

From: [DONALD WILLARD LEGOULLON](#)
To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Subject: Broadband Opportunity Council Notice and Request for Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 4:27:44 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

During the 1930s, 90 percent of urban dwellers had electricity while only 10 percent of rural dwellers did. Along came the Roosevelt Administration and the creation of the Rural Electric Administration (REA) in 1935. By 1939, the REA has established over 400 rural electric cooperatives and rural electrification has risen to 25 percent. Existing low voltage of 2300 was a barrier restricting distribution to about 4 miles. REAs bumped this up to 6900 volts to reach up to 40 miles.

I propose to you that we need the same type of governmental effort today for the establishment of acceptable high-speed Internet connectivity for the entire country. Businesses (as well as individuals) suffer from the unavailability of an acceptable Internet connection, or the cost to acquire such a connection is prohibitive.

There may be some barriers to extending broadband to the true 'last mile'. As the REAs had to invest in newer-more expensive equipment to increase the transmission voltage from 2300 to 6900, I am confident the necessary technology to reach 'last mile' locations can be achieved within a financial affordable model.

Yes, there are various governmental laws, guidelines, etc. in place with the intent of 'forcing' commercial for-profit broadband providers to deliver this service, however, in my experience these entities do everything they can to delay or flat out not deliver. A very big offender in Pennsylvania is Verizon, which also happens to be the Pennsylvania vendor with the largest footprint and the largest profits.

It may be possible with new legislation that carries enforceable heavy penalties for failure to meet but the existing laws which were intended to do just that have failed so how would one believe any new effort for a forced response from the for-profit vendors would lead to the positive outcomes desired.

As a real example, I am working with a small 'office' in Jefferson County a few miles South of Brookville, PA. The office has two men, each working as an independent contractor, creating engineering specifications for railroad operation controls. The existing Windstream DSL connection (the only thing available) is rated at 3Mbps. However, they report typically having less than ½ that throughput, and even if 3Mbps was actually operational it is less than acceptable given the large file sizes they work with. Fortunately there is a Comcast cable about a half mile away with a quoted total construction cost of \$13,220 – this includes a required customer co-payment of \$6,022. Although Comcast is offering a 'relatively' low customer co-payment, it is still quite significant for these two men to absorb. This is actually a good scenario given the Comcast cable is so close and Comcast is requiring a little less than 50 percent of the construction costs. Far too often, I find for-profit tax paying

organizations located in rural Pennsylvania where there simply is not viable solution, especially when existing broadband providers fail to deliver adequate Internet connections.

I submit to you that the lack of quality Internet connection hinders far too many existing businesses. Competing on a global-international level requires the best 'utility' services to meet the needs of our companies – this should include high-speed Internet connectivity. If 'we' can get electricity and copper telephone service to almost anywhere in the U.S.A., we can get high-speed Internet there. Just as achieving deliverable electric service was a priority it is time we make acceptable Internet service just as available.

Sincerely,
Donald

Donald W. LeGoullon
Sr. Technical Advisor - Advanced IT/eBusiness

PennTAP (Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program)
The Pennsylvania State University
119 Innovation Blvd.
University Park PA 16802

Office + Cell Phone: **814.882.2449**
Email: DonL@psu.edu
Website: www.penntap.psu.edu

Discover ways we can help, visit our website today: PennTAP.psu.edu



***Helping Pennsylvania organizations
with Broadband projects***

Who we are and what we do:

The Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) at Penn State engages, guides, and empowers businesses and organizations throughout the Commonwealth and beyond by providing objective and experience-based technical and workforce solutions that enable clients to succeed and thrive, stimulating economic growth for Pennsylvania.

Advanced IT/eBusiness · Energy · Innovation Services
