Applicant Name: Boycom Cablevision, INc

Public Notice Submissions

-----Service Area: Webster

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: Stoddard

Submitter: Semo Communications, Incorporated

Comment: Semo Communications, Incorporated advertises and provides high speed data service in speeds of up to 8 mbps download and 768 kbps upload in the proposed funded service area.

-----Service Area: Ripley

Submitter: Windstream

Comment: Windstream’s data strongly suggest that the proposed funded service area likely does not qualify as an unserved area. Windstream offers facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at
advertised speeds of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream to some of the households within the proposed funded service area, and such households can readily subscribe to Windstream’s broadband service upon request. Windstream also has reason to believe that competitive broadband offerings are available in exchanges overlapping the proposed funded service area. Given this information, agency officials should further investigate existing broadband offerings within the proposed funded service area, so that officials can be sure that the area, in fact, qualifies as unserved.

Windstream is a communications and entertainment company with more than 1 million broadband customers in 16 states. Investing more than $200 million in broadband deployment over the last several years, Windstream now offers approximately 89% of its 3 million voice customers access to quality and affordable broadband service.

The agencies define an “unserved area” as follows: “Unserved area means a proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks, where at least 90 percent of households in the proposed funded service area lack access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service, either fixed or mobile, at the minimum broadband transmission speed (set forth in the definition of broadband above). A household has access to broadband service if the household can readily subscribe to that service upon request.”

-----Service Area:  Wayne

Submitter:  Windstream

Comment:  Windstream’s data strongly suggest that the proposed funded service area likely does not qualify as an unserved area. Windstream offers facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at advertised speeds of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream to some of the households within the proposed funded service area, and such households can readily subscribe to Windstream’s broadband service upon request. Windstream also has reason to believe that competitive broadband offerings are available in exchanges overlapping the proposed funded service area. Given this information, agency officials should further investigate existing broadband offerings within the proposed funded service area, so that officials can be sure that the area, in fact, qualifies as unserved.
Windstream is a communications and entertainment company with more than 1 million broadband customers in 16 states. Investing more than $200 million in broadband deployment over the last several years, Windstream now offers approximately 89% of its 3 million voice customers access to quality and affordable broadband service.

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-----Service Area:  Butler

Submitter:  Windstream

Comment:  Windstream’s data strongly suggest that the proposed funded service area likely does not qualify as an unserved area. Windstream offers facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at advertised speeds of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream to some of the households within the proposed funded service area, and such households can readily subscribe to Windstream’s broadband service upon request. Windstream also has reason to believe that competitive broadband offerings are available in exchanges overlapping the proposed funded service area. Given this information, agency officials should further investigate existing broadband offerings within the proposed funded service area, so that officials can be sure that the area, in fact, qualifies as unserved.

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-----Service Area:  New Madrid

Submitter:  Semo Communications, Inc.

Comment:  Semo Communications, Incorporated advertises and provides high speed data service in speeds of up to 8 mbps download and 768 kbps upload in the proposed funded service area.

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 and un-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.

-----Service Area:  Shannon

Submitter:  Ellington Telephone Company, Inc.

Comment:  Ellington Telephone Company provides DSL Broadband Service (at speeds of at least 768 Kbps downstream and 200 Kbps upstream) that is available to more than 95% of the households within the Boycom Cablevision, Inc. proposed funded service area application overlapping Ellington Tel’s exchange area boundaries. Forty percent (40%) of Ellington Tel’s telephone service customers currently subscribe to Ellington Tel’s Broadband Service; and, the majority of Ellington Tel’s Broadband customers can receive downstream speeds of 3 Mbps or higher.
Submitter: CenturyLink

Comment: Summary

-----Service Area: Texas

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: Mississippi

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 and un-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: SEMO Communications, Inc.

Comment: Semo Communications, Incorporated advertises and provides high speed data service in speeds of up to 8 mbps download and 768 kbps upload in the proposed funded service area.
-----Service Area:  Reynolds

Submitter:  Ellington Telephone Company, Inc.

Comment:  Ellington Telephone Company provides DSL Broadband Service (at speeds of at least 768 Kbps downstream and 200 Kbps upstream) that is available to more than 95% of the households within the Boycom Cablevision, Inc. proposed funded service area application overlapping Ellington Tel’s exchange area boundaries. Forty percent (40%) of Ellington Tel’s telephone service customers currently subscribe to Ellington Tel’s Broadband Service; and, the majority of Ellington Tel’s Broadband customers can receive downstream speeds of 3 Mbps or higher.

Submitter:  CenturyLink

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-----Service Area: Cape

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Comment: Semo Communications, Incorporated advertises and provides high speed data service in speeds of up to 8 mbps download and 768 kbps upload in the proposed funded service area.

-----Service Area: Howell

Submitter: Peace Valley Telephone Co., Inc.

Comment: I write on behalf of Peace Valley Telephone Co., Inc. We are a small Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in Howell and a small portion of Oregon County Missouri. We operate as an independent telecommunications carrier of last resort. We cover approximately 100 square miles between West Plains, MO, Mountain View, MO, Pomona, MO and the Shannon County line. Also, our territory stretches into Oregon County in a few small areas. We have expended large sums of our own money, as no grants or loans were used, to provide high speed broadband internet to our customers. We have broadband availability to 100% of our customers. We use ADSL2 and HVDL technologies. Our service is very reliable.

To allow another carrier to come in, and put in place an additional service plant, would not be cost effective or necessary. We have worked hard, in a very low population density area and a high cost area, to provide quality broadband coverage without loans or grants. The issue of faster speeds, in our low population, high cost area, is not a need for a new network, it is a need for lower costs in obtaining the bandwidth connection to the internet. A lower cost would allow us to provide even higher speeds over the current network. We looked into putting up towers for aerial wireless broadband but given the hills, the trees and the general terrain, all studies showed it could not cover 100% of our customers like we currently do. Our broadband network and coverage is very reliable and meets the needs of 100% of our customers.

Submitter: CenturyLink

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-----Service Area:  Wright

Submitter:  CenturyLink

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