Applicant Name: Northeast Michigan Council of Governments/Northern Michigan Broadband Cooperative

Public Notice Submissions

Service Area: Route 11

Submitter: AT&T

Comment: AT&T is providing data about its wireline and mobile broadband footprint to assist in determining whether the applicant's proposed service area, which may be part of a larger application and project, satisfies the unserved and underserved eligibility requirements.

Additional information regarding other broadband service providers' currently operating in the service area may be needed in order to make a reasonable analysis or a conclusive determination.

Submitter: Custom Software Inc. dba/M-33 Access

Comment: Custom Software Inc. dba/M-33 Access is an ISP and CLEC (and ILEC pending FCC approval) based in Rose City Michigan currently providing telecommunications service (voice and data) to customers in seven contiguous counties in northeastern Michigan. The counties in the service area are Alcona, Arenac, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw, Oscoda, and Roscommon. There are a number of customers throughout the service area that are receiving high-speed broadband service. This application proposes to serve an area where we already provide DSL services and wireless high speed services that exceed NOFA requirements. To claim this area is un-served or even under-served is an error on their part. The information submitted to RUS in our BIP application did not propose to extend the current service area beyond the present footprint as did most other applicants. This applicant also wants to expand their territories at the expense of current providers effectively putting them out of business.

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: Allband Communications Cooperative

Comment: The applicant contends the Proposed Funded Service Area, which overlays an Allband service area, is unserved. As the incumbent service provider, and there are no competitors or the number is limited, Allband has access to sufficient information to determine whether the service area is unserved and has concluded it is not. According to Allband’s analysis, over 100% of the residential households in the 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 80%. Additionally, Allband advertises broadband service which is capable of speeds over 3 Mbps throughout the service area, including in the direct fliers, Web site, and newspaper articles.