

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Brainstorm Internet, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Southwest Colorado

Submitter: CenturyLink

Comment: 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 7 million access lines and 2.1 million broadband customers in 33 states

Submitter: Velocitynet LLC

Comment: VelocityNet, hereby, respectfully opposes and objects to this and all applications being considered for Broadband competitors applying for BIP or BTOP funding to expand into our existing rural markets of La Plata County and Montezuma County, Colorado.

These two counties are neither “unserved” nor “underserved” as defined by BIP and BTOP, and should not be eligible for any BIP or BTOP funding.

VelocityNet LLC has been providing and advertising 3Mb of high-speed broadband, wireless Internet services in Montezuma County and La Plata County in Colorado for over six years.

In addition to VelocityNet, there are six other Broadband companies, already providing and advertising high-speed, broadband services in Montezuma County and la Plata County, Colorado.

Qwest provides DSL in Cortez, Durango & Mancos;

CenturyTel has DSL in Dolores, Lewis, and Arriola;

Baja has cable broadband in Cortez and Mancos;

Farmers Telephone Company has DSL and high-speed wireless broadband service throughout Montezuma County;

Brainstorm has DSL and high-speed wireless broadband service in much of La Plata County;

Mydurango.net also has service in rural La Plata County.

VelocityNet has grown, and prefers to grow, the old-fashion way...through hard-work and reinvesting profits... without relying on grants, loans or other outside financing. If BIP or BTOP provide grants and/or loans for the markets we serve, they would give an undeserved, “Government-funded financial advantage” to our competitors, and that would be completely unfair in our American free-market economy.

Therefore, as one of numerous incumbent broadband Internet service providers serving these two counties, we respectfully request that this and all existing and/or future applications for Montezuma County and La Plata County in Colorado be denied.

Submitter: Stelera Wireless, LLC

Comment: The applicant’s proposed service area does not qualify as unserved or underserved as defined by the BIP or BTOP programs. Stelera Broadband will provide broadband access to Durango with

peak speeds of 9-10 mbps in the next 6 months. The proposed service area will be served by Stelera Broadband, a broadband service provider under the RUS Broadband Loan program. Stelera plans to advertise and deliver broadband transmission speeds in excess of 3 mbps downstream. Over 50% of the households in the proposed service area will soon have access to terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed. The area does not qualify as unserved because the number of households lacking access to broadband is less than 90% based on Stelera research.

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 Brainstorm Internet, Inc. CO SW for funding for an area represented as “underserved” that is located, in whole or in part, in Qwest’s broadband service area.