 Mbps throughout this service area. We pass over 50% of households, and either (1) have actual broadband subscribership of over 40% of the households in these census blocks or (2) the combined broadband subscribership of the wireline broadband providers (including TWC) in these census blocks is reasonably likely to exceed 40%. Therefore, that portion of the proposed funded service area that overlaps Respondent’s service area reflected in this response is neither “unserved” or “underserved.”