Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: ESC Data LLC

Public Notice Submissions

Submitter: Hill Country Telephone Cooperative

Comment: ESC Data LLC in their grant request has identified Mason, Texas, as an area meeting the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) definition of remote. Mason is within 50 airline miles of Kerrville, Texas. Kerrville in the 2000 Census had a population of 20,425 which disqualifies the above grant request per the NOFA definition rule of what is considered “remote”.

In addition, Hill Country Telecommunications, LLC (HCT), a Service Provider Certificate of Operating Authority under the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) rules has completed fiber overbuild of the Mason, Texas, square for delivery of broadband with bandwidth capabilities up to 100Mbs. HCT has also constructed a wireless site using a quasi licensed 3.65 Mhz that provides up to 3Mb to residential customers in Mason, Texas. Soon, HCT will be testing additional wireless technology in Mason utilizing Advanced Wireless Services (AWS) spectrum to delivery of a WiMax or Long Term Evolution (LTE) 4G broadband technology.

In summary, HCT has provided Mason, Texas, with broadband. When considering an established provider’s broadband capabilities in Mason and with the actual ineligibility of “remote” due to the within 50 miles of Kerrville, Texas, we contend this grant request should be disqualified.

Submitter: Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Central Texas) is an incumbent broadband provider in McCulloch County, TX, an area covered by ESC Data’s McCulloch County broadband stimulus application. Central Texas provides universal broadband coverage to 100% of its potential subscribers in
McCulloch County, and it provides broadband service to 15% of those potential subscribers. Central Texas has consistently and effectively advertised the availability of broadband Internet access at speeds of 3 Mbs and higher. The combined penetration rate of Central Texas and all other incumbent broadband providers should negate a description of the applicant’s Proposed Service Area as “unserved” or “underserved.”

-----Service Area: esc-san saba

Submitter: Hill Country Telephone Cooperative

Comment: On behalf of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (HCTC), I am writing to object to ESC Data, LLC’s BIP/BTOP “Last Mile Remote Area” loan request pertaining to HCTC’s service area located in the Texas Hill Country in the State of Texas. ESC Data, LLC’s application claims under this project to build out and provide needed data services to underserved areas throughout the Texas Hill Country.

As General Manager of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I would like to bring to your attention that the Cooperative already provides broadband service with speeds up to 17-20Mbs to its service area. Our cooperative, in collaboration with the Texas Lone Star Network (TLSN), a statewide fiber middle mile network composed of independent telcos, has invested heavily in building a future proof fiber optic network. Our cooperative is in year two of a four-year construction program for continual upgrade and enhancement of bandwidth availability. We advertise 3Mbit/second cooperative-wide, but in actuality have much greater bandwidth available to meet our members’ requirement. Our service area has been included in ESC Data, LLC’s application which invalidates their claim to provide service to an area where there is no broadband service.

HCTC’s being a member-owned non-profit Cooperative has worked diligently to provide broadband service to its membership. Understanding the ever-growing importance of broadband, HCTC has been sensitive to its members’ needs and the rural economic development that comes from broadband infrastructure investment. Through this broadband investment, we contend untold opportunities will prevail for enhanced education application for our children, jobs, medical applications, and access to information necessary to function in today’s world.

Therefore, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. respectfully request that ESC Data, LLC’s BIP/BTOP grant request to provide data services to the Texas Hill Country be denied.
Delbert Wilson, General Manager

Submitter: Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Central Texas) is an incumbent broadband provider in San Saba County, TX, an area covered by ESC Data’s San Saba County broadband stimulus application. Central Texas provides universal broadband coverage to 100% of its potential subscribers in the county, and it provides broadband service to 47% of those potential subscribers. Central Texas has consistently and effectively advertised the availability of broadband Internet access at speeds of 3 Mbs and higher.

-----Service Area: esc - Lampasas

Submitter: Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Central Texas) is an incumbent broadband provider in portions of Lampasas County, TX, an area covered by ESC Data’s Lampasas County broadband stimulus application. Central Texas provides universal broadband coverage to 100% of its potential subscribers in the county, and provides broadband service to 96% of its potential households. Central Texas has consistently and effectively advertised the availability of broadband Internet access at speeds of 3 Mbs and higher.

Submitter: Time Warner Cable Inc

Comment: As shown in the attached map and exhibit, TWC currently provides broadband Internet access service in the Proposed Funded Service Area. In addition, we advertise service of speeds above 3 Mbps throughout this service area. We pass over 50% of households, and either (1) have actual broadband subscribership of over 40% of the households in these census blocks or (2) the combined broadband subscribership of the wireline broadband providers (including TWC) in these census blocks is reasonably likely to exceed 40%. Therefore, that portion of the proposed funded service area that overlaps Respondent’s service area reflected in this response is neither “unserved” or “underserved.”
----Service Area: esc-Llano

Submitter: Hill Country Telephone Cooperative

Comment: On behalf of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (HCTC), I am writing to object to ESC Data, LLC’s BIP/BTOP “Last Mile Remote Area” loan request pertaining to HCTC’s service area located in the Texas Hill Country in the State of Texas. ESC Data, LLC’s application claims under this project to build out and provide needed data services to underserved areas throughout the Texas Hill Country.

As General Manager of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I would like to bring to your attention that the Cooperative already provides broadband service with speeds up to 17-20Mbs to its service area. Our cooperative, in collaboration with the Texas Lone Star Network (TLSN), a statewide fiber middle mile network composed of independent telcos, has invested heavily in building a future proof fiber optic network. Our cooperative is in year two of a four-year construction program for continual upgrade and enhancement of bandwidth availability. We advertise 3Mbit/second cooperative-wide, but in actuality have much greater bandwidth available to meet our members’ requirement. Our service area has been included in ESC Data, LLC’s application which invalidates their claim to provide service to an area where there is no broadband service.

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Therefore, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. respectfully request that ESC Data, LLC’s BIP/BTOP grant request to provide data services to the Texas Hill Country be denied.

Delbert Wilson, General Manager