Applicant Name: KeyOn Communications, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

Service Area: Minnesota

Submitter: Park Region Mutual Telephone Company

Comment: The applicant incorrectly claims the area served by our company as underserved. 100% of the establishments in our serving territory have access to facilities-based, terrestrial 3Mb plus internet. The rate of broadband subscribership is 43.6%.

Submitter: diversiCOM- Melrose Telephone Company

Comment: Our service area is a small portion of the underserved requested area. Our company provides 98% high speed and invest annually in upgrading our facilities to fiber infrastructure to position ourselves for broadband expansion.

Submitter: Hanson Communications, Inc.

Comment: This is a response from Hanson Communications, Inc., the parent company, of Starbuck Telephone Company, Clara City Telephone Company, and Sacred Heart Telephone Company.

Starbuck Telephone Company has been providing telecommunication services since 1902 in the Starbuck community and started providing broadband services in 1996.

Clara City Telephone Company has been providing telecommunication services since 1903 in the Clara City and Maynard communities and started providing broadband services in 1994.

Sacred Heart Telephone Company has been providing telecommunication services since 1900 in the Sacred Heart community and started providing broadband services in 1996.
We disagree with the Applicant’s assertion the area is underserved. At no time did the Applicant contact us to determine areas that presently have broadband services. In fact, they apparently did not conduct research with the FCC to determine if a service provider was in the area. Had they checked, they would have found that our FCC form 477 indicates our Companies provide broadband service to 100% of our end users and of those 100% are above download speeds greater than 768 kbps.

Submitter: Tekstar Communications, Inc dba ACS

Comment: Tekstar Communications, Inc, dba ACS will provide the advertising that was published in the local area verifying the speed of 3Mb and above. We will also provide the number of premises we reach and the number of customers we have on each speed tier. We will map out the area we serve broadband within this applicant misstated application.

Submitter: Federated Telephone Cooperative

Comment: i. Federated Telephone Cooperative service territory overlaps by less than 1% (based upon households passed) of the KeyOn Communications - Minnesota proposed funded service area (PFSA). KeyOn designates this area as underserved. The penetration for FTC is exceptional in the overlap area. When combined with other providers, the total penetration may be over 40% for the entire PFSA. In addition, FTC provides service to the entire overlap area with service that is advertised at 3 Mbps or above. Federated has built a fiber to the premise network covering all of its exchanges.

Submitter: Sleepy Eye Telephone

Comment: Sleepy Eye Telephone Company serves the communities and surrounding areas of Sleepy Eye, Hanska, Goodhue, Bellechester, White Rock, and Mazeppa in south central and southeast Minnesota. Sleepy Eye Telephone is the incumbent local exchange carrier and by the NOFA definition of broadband, is not considered unserved nor underserved. Due to the satisfaction of these definitions, no ARRA funds should be awarded to the applicant in this area.

Submitter: Utopian Wireless Corporation
**Comment:** Proprietary data regarding actual service provider broadband penetration in the proposed service area for this application demonstrates the area is already served by broadband options and therefore this application is ineligible for funding pursuant to the requirements of the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

**Submitter:** Granada Telephone Company

**Comment:** Respondent provides broadband service as defined by the FCC and the NOFA within applicant’s proposed service territory. Therefore, this portion of applicant’s proposed service territory is not classified as underserved.

**Submitter:** US Cable of Coastal-Texas, L.P.

**Comment:** US Cable of Coastal-Texas, L.P. operates cable television systems that are overlapped by applicant’s proposed service area.

**Submitter:** Midwest Telephone Company

**Comment:** Midwest Telephone, dba ACS will provide the advertising that was published in the local area verifying the speed of 3Mb and above. We will also provide the number of premises we reach and the number of customers we have on each speed tier. We will map out the area we serve broadband within this applicant misstated application.

**Submitter:** CenturyLink Corporation

**Comment:** The proposed service areas are not wholly underserved or unserved.

CenturyLink is submitting data that shows the application’s proposed service area is not underserved or unserved, under program guidelines. Accordingly, the application must be denied as ineligible. With limited funding and a large pool of applications, program grants and loans must be directed only to areas that are truly underserved or unserved, as stipulated in the program guidelines.

CenturyLink can certify that its affiliates currently offer broadband service in some or all of the applicant’s proposed service areas. Attached is a state map that is a representative sample of areas.
where the application overlaps our existing broadband deployment. CenturyLink also provides data showing broadband availability in our local telephone exchanges within the proposed service areas. We will provide additional information on request if that will further assist the agency’s review.

This data is not exhaustive; the application may include other areas also currently served with broadband by other providers, which should be considered in the assessment of the application. Our data combined with that of other broadband providers would likely show further duplication and overlap of broadband services in the proposed service areas.

CenturyLink has committed to upgrade and extend broadband.

CenturyLink has an extensive broadband footprint today, and has committed to extend that service even further. As part of its merger commitments to the Federal Communications Commission, CenturyLink committed to offer retail broadband Internet access service to 100% of its broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2012. Consequently, virtually no areas served by CenturyTel or Embarq local operating companies, in any state, will be underserved or unserved at the end of three years.

CenturyLink also agreed to meet targets for minimum download speeds. CenturyLink will ensure availability of retail broadband Internet access service with a download speed of 1.5 Mbps to 87% of the broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2011. It will ensure availability with a download speed of 3 Mbps to 75% of broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2010, to 78% of broadband eligible lines by July 1, 2011, and to 80% of broadband eligible lines within 3 years of the close date. Nationwide, our average tele-density is 23 customers per square mile. This commitment ensures availability of broadband even to very rural consumers.

The agency should consider the importance of this commitment, as CenturyLink’s continuing investment inevitably will make applications that overlap CenturyLink service areas less viable. CenturyLink has proven, industry-leading experience in deploying broadband networks and services using both wireline and wireless technology, and a strong commitment and focus on rural areas. Today, it serves over 7 million access lines and 2.1 million broadband customers in 33 states.

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.

**Submitter:** Loretel

**Comment:** Loretel will provide the advertising that was published in the local area verifying the speed of 3Mb and above. We will also provide the number of premises we reach and the number of customers we have on each speed tier. We will map out the area we serve broadband within this applicant misstated application.

**Submitter:** diversiCOM- Wisper Wireless

**Comment:** In mid 2005 we created a company, Wisper Wireless to invest in rural areas using wireless technologies where little or no broadband service was available. Today we are using wireless cutting edge (WiMAX) technology to deliver these services. Initial and ongoing investment dollars are significant. Further, there is a limited amount of households in these markets to support this effort or that are requesting service. As part of this effort we also provide internet classes to our customers to educate them on the basic of internet, web browsing and email. Due to the low population densities we believe sustainable adoption is a more vital tool then putting more providers to cover the same area.

**Submitter:** Eagle Valley Telephone

**Comment:** Eagle Valley Telephone will provide the advertising that was published in the local area verifying the speed of 3Mb and above. We will also provide the number of premises we reach and the number of customers we have on each speed tier. We will map out the area we serve broadband within this applicant misstated application.

**Submitter:** Lowry Telephone Company LLC

**Comment:** KeyOn Communications' proposed project covers a large portion of the exchange served by Lowry Telephone Company LLC. We currently serve the exchange by an existing fiber / copper network. In the public notice response Lowry Telephone Company is providing; 1) a map of the overlapping area Lowry provides broadband services, 2) Lowry’s DSL high speed internet advertising 3) the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband services, 4) the number of residential households and business establishments subscribing to our broadband, 5) the
advertised download and upload speeds and service rates, and 6) comments addressing the existing services offered within the proposed funded service area.

**Submitter:** Cannon Valley Cablevision, Inc. d/b/a BEVCOMM

**Comment:** Respondent contends that applicant is seeking broadband stimulus funds for areas within Respondent's service territory that do not qualify as underserved areas as defined in the NOFA. Respondent offers and advertises broadband service with speeds ranging from 768 kbps download and 512 kbps upload to 15 mbps download to 2 mbps upload.

**Submitter:** Easton Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOMM

**Comment:** Respondent contends that applicant is seeking broadband stimulus funds for areas within respondent's service territory that do not qualify as underserved areas as defined in the NOFA. Respondent offers broadband service as defined by the FCC to 100% of its customers that are located within the applicant's proposed service area, and that 70% of our internet customers actually receive broadband service at speeds of 768 kbps download and 256 kbps upload or greater. Depending upon location, Respondent provides broadband service up to 15 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

**Submitter:** Nu-Telecom, Inc.

**Comment:** New Ulm Telecom, Inc serves the City of New Ulm and surrounding area in rural Minnesota. New Ulm Telecom is the incumbent local exchange carrier and by the NOFA definitions of broadband, is neither unserved nor underserved. Due to the satisfaction of these definitions, no ARRA funds should be awarded to the applicant in this area.

**Submitter:** Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOMM

**Comment:** Respondent contends that applicant is seeking broadband stimulus funds for areas within respondent's service territory that do not qualify as underserved areas as defined in the NOFA. Respondent offers broadband service as defined by the FCC to 100% of its customers that are located within the applicants proposed service area, and that 53% of our internet customers actually receive broadband service at speeds of 768 kbps download and 256 kbps upload or greater. Depending upon location, Respondent provides broadband service up to 15 mbps upload and 1 mbps download.

**Submitter:** Qwest
Comment: As authorized by the BIP and BTOP Notice of Funds Availability and the Public Notice associated with the publication of BIP and BTOP broadband infrastructure project funding applications found on the BroadbandUSA.gov website, Qwest responds with broadband service data to the application of KeyOn Communications, Inc. for funding for an area represented as “underserved” that is located, in whole or in part, in Qwest’s broadband service area.

Submitter: Felton Telephone Company

Comment: Felton Telephone Company will provide the advertising that was published in the local area verifying the speed of 3Mb and above. We will also provide the number of premises we reach and the number of customers we have on each speed tier. We will map out the area we serve broadband within this applicant misstated application.

Submitter: Osakis Telephone Company, dba ACS

Comment: Osakis Telephone, dba ACS will provide the advertising that was published in the local area verifying the speed of 3Mb and above. We will also provide the number of premises we reach and the number of customers we have on each speed tier. We will map out the area we serve broadband within this applicant misstated application.

Submitter: Albany Mutual Telephone

Comment: KeyOn Communications' proposed project covers a large portion of the New Munich exchange served by Albany Mutual Telephone. We currently serve the exchange by an existing fiber optic network. In the public notice response Albany Mutual Telephone is providing; 1) a map of the overlapping area Albany provides broadband services, 2) Albany's DSL high speed internet advertising 3) the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband services, 4) the number of residential households and business establishments subscribing to our broadband, 5) the advertised download and upload speeds and service rates, and 6) comments addressing the existing services offered within the proposed funded service area.

Submitter: Manchester-Hartland Tel. Co.

Comment: Based on the definition of underserved in the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Minnesota exchange of Hartland is not underserved and does not qualify for Broadband Stimulus funds. Manchester-Hartland Telephone Co. is capable of providing broadband to 100% of the residences and businesses in Hartland. Data to further substantiate this response can be found in the comments section below.
Submitter: Broadband Corp

Comment: Broadband Corp currently offers services to both residential and business customers that meet the requirements for this NOFA. The Broadband Corp network currently covers a portion of the proposed services area requested by the KeyOn Communications, Inc. proposal.

Submitter: Western Telephone Company

Comment: Western Telephone Company serves the areas of Springfield and Sanborn in rural Minnesota. Western Telephone is the incumbent local exchange carrier and by the NOFA definition of broadband is neither unserved nor underserved. Due to the satisfaction of these definitions, no ARRA funds should be awarded to the applicant in this area.

Submitter: Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Assn.

Comment: The information contained in this response supports the fact that customers within our service territory, which overlaps portions of the applicant’s proposed service area, have access to high quality, facilities-based broadband service as defined by the RUS/NTIA Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA).

Submitter: Christensen Communications Company

Comment: Christensen Communications Company (CCC) provides high speed broadband in the communities of Madelia and St. James. Comcast Cable is a second provider in Madelia. Mediacom and EMBARQ are additional providers in St. James. In addition, CCC provides speed in excess of 3Mbps downstream to the rural area outside of the Madelia City limits. Eastern Watonwan County is not underserved, as there are more than one provider and all providers offer speeds in excess of 3Mbps.

Submitter: Twin Valley/Ulen Telephone Company

Comment: Twin Valley/Ulen Telephone Company, dba ACS will provide the advertising that was published in the local area verifying the speed of 3Mb and above. We will also provide the number of premises we reach and the number of customers we have on each speed tier. We will map out the area we serve broadband within this applicant misstated application.
Submitter: Cannon Valley Telecom, Inc. d/b/a BEVCOMM

Comment: Respondent contends that applicant is seeking broadband stimulus funds for areas within respondent's service territory that do not qualify as underserved areas as defined in the NOFA. Respondent offers broadband service as defined by the FCC to 100% of its customers that are located within the applicant's proposed service area, and that 40% of our internet customers actually receive broadband service at speeds of 768 kbps download and 256 kbps upload or greater. Depending upon location, Respondent provides broadband service up to 15 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

Submitter: East Otter Tail Telephone, dba ACS

Comment: East Otter Tail Telephone, dba ACS will provide the advertising that was published in the local area verifying the speed of 3Mb and above. We will also provide the number of premises we reach and the number of customers we have on each speed tier. We will map out the area we serve broadband within this applicant misstated application.

Submitter: Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association

Comment: Gardonville Telephone Cooperative Association ("Gardonville"), a small rural operator and Rural Utilities Service Title II borrower, respectfully requests relief and seeks withdrawal of the Keyon Communications, Inc ("Keyon") proposed funded service area in the county of Douglas, MN as Keyon has proposed broadband service for this area and it is already served by Gardonville.