

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Comanche County Telephone Company, Inc.

Project Title: CCTC Broadband Infrastructure Proposal

Project Type: Last Mile Non-Remote

Executive Summary

a.) Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address. Comanche County Telephone Company, Inc., (CCTC) proposes the development of a fiber data network throughout its ILEC area. This network will complement its existing voice network, and it will provide broadband Internet access to currently unserved communities within its ILEC coverage area and upgrade the data traffic capabilities throughout the entire ILEC coverage area. CCTC also proposes developing two wireless nodes off this fiber network in order to offer alternative data network capabilities to two communities surrounded by its ILEC coverage area. Lastly, CCTC proposes implementation of a strategic plan to accelerate adoption of broadband Internet use by all its customers. This strategic plan (with proposed funding from BTOP programs) targets specific outreach efforts to unserved, underserved and minority communities while simultaneously working closely with the local Independent School Districts (ISDs) to leverage resources and support the ISDs' technology plans for their student populations. b.) General description of the proposed funded service areas (location, number of communities, etc.). The proposed service area is the ILEC service territory of CCTC, plus the city of Comanche and the town of Gustine which are completely encircled by CCTC's ILEC service area but not served by CCTC (Area). The ILEC territory includes all of Comanche County, and also adjacent parts of Eastland, Brown, Mills, Hamilton and Erath Counties. It is entirely rural and to the 2000 Census its population was over 15,000 people. This Area also contains five census-designated communities with a combined population of 8,832. Data from the 2000 Census indicates that average per capita income across this Area is approximately 80% of the Texas state average, and approximately 58% of school students are considered economically disadvantaged. The largest minority group – at 20% of the population – is Hispanic. The Area lies approximately 100 miles southwest of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex on the North Central Texas plateau. c.) Number of households and businesses passed. Per the 2000 Census, there are approximately 4,400 households and 200 businesses located in the CCTC ILEC service area, plus an additional 1,800 households combined located in the communities of Comanche and Gustine. d.) Number of community anchor institutions, public safety entities and critical community organizations passes and/or involved with the project (e.g., health care, education, libraries, etc.). There are 16 Independent School Districts (ISDs), each containing a single elementary, middle and high school in the Area. The Area also contains 4 libraries, 5 community centers, 9 fire departments and rescue squads, 1 hospital and 4 campgrounds. e.) Proposed services and applications for the proposed funded service areas and users. The Comanche County Telephone Company Broadband Plan is focused on upgrading the data capability of its ILEC to true broadband speed across its entire coverage Area. This will result in providing access to the highest possible speeds to 100% of the service area. CCTC will aggressively promote this increased broadband service to its

current customer base. CCTC proposes offering two tiers of service: an entry-level 768K service and a higher bandwidth 6.0 Megabytes of service. In order to ensure that the maximum number of customers subscribe to broadband, CCTC is also submitting an additional application for broadband stimulus funding of a community-wide outreach effort called CCTC Connect! that will work with all constituencies within the communities and leverage the parallel efforts of local schools and ISDs to accelerate their students' use of the Internet. f.) Approach to addressing the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations. CCTC will comply with all non-discrimination and interconnection requirements in the NOFA. As a regulated ILEC, CCTC currently has policies and procedures in effect to comply with NOFA-level non-discrimination and interconnection requirements, so pledging to do so for BIP or BTOP is consistent with its operating business philosophy. Among the principles adopted by the FCC in its August 5, 2005 Internet Policy Statement is the concept that "consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers." The wireless component of the Comanche County Telephone Company Broadband Plan puts this statement into action by providing competing broadband service in the only two areas of Comanche County not served by CCTC – the city of Comanche and the town of Gustine. These two areas are currently served by Verizon and Hometown Computing. g.) Type of broadband system that will be deployed. The primary component of the system proposed in the CCTC Proposal is a 186 mile fiber optic data network that will be deployed along the existing copper network existing between switching equipment locations throughout CCTC system. This will connect all 35 of the Digital Loop Carriers present in the network (11 of which are not currently capable of offering DSL service). Under this proposal, every DLC will be made DSL-capable utilizing ADSL2+ technology. Every customer served by these DLC's will have true broadband connectivity that would be capable of increased customer bandwidth consumption in the future. The fiber build out will also connect two Central Offices that are currently copper-fed, thus providing customers in those locations with broadband for the first time. Each DLC will also have OC12 (622Mbps) fiber backhaul. CCTC will also install and maintain two wireless hops to serve two areas that are currently outside the CCTC ILEC coverage area. The wireless broadband service will utilize unlicensed 900 MHz spectrum, and each transmitter location will have 100 Mb backhaul radios. Fixed wireless customers will be able to receive broadband service at speeds up to 8 Mbps downstream. Also proposed is a fiber link to a neighboring carrier allowing for an alternate route to the Internet backbone. This route would allow CCTC to connect to the Texas Lone Star Fiber network and provide alternate routes for Internet and voice out to the world. Standard fiber optic terminals would be used for this connection. h.) Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement and operate a broad band infrastructure, and/or be a sustainable broadband services provider. CCTC has a 57 year track record as a provider of telecommunications services in Comanche County and surrounding areas. The company has a strong management team in place as well as a seasoned and dedicated work force. Over the course of its existence CCTC has continually enhanced its service offerings, with upgrades in digital, wireless and data services. CCTC has already deployed DSL to some of its subscribers, and this broadband project will allow all of CCTC's subscribers and their neighbors in the communities of Comanche and Gustine to receive true broadband service from an experienced locally-owned provider. In addition to CCTC's proven technical capability, the organization is financially stable. i.) Overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system. The total cost of the project is \$6,428,000. j.) Overall expected subscriber projections for the project. CCTC has estimated that subscriber growth for

broadband Internet service will occur on a straight-line basis over the next five years. Specifically, it is forecast that 120 new wireline customers will be added annually, as well as 20 new wireless customers from the communities of Comanche and Gustine. Similarly, CCTC forecasts 40 new business accounts annually will be added from the wireline part of this project while 8 new wireless business accounts will be added. k.) Number of jobs estimated to be created or saved as a result of this project. The present 38 employee work force at CCTC will be fully engaged in the timely completion of this broadband project. In addition approximately 10 jobs will be created for engineering and contracting services for construction and deployment of the broadband infrastructure, with estimates that the 10 jobs would equal about 1½ years of employment per job. Indirectly, this project would also lead to possible new jobs related to economic development initiatives, agriculture and tourism. l. Synopsis Upon approval of this application CCTC plans to provide cutting edge broadband service to the part of rural Texas it has served so well for over 50 years. The deployment of fiber throughout CCTC's ILEC service area will provide the best possible broadband option for the underserved and unserved subscribers in the Comanche County area of rural Texas, while the provision of wireless broadband to the communities of Comanche and Gustine will provide competitive choice to those rural citizens. CCTC's infrastructure applications for its North Texas and Oklahoma ILEC areas, as well as the BTOP applications it has filed under the Computer Center and Sustainability programs, complement this application extremely well and provide for an innovative and aggressive approach to bringing broadband service and its benefits to exactly the type of areas for which the broadband stimulus program was created.