**Applicant Name:** MidAmerican Broadband Pipeline, Inc.

**Service Area:** Colorado

**Submitter:** Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association, Inc.

**Comment:** Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association, Inc. (ESRTA) has been providing high-quality communications services to rural eastern Colorado for 57 years. Based on our history of serving difficult-to-serve areas that larger providers ignore, ESRTA is committed to providing our customers with advanced, reliable communications service, regardless of where they live and work. To this end, ESRTA is capable of providing broadband services at speeds exceeding 5 Mbps download.

ERSTA is a local company that provides much-needed jobs, 24-7 customer service and local offices. ERSTA is proud to count among its broadband customers community anchor institutions including schools, hospitals, local government offices and public safety agencies. It serves from a local perspective because ERSTA’s owners, who are also its customers, have a personal stake in the communities where they work and live.

**Submitter:** CenturyLink

**Comment:** 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. We attach a representative sample of areas where the application overlaps our existing broadband deployment. This data is not exhaustive; the application may include other areas also currently served with broadband by CenturyLink or other providers. We will provide additional information on request if that will further assist the agency’s review.
CenturyLink also provides data showing broadband availability in local telephone exchanges within the proposed service areas. This includes areas served by CenturyLink and/or other broadband providers. This data further shows the applicant would duplicate and overlap existing broadband services in the proposed service areas.

Submitter: Wiggins Telephone

Comment: Wiggins Telephone Association has an existing RUS approved construction project design and $29.7 million loan in place to provide broadband access throughout the entire service area with Fiber to the Home. The town of Wiggins and surrounding area is now served by FTTH placed in service beginning in the fall of 2008. All bandwidth packages offered to all areas are at FCC minimum (768 Kbps) and above.

Submitter: Phillips County Communications dba PC Telcom

Comment: Phillips County Telephone Company (PCTC) is a small, progressive, cooperative Rural Local Exchange Carrier (RLEC) located in Holyoke, Colorado. PCTC and its subsidiaries, Phillips County Communications, LLC (PCC, LLC) and PC Telcorp, Inc. (Telcorp) provide broadband Internet access ranging from 512 kbps down to 3 Mbps down to the entire service area for PCTC as well as the neighboring rural communities of Fleming, Haxtun, Julesburg, and Ovid, Colorado. All three entities are doing business as PC Telcom. Overall, greater than sixty percent of PC Telcom’s customers subscribe to speeds of 768 kbps down or greater. PC Telcom is one of the largest employers in northeastern Colorado and projects increasing its staff at an annual rate of two percent.

In keeping with its long tradition of providing cutting-edge technologies and after substantial investments in network infrastructure and facilities, one hundred percent of PC Telcom’s customers can enjoy broadband access. PC Telcom utilizes a variety of broadband technologies, each tailored to specific local needs and geographical challenges. These include Fiber to the Premise (FTTP), DSL, cable modem and unlicensed wireless.
PC Telcom provides broadband and Ethernet services to most anchor tenants in the communities within its service areas. These entities include all secondary schools; all County Government offices; hospitals and other health care facilities; and large businesses. In addition to Internet access at broadband speeds, PC Telcom also provides state-of-the-art Ethernet services to business customers at affordable rates.

PC Telcom has been the technology leader in northeast Colorado for its one hundred plus years of existence and is looking forward to continuing its excellent customer service record. PC Telcom was one of the first broadband providers in northeast Colorado and now relies on 10 years of experience delivering services to difficult to serve areas that larger providers ignore. PC Telcom is a local company that helps anchor the communities it serves. It provides much-needed jobs, 24-7 customer service and support and local offices. It serves from a local perspective because PC Telcom’s owners, who are its customers, have a personal stake in the communities where they work and live.