Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Dakota 2000, Inc.

_______________________Public Notice Submissions_______________________

-----Service Area: Ft Belknap

Submitter: Triangle Telephone Cooperative

Comment: Triangle Telephone Cooperative provides broadband service in the area indicated in the attached map using DSL technologies. Because of the service offered by Triangle Telephone, this area does not meet the definition of underserved under the ARRA. Triangle Telephone offers broadband to greater than 50% of the households in the area, advertises speeds of three mbps, and greater than 40% of the households within the area subscribe to broadband thru Triangle Telephone.

Submitter: Central Montana Communications

Comment: Central Montana Communications provides broadband service in the area indicated in the attached map using DSL technologies. Because of the service offered by Central Montana Communications, this area does not meet the definition of underserved under the ARRA. Central Montana Communications offers broadband to greater than 50% of the households in the area, advertises speeds of three mbps, and greater than 40% of the households within the area subscribe to broadband thru Central Montana Communications.

-----Service Area: Crow Creek

Submitter: Midstate Communications, Inc.

Comment: We serve this area and offer 3 mg broadband service.

Submitter: Venture Communications Cooperative
Comment: Venture Communications Cooperative demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout the Crow Creek Area which is encompassed in the proposed funded Service Area in the Dakota 2000, Inc. application and that the proposed funded Service Area is not unserved or underserved. As demonstrated, 100% of households in Venture’s service territory within the proposed funded Service Area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services with an advertised speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from Venture; 100% of the households in Venture’s service territory within the proposed funded Service Area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed as set forth in the definition of broadband; Venture advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout the proposed funded Service Area; and the rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded Service Area is nearly 40 percent of households. Venture also shows that no interconnection point identified in the proposed project and no part of the proposed project that terminates in Venture’s service area qualifies as unserved or underserved for Last Mile projects; and Last Mile areas to be served identified in the application that overlap Venture’s service area are served with broadband service by Venture. Further, Venture demonstrates that in addition to providing its own last mile broadband services, Venture participates in a statewide organization, SDN Communications, which already has middle mile broadband facilities providing sufficient capacity to support the provision of broadband service to end users in the proposed area.

-----Service Area:  Northern Cheyenne

Submitter:  Range Telephone Cooperative

Comment: Range Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Range) is an Independent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) and a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) serving 5490 access lines in rural Southeastern Montana. Range service area includes the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation and a portion of the Crow Reservation including the towns of Lame Deer and Busby, Montana. The counties included are Carter, Custer, Rosebud, Powder River, Treasure and Big Horn in Montana. Range is an active RUS borrower with loan funds due for completed projects and loan funds being requested for new projects and upgrades. Range will start a 5 yr RUS construction plan in 2010 to place buried fiber optic cable in various locations within Range’s service area to enhance existing broadband backhaul and provide future FTTH. 73% of Range’s serving area subscriber households and business locations are capable of 3mb service today. Approximately 41% of Range residential households in the applicants proposed funded service area already subscribe to 3 mb or 1.5 mb service today.

The applicant’s proposed funded service area that overlaps Range’s service area in Montana is not unserved or underserved as represented in the applicant’s proposal.
With respect to the Rural Broadband application for broadband funds support by Dakota 2000 Inc. on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation that Range serves today, that area does not fall into the unserved or underserved definitions in our estimations..

Range has been providing excellent communication services to the reservation for over 40 years. Range used RUS loan funds to build the infrastructure on the reservation to get them the service. Range is a Cooperative that is owned by its members and therefore owned by its members on the reservation and they get the same high quality communication services that everyone else gets in our company. The reservation is represented by 3 board members who live on our nearby the reservation and are responsible for taking care of those members needs. They do a very good of that. We have a fiber that goes right through the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. We are currently in the process of upgrading with electronics that will further improve the broadband services on the reservation.

We took a look at a US Census Bureau report that shows that 78.5% of the homes occupied on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation have telephone service. We have the capability of getting 1.5 mb or higher broadband service on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. As you can see, we provide them the possibility of very good broadband service right now and are working as we speak on improving the capabilities even more today.

Range has a very good working relationship with the reservation tribal authorities and has for a very long time. They are valued customers that we work with very closely every day. We have 4 construction employees based out of the Ashland area on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and 3 combination technicians based out of the area as well.

Range allows enrolled tribal members to take advantage of the discounts where they can get their telephone service for $1 per month if they qualify and meet all the requirements and we advertise this service with them regularly. Therefore their telephone service is very affordable and our DSL rates are very competitive.

We feel improving our broadband services to all of the customers on the reservations and everywhere else that we serve is of the utmost importance in today’s world and economy. Yes the terrain is difficult, but we deal with that every day and have done so for over 40 years.
Range already has established business relationships with the reservation utilizing the E Rate program and the Health program. Range has refunded capital credits every year for over 20 years to customers on the reservation that makes their communication services even more affordable.

In any case, we feel we do and have done an excellent job on the reservation for years of providing them high quality, affordable telecommunication services and now broadband. Our goal is to eventually provide 100 mb of broadband to them in 4-5 years. We are currently involved in a RUS loan application to the tune of $18 million dollars. A lot of those loan funds will be targeted on the reservation and we will be trying to get fiber to the home. We didn’t apply for grant funds or loans funds through this stimulus funding because our customers are SERVED and we wouldn’t have had our application accepted.

On the Northern Cheyenne Tribe website the Governor of Montana, Brian Schweitzer, invites tribal members to an influenza summit—a webinar presentation (which obviously requires DSL) and the webinar sites were at the Tribal Building, the IHS Conference room and the DES office.

-----Service Area: Lake Traverse

Submitter: Valley 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 48.7%. Moreover, the area is served by 1 other provider utilizing licensed wireless spectrum.

Submitter: RC Technologies

Comment: As illustrated on the map below, the proposed funded service area of the applicant, Dakota 2000, Inc., proposes to serve an area (Lake Traverse) currently served by RC Technologies (RCT). Within the 699 square mile area of overlap, RCT has the capability to provide DSL service with speeds of 1.5 Mbps down and 768 Kbps up to 100% of households and businesses.
Submitter: Venture Communications Cooperative

Comment: Venture Communications Cooperative demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout the Sisseton, Rosholt and Roslyn areas within Roberts County which is encompassed in the proposed funded Service Area in the Dakota 2000, Inc. application and that the proposed funded Service Area is not unserved or underserved. As demonstrated, 100% of households in Venture’s service territory within the proposed funded Service Area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services with an advertised speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from Venture; 100% of the households in Venture’s service territory within the proposed funded Service Area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed as set forth in the definition of broadband; Venture advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout the proposed funded Service Area; and the rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded Service Area is greater than 40 percent of households. Venture also shows that no interconnection point identified in the proposed project and no part of the proposed project that terminates in Venture’s service area qualifies as unserved or underserved for Last Mile projects; and Last Mile areas to be served identified in the application that overlap Venture’s service area are served with broadband service by Venture. Further, Venture demonstrates that in addition to providing its own last mile broadband services, Venture participates in a statewide organization, SDN Communications, which already has middle mile broadband facilities providing sufficient capacity to support the provision of broadband service to end users in the proposed area.

-----Service Area: Turtle Mountain

Submitter: Turtle Mountain Communications

Comment: United Telecommunications service territory overlaps approximately 100% of the Dakota 2000 – Turtle Mountain proposed funded service area (PFSA). Dakota 2000 designates this area as underserved. United provides service in the entire PSFA. and advertises 3 meg service. The penetration for United is over 40%. Therefore, this area does not qualify as underserved.

-----Service Area: Flathead
Submitter: Bresnan Communications

Comment: Based on our research and exposure in this service area, we’ve concluded that this proposed funded service area fails to meet the NOFA definitions of underserved or unserved as defined in NOFA.

Bresnan, along with other local telcos such as Qwest, provide broadband service in this service area via cable modem and DSL technology. Bresnan provides several tiers of broadband service with download speeds ranging from 1.5mbps to 15mbps.

Our market research and in-depth knowledge of our markets show that we occupy approximately 45-55% of the market share of broadband subscribers in this market, with the remaining distributed among incumbent telcos. With the subscribers and penetration levels entered below, this market area exceeds the penetration and access thresholds as defined in the NOFA, thus making this application ineligible for BTOP/BIP funds in this proposed funded service area.

We have outlined our service areas on the mapping tool provided. Also, see the attached supporting document for additional information regarding our product offering and price points in this market. We also entered confidential and sensitive subscriber details to support our case.

Submitter: CommunityTel Inc. and subsidiaries

Comment: CommunityTel requests that this response be viewed as a comment on both the Dakota 2000 proposal and the Bresnan Communications middle mile proposal. CommunityTel is forced to use this portal to comment on Bresnan’s proposal for the Flathead Indian Reservation because Bresnan’s proposed infrastructure for the Flathead Reservation was not properly inventoried on your system.

CommunityTel is a telecom holding company operating: 1) Ronan Telephone Company; 2) Polson CommunityTel; 3) Western Montana CommunityTel; and 4) is a junior Partner in Oki Communications, LLC with Blackfeet Tribe. Through it’s subsidiaries, CommunityTel provides state of the art voice and data services to the Flathead Reservation communities of Ronan, Pablo, Polson, Charlo, St. Ignatius and Arlee. CommunityTel competes on the Flathead Reservation with: 1) CenturyLink (formerly CenturyTel); 2) Bresnan; 3) Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative; 4) Salish Kootenai College Data Services; and 5) Cutthroat Communications. Any stimulus funded broadband infrastructure proposed for the Mission
Valley area of the Flathead Indian Reservation would duplicate the multiple data transport systems already in place and operating by the above private networks.

Submitter: CenturyLink

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.

-----Service Area: Rocky Boy

Submitter: Triangle Telephone Cooperative

Comment: Triangle Telephone Cooperative provides broadband service in the area indicated in the attached map using DSL technologies. Because of the service offered by Triangle Telephone, this area does not meet the definition of underserved under the ARRA. Triangle Telephone offers broadband to greater than 50% of the households in the area, advertises speeds of three mbps, and greater than 40% of the households within the area subscribe to broadband thru Triangle Telephone.

-----Service Area: Ft Berthold

Submitter: Consolidated Telcom

Comment: Consolidated Telcom service territory overlaps approximately 3.8% of the Dakota 2000 Ft Berthold proposed funded service area (PFSA). Dakota 2000 Ft Berthold designates this area as underserved. In the overlapping area, Consolidated service advertises 3 meg service.
Submitter: Reservation Telephone Cooperative

Comment: The applicant contends the Proposed Funded Service Area (Ft. Berthold), which overlays an RTC service area, is underserved. As the incumbent service provider, and there are no competitors or the number is limited, RTC has access to sufficient information to determine whether the service area is underserved and has concluded it is not. According to RTC’s analysis, over 100 percent of the residential households in its service area have access to broadband service, as defined in the NOFA, and are capable of being served. Of those households capable of being served, the broadband penetration rate is over 33 percent for broadband service as defined in the NOFA. Additionally, RTC advertises broadband service which is capable of speeds over 3 Mbps throughout the service area, including in the area newspapers and magazines, direct mail and area radio stations.

RTC has or is in the process of deploying FTTH to portions of the exchange by the end of 2009. With this expansion, RTC will add the capabilities of higher broadband speeds of up to 1000 Mbps and video services in the service area.

-----Service Area: Standing Rock

Submitter: West River Telephone Cooperative Company

Comment: West River Telephone Cooperative Company demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout the Standing Rock area which is encompassed in the proposed funded Service Area in the Dakota 2000 application and that the proposed funded Service Area is not unserved or underserved.

As demonstrated, 100% of households in West River’s service territory within the proposed funded Service Area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services with an advertised speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from West River; 100% of the households in West River’s service territory within the proposed funded Service Area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed as set forth in the definition of broadband; and the rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded Service Area is greater than 40 percent of households.
Submitter: Golden West Telecommunications

Comment: Golden West is providing information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband in the area that the applicant's PFSA overlaps the respondent's service area. Golden West is also providing information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in the area of overlap. Golden West's overlapping broadband service area, at a minimum defined as 768k downstream and 200k upstream are displayed on the associated mapping tool. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service. Golden West also advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream within the area of overlap. Accordingly, the area of overlap is not underserved. The number of business establishments reported is inaccurate as it includes business establishments with zip codes from the area of overlap even though the businesses are physically located outside the area of overlap. Due to this fact, the broadband penetration may be calculated to be much lower than it actually is.

Submitter: HANSON COMMUNICATIONS

Comment: Mt. Rushmore/Ft. Randall Telephone Company ("Company"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Hanson Communications, Inc., has been providing telecommunications service to the community of Red Shirt, SD and covers a portion of the proposed funded service area ("Area") since 1996 after purchasing it from Qwest Communications. In 2004, the Company began providing broadband service to the communities and the surrounding area.

We disagree with the Applicant’s assertion that the area is either unserved or underserved. At no time did the Applicant contact us to determine the status of the area regarding 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 Company is capable of providing broadband service to 100% of our end users in this area and of those 100% all are above the NOFA defined broadband speeds for unserved areas.

Submitter: Golden West Telecommunications

Comment: Golden West is providing information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband in the area that the applicant's PFSA overlaps the respondent's service area. Golden West is also providing information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in the area of overlap. Golden West's overlapping broadband service area, at a minimum defined as 768k downstream and 200k upstream are displayed on the associated mapping tool. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service. Golden West also advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream within the area of overlap. Accordingly, the area of overlap is not underserved. The number of business establishments reported is inaccurate as it includes business establishments with zip codes from the area of overlap even though the businesses are physically located outside the area of overlap. Due to this fact, the broadband penetration may be calculated to be much lower than it actually is.

Submitter: HANSON COMMUNICATIONS

Comment: Mt. Rushmore/Ft. Randall Telephone Company ("Company"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Hanson Communications, Inc., has been providing telecommunications service to the community of Red Shirt, SD and covers a portion of the proposed funded service area ("Area") since 1996 after purchasing it from Qwest Communications. In 2004, the Company began providing broadband service to the communities and the surrounding area.

We disagree with the Applicant’s assertion that the area is either unserved or underserved. At no time did the Applicant contact us to determine the status of the area regarding 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 Company is capable of providing broadband service to 100% of our end users in this area and of those 100% all are above the NOFA defined broadband speeds for unserved areas.
Submitter: North Dakota Telephone

Comment: Revised Submission: The modify numbers is submitted challenge.

- North Dakota Telephone Company (NDTC) service territory overlaps 100% of the Dakota 2000 Spirit Lake proposed funded service area (PFSA). Dakota 2000 Spirit Lake designates this area as underserved. In the overlapping area, NDTC service advertises 6 Mbps service. NDTC cannot calculate an accurate penetration rate for this area because the information from the mapping tool is incorrect and census tracts/blocks are not correct, since the blocks shown by the mapping tool are in NC and the map is in ND.

Submitter: North Dakota Telephone Company

Comment: • North Dakota Telephone Company (NDTC) service territory overlaps approximately 100% of the Dakota 2000 Spirit Lake proposed funded service area (PFSA). Dakota 2000 Spirit Lake designates this area as underserved. In the overlapping area, NDTC service advertises 6 Mbps service. NDTC cannot calculate an accurate penetration rate for this area because the information from the mapping tool is incorrect and census tracts/blocks is not correct.

-----Service Area: Blackfeet

Submitter: 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative Inc. currently provides communications services within several of the applicants proposed service areas shown. We currently serve the exchange of Browning over an existing fiber network that extends from our corporate headquarters in Fairfield, Mt. In the public notice response 3 Rivers is providing; 1) a map of the area 3 Rivers provides broadband services, 2) 3 Rivers 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 purchasing 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: Oki Communications, LLC

Comment: Oki Communications, LLC is a partnership between the Blackfeet Tribe and CommunityTel, Inc. Oki provides broadband data service up to 6Mb/sec download to the communities of Browning, East Glacier Park, Cut Bank, Blackfoot, Starr School, Seville and rural areas surrounding each. Oki competes with 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Qwest, Bresnan and GlobalNet, currently serving 450 customers, with a goal of serving the entire Blackfeet Reservation.

-----Service Area: Crow

Submitter: Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: The proposed funded service area is not fully contained within the service area of Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc (Nemont). Nemont is aware of broadband services provided by others in this service area and compete to provide service to end users. Nemont can demonstrate that within the area Nemont serves, of the three criteria used to qualify an area as underserved, two are not applicable to this proposed funded service area. The services that Nemont offers and provides in this proposed funded service area exceed the thresholds set of 50% of households having access to broadband service (as defined in the NOFA) and advertising at least three megabits per second (3Mbs).

Submitter: Range Telephone Cooperative

Comment: Range Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Range) is an Independent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) and a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) serving 5490 access lines in rural Southeastern Montana. Range service area includes the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation and a portion of the Crow Reservation including the towns of Lame Deer and Busby, Montana. The counties included are Carter, Custer, Rosebud, Powder River, Treasure and Big Horn in Montana. Range is an active RUS borrower with loan funds due for completed projects and loan funds being requested for new projects and upgrades. Range will start a 5 yr RUS construction plan in 2010 to place buried fiber optic cable in various locations within Range’s service area to enhance existing broadband backhaul and provide future FTTH. 73% of Range’s serving area subscriber households and business locations are capable of 3mb service today. Approximately 52% of Range residential households in the applicants proposed funded service area already subscribe to 3 mb or 1.5 mb service today.

The applicant’s proposed funded service area that overlaps Range’s service area in Montana is not unserved or underserved as represented in the applicant’s proposal.
With respect to the Rural Broadband application for broadband funds support on the Crow Reservation that Range serves today by Dakota 2000 Inc, those areas do not fall into the unserved or underserved definitions in our estimations.

Range has been providing excellent communication services to the Range service area of the Crow reservation for over 40 years. Range used RUS loan funds to build the infrastructure on this reservation to get them the service. Range is a Cooperative that is owned by its members and therefore owned by its members on the reservation and they get the same high quality communication services that everyone else gets in our company. The reservation is represented by 3 board members who live on our nearby the reservations and are responsible for taking care of those members needs. They do a very good of that. We have a fiber that goes right through the neighboring Northern Cheyenne Reservation and just on the boundary of the Crow Reservation area that we serve (we only serve a small part of the Crow Reservation). We are currently in the process of upgrading with electronics that will further improve the broadband services on the reservation.

We took a look at a US Census Bureau report that shows that 86.2% of the homes occupied on the Crow Reservation have telephone service. We have the capability of getting 1.5 mb or higher broadband service on the Crow Reservation in the Busby area. As you can see, we provide them the possibility of very good broadband service right now and are working as we speak on improving the capabilities even more today.

Range has a very good working relationship with the reservation tribal authorities and has for a very long time. They are valued customers that we work with very closely every day.

Range allows enrolled tribal members to take advantage of the discounts where they can get their telephone service for $1 per month if they qualify and meet all the requirements and we advertise this service with them regularly. Therefore their telephone service is very affordable and our DSL rates are very competitive.

We feel improving our broadband services to all of the customers on the reservations and everywhere else that we serve is of the utmost importance in today’s world and economy. Yes the terrain is difficult, but we deal with that every day and have done so for over 40 years.
Range has refunded capital credits every year for over 20 years to customers on the reservation that makes their communication services even more affordable.

In any case, we feel we do and have done an excellent job on the reservation for years of providing them high quality, affordable telecommunication services and now broadband. Our goal is to eventually provide 100 mb of broadband to them in 4-5 years. We are currently involved in a RUS loan application to the tune of $18 million dollars. A lot of those loan funds will be targeted on the reservation and we will be trying to get fiber to the home. We didn’t apply for grant funds or loans funds through this stimulus funding because our customers are SERVED and we wouldn’t have had our application accepted.

-----Service Area: Cheyenne River

Submitter: Golden West Telecommunications

Comment: Cheyenne response.

-----Service Area: Yankton

Submitter: Golden West Telecommunications

Comment: Golden West is providing information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband in the area that the applicant's PFSA overlaps the respondent's service area. Golden West is also providing information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in the area of overlap. Golden West’s overlapping broadband service area, at a minimum defined as 768k downstream and 200k upstream are displayed on the associated mapping tool. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service. Golden West also advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream within the area of overlap. Accordingly, the area of overlap is not underserved. The number of business establishments reported is inaccurate as it includes business establishments with zip codes from the area of overlap even though the businesses are physically
located outside the area of overlap. Due to this fact, the broadband penetration may be calculated to be much lower than it actually is.

Submitter: HANSON COMMUNICATIONS

Comment: Ft. Randall Telephone Company (“Company”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Hanson Communications, Inc., has been providing telecommunications service to the communities of Wagner and Lake Andes, SD which covers a portion of the proposed funded service area (“Area”) since 1996 after acquiring them from Qwest. In 2004, the Company began providing broadband service to the communities and the surrounding area.

We disagree with the Applicant’s assertion the area is either unserved or 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 Company is capable of providing broadband service to 98% of our end users in this area and of those 91% all are above the NOFA defined broadband speeds for unserved areas.

-----Service Area: Rosebud

Submitter: Golden West Telecommunications

Comment: Golden West is providing information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband in the area that the applicant’s PFSA overlaps the respondent’s service area. Golden West is also providing information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in the area of overlap. Golden West’s overlapping broadband service area, at a minimum defined as 768k downstream and 200k upstream are displayed on the associated mapping tool. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service. Golden West also advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream within the area of overlap. Accordingly, the area of overlap is not underserved. The number of business establishments reported is inaccurate as it includes business establishments with zip codes from the area of overlap even though the businesses are physically located outside the area of overlap. Due to this fact, the broadband penetration may be calculated to be much lower than it actually is.
-----Service Area: Ft Peck

**Submitter:** Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

**Comment:** The proposed funded service area is fully contained within the service area of Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc (Nemont). Nemont is aware of broadband services provided by others in the area. Nemont can demonstrate that, of the three criteria used to qualify an area as underserved, none are applicable to this proposed funded service area. The services that Nemont offers and provides in this proposed funded service area exceed the thresholds set of 50% of households having access to broadband service (as defined in the NOFA), at least 40% subscription rate and advertising at least three megabits per second (3Mbs).

-----Service Area: Lower Brule

**Submitter:** Golden West Telecommunications

**Comment:** Golden West is providing information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband in the area that the applicant's PFSA overlaps the respondent's service area. Golden West is also providing information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in the area of overlap. Golden West’s overlapping broadband service area, at a minimum defined as 768k downstream and 200k upstream are displayed on the associated mapping tool. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service. Golden West also advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream within the area of overlap. Accordingly, the area of overlap is not underserved. The number of business establishments reported is inaccurate as it includes business establishments with zip codes from the area of overlap even though the businesses are physically located outside the area of overlap. Due to this fact, the broadband penetration may be calculated to be much lower than it actually is.

**Submitter:** Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc.

**Comment:** Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. (KTC) offers broadband speeds of 1.5 Mbps and 3 Mbps throughout the area where the applicant's PFSA overlaps our service territory. KTC has provided information regarding the number of residential households and business establishments capable of
receiving broadband in the area of overlap, and has also provided information regarding the number of existing customers purchasing broadband service in this area. In the area of overlap, greater than 50% of households have access to facilities-based broadband service and the rate of broadband subscribership exceeds 40%. Therefore, according to the terms and definitions provided, this area of overlap is neither unserved nor underserved.