

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: DigitalBridge Communications Corp.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** DBC Oktibbeha County

Submitter: Cellular South

Comment: Respondent, Cellular South, Inc., is a privately held Mississippi corporation and commercial mobile radio service provider which provides wireless telecommunications and broadband data services to its customers throughout the State of Mississippi, in western Tennessee, in southern Alabama, and northwest Florida. Respondent operates a broadband data transmission network in the State of Mississippi which utilizes Evolution Data Optimized (“EvDO”) technology which provides data transmission speeds up to a maximum of 3.0 mbps downstream and 1.0 mbps upstream. Respondent’s EvDO network is deployed in all or part of Applicant’s proposed service area and, therefore, no portion of Applicant’s proposed service area where Respondent’s EvDO service is deployed is unserved because Respondent’s EvDO service is accessible by 100% of the households in Respondent’s service area. Respondent notes that actual wireless coverage and broadband data transmissions may vary due to atmospheric conditions, customer equipment, and/or system limitation.

Submitter: MetroCast Communications of Mississippi, LLC

Comment: MetroCast Communications of Mississippi, LLC offers broadband service to approximately 75% of the applicant's proposed service area serving over 90% of the households. MetroCast offers residential broadband transmission speeds in applicant's proposed service area up to 10Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream, with MetroCast’s most highly-subscribed broadband service having a transmission speed of 7.0Mbps downstream and 512kbps upstream. MetroCast’s business broadband service offerings start at 3Mbps downstream and 512kbps upstream, with advertised offerings of up to 15Mbps downstream and 3Mbps upstream. Higher business speeds are available with customized service options including direct fiber connections. Over 39% of the households and businesses within the applicant's proposed service area currently subscribe to MetroCast broadband services. MetroCast is aware of other providers of high speed broadband service in applicant’s proposed service area, including AT&T. According to an FCC report (<http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/comp.html>), as of June 30, 2008, 16 other companies reported providing high-speed service to this service area.

Based on the information provided above, applicant's proposed service area certainly does not meet the definition of "unserved" or "underserved" as those two terms are defined in the NTIA/RUS NOFA.

MetroCast has invested millions of dollars of private capital to build advanced fiber optic networks to provide broadband services in the communities it serves, including the City of Starkville, Mississippi State University and other areas of Okitibbaha County which encompasses a material portion of the applicant's proposed service area. Further details regarding the broadband services MetroCast provides in applicant's proposed service area are provided below.

Submitter: Franklin Telephone Company, Inc.

Comment: Respondent, Franklin Telephone Company, Inc., is a privately held Mississippi corporation and rural incumbent local exchange carrier which provides telecommunications, video, and broadband data services to residents in its licensed service areas. Over the years Respondent has utilized funds, including Rural Utilities Service funds, to invest in its network to deploy fiber optic and other state of the art network technologies to provide the residents of its licensed service areas with robust and technologically advanced access to broadband services. Currently, Respondent provides access to broadband services to ninety-eight percent (98%) of the residents in Respondent's service area. Therefore, no portion of Respondent's service area, including those which overlap with Applicant's proposed service area, are unserved.