

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Twin Valley Telephone, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Twin Valley Telephone and Communications

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: The Tri-County Telephone Association, Inc.

Comment: The Tri-County Telephone Association, Inc. (TCT) has been providing high-quality communications services to rural Kansas for over 46 years. During this time, there has been much technological advancement, providing new services. TCT is committed to providing our customers with advanced, reliable communications service, regardless of where they live and work.

In 2001, TCT proved this commitment by making substantial investment in upgrading its core facilities including digital switches and a fiber fed network. This cutting-edge technology allowed TCT to offer advanced communication services, including broadband access to 100% of its service areas. TCT, in looking toward the future, has embarked on a Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) project that, by the time it is complete in 2013, will connect every home and business in its service areas to fiber-speed bandwidth.

TCT is a local company that anchors the communities it serves. It provides much-needed jobs, 24-7 customer service and local offices. TCT provides necessary broadband services to community anchor institutions including schools, libraries, local government offices and public safety agencies. It serves from a local perspective because TCT's owners, who are also its customers, have a personal stake in the communities where they work and live.

Recently, TCT committed to further serve our customers by creating the TCT Community Development Initiative. This initiative supports infrastructures to attract new residents and businesses to TCT communities. TCT, one of the largest employers in the area, provides assistance in business development for both new and existing businesses. TCT will also acts as a liaison between local, state, and national economic development groups and contributes in local Community Development Groups.

Submitter: Cox Communications Inc

Comment: Cox Communications, Inc.(Cox) is a broadband communications and entertainment company, providing advanced digital video, Internet, telephone and wireless services over its nationwide IP network. The third-largest U.S. cable TV company, Cox serves over 6.2 million residences and businesses.

Cox operates in hundreds of communities in 18 states and has invested over \$16 billion in private capital in its network over the last ten years. Cox provides its customers in Kansas with 21st century infrastructure that provides advanced broadband, video and telephone services. More than 99.5 percent of the households in our service areas have access to Cox high-speed Internet, at some of the fastest broadband speeds available in the nation.

Cox supports the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to extend broadband to parts of the country that are unserved or underserved. We appreciate the efforts of the Rural Utilities Service and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in making sure that the limited

amount of broadband stimulus funding available under the ARRA is targeted toward those consumers in greatest need, rather than to areas that already have access to broadband service.

To assist your agencies in ensuring that ARRA funds are directed to truly unserved and underserved areas, Cox is providing supplemental information that demonstrates, for the above-referenced application, the following: the location of Cox's broadband infrastructure; broadband service levels provided; number of customers served; pricing for each service tier; and marketing materials which demonstrate service availability. Consistent with the statutory requirement to expend funds only for projects in eligible areas, we trust that your agencies will use this information -- along with information from other broadband providers -- to obtain a clear picture of service availability in the area covered by the application. We encourage the use of independent due diligence to determine the extent of other broadband service offerings in the proposed funded service area covered by this submission, if other providers fail to submit information prior to the submission deadline.

We request that this data be treated as confidential and proprietary. Much of the information provided with this letter constitutes trade secrets or commercial information that is privileged and confidential and therefore exempt from public disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). Cox does not disclose this information to the public, and release of this information could cause competitive harm, by enabling other broadband providers to tailor their business strategies to unfairly compete with Cox.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information. We trust that it will be helpful in your analysis, and will inform your final decision concerning the application.

Submitter: TC Wireless

Comment: TC Wireless, Inc, along with its parent company The Tri-County Telephone Association, Inc., has been providing communications services to rural Kansas for over 46 years. TC Wireless was formed in 2004 specifically to provide wireless broadband services to communities that larger companies ignored. TC Wireless is a pioneer in providing high-quality services over the 700 Mhz wireless spectrum. It acquired its licenses at auction in 2002, taking a chance on the unproven spectrum. It began providing services in this band as soon as equipment was available. To meet the specific needs of the communities it serves, TC Wireless has expanded its offerings to include the 900 MHz and 2.4 MHz bands.

By utilizing an array of licensed and unlicensed spectrum, TC Wireless achieved a task five years ago that some still say today is not possible – bringing high speed Internet access to rural and remote areas. It did this, at considerable cost, because, as a local company, TC Wireless' owners, who are also its customers, have a personal stake in the communities where they work and live. As a result, TC Wireless is providing rural America with advanced, reliable communications service.

Submitter: Allegiance Communications, LLC

Comment: Allegiance Communications (Allegiance) currently provides a wide array of broadband offerings within the proposed funded service area. Allegiance has offered broadband services in excess of the 3 MB bandwidth requirement as set forth in the ARRA, NOFA and BIP/BTOP guidelines, all prior to the ARRA approval. Allegiance's service area already provides for "sufficient access to broadband service to facilitate rural economic development", as well as allows for choice of service providers through competing with Local Exchange Carriers, and allows for leasing of services through our own facilities. Allegiance's opinion of the proposed funded service area is that of excess spending where funds could be better used in other portions of the country to deploy broadband service in accordance with the ARRA, NOFA and BIP/BTOP programs. Through funding the proposed service area, excessive competition will be created for all, which may create a short term economic boost, but have severe long term ramifications which may force service providers out of business.

Submitter: Eagle Communications, Inc.

Comment: Eagle Communications, Inc. is a strong supporter of the federal government's program to assist in delivering broadband to rural unserved and underserved areas. But Twin Valley Telephone's proposed Service Area is not such an area. In fact, Eagle Communications, Inc. provides broadband services within the area that far exceed the levels sought after by RUS and NTIA.

Specifically, the applicant's proposal includes the cities of Abilene, Chapman, Solomon and Minneapolis along with surrounding townships. Within these cities listed, Eagle Communications provides broadband service of up to 100 Mbps via fiber to the premises, cable modem and wireless technology. Along with residential customers, Eagle Communications serves businesses, medical-care facilities, and key public infrastructure entities (schools and government) throughout the area.

The Rural Utilities Service should also be aware that throughout the Service Area numerous other broadband providers are currently offering services. In their 2009 Report to the Kansas Legislature, The

Kansas Corporation Commission reported that 11 (eleven) broadband service providers currently offer service within The City of Abilene; ten (10) within Chapman; eight (8) within Solomon; and eight (8) within Minneapolis.

To support our response, attached is a mapping of Eagle Communications, Inc.'s service offerings across the Service Area. Said map was created by Connect Kansas, a group funded by the state of Kansas to provide broadband mapping services for use in determining truly unserved and underserved areas.

Eagle Communications, Inc. believes that delivering broadband service to unserved areas, as well as truly underserved areas, is an important task in maintaining rural America. However, in the case of this particular application, the supporting documentation of Connect Kansas, as well as Kansas Corporation Commission reports show, without question, that the majority of the homes in the Service Area are well served.

The number of entities already providing broadband in the Service Area also raises concerns regarding the applicant's ability to attract enough customers to create a sustainable project. The Government Accountability Office, in their October 27, 2009 testimony before the U.S. Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation presents the risks of "awarding funds to projects that are not sustainable or do not meet the priorities of the Recovery Act". The data provided herein supports that within the proposed Service Area, access to broadband service does exist at such levels that question the area's meeting the requirements of an underserved area and thus the financial viability of a project of this level of taxpayer supported funding.

Submitter: North Central Kansas Community Network

Comment: North Central Kansas Community Network has delivered high quality broadband wireless Internet access in the Kansas communities of Beloit, Lincoln, Scottsville, Mankato, Concordia, Belleville, Clyde, Clifton, Clay Center, Glasco, Delphos and Minneapolis since the fall of 2001 and spring of 2002. Our Broadband Internet Access coverage in this area potentially reaches 80% of the population in the counties of Mitchell, Cloud, Republic, Lincoln, Clay, Jewell and Ottawa Kansas. We continue to provide existing customers with the highest quality wireless access available.

Submitter: Wilson Telephone Co Inc dba Wilson Communications

Comment: Wilson Communications has been providing high quality and leading technology telecommunications services to rural Kansans for more than sixty years. Wilson Communications began

offering high speed internet access service to our customers in the late 1990's. We continued to expand our fiber network and now can provide broadband services to 100% of our customers. Wilson Communications continues to make investments in fiber optic facilities to ensure our customers have access to the latest broadband technology. We provide broadband to critical community anchor institutions including schools, rural health clinics, and public libraries. We are a full service provider of communications services and are able to bundle services offering discounts to our customers. Wilson Communications is a community based company, providing volunteerism, and other forms of support to each of the seven communities we serve.

Submitter: sci cable

Comment: Service area is broadband HFC with Video,High Speed Data and VOIP (launch date VOIP 12-1-09)

Submitter: Cunningham Communications

Comment: Cunningham Telephone Company, with its affiliate Cunningham Communications has been providing high-quality communications services to the residents of the rural communities of northwestern Kansas for more than 65 years. It was one of the first providers in this remote area to offer broadband services eleven years ago. Currently, almost 100% of Cunningham's service areas have broadband capability reaching speeds up to 10 Mbps.

In keeping with its long tradition of providing cutting-edge technologies, Cunningham has begun a Fiber To The Home (FTTH) project. Through this FTTH project, estimated to be completed in 2012, every customer in a majority of Cunningham's service areas, even in the most remote rural areas, will have a direct fiber feed from their home and business to the world.

Cunningham is a local company that helps anchor the communities it serves. It provides much-needed jobs, 24-7 customer service and local offices. Cunningham provides necessary broadband services to community anchor institutions including schools, libraries, local government offices and public safety agencies. It serves from a local perspective because Cunningham's owners and employees have a personal stake in the communities where they work and live.