

## Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** Spacenet Inc

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### Public Notice Submissions

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-----**Service Area:** ACalder - CO

**Submitter:** Bresnan Communications

**Comment:** Based on our research and exposure in this service area, we've concluded that this proposed funded service area fails to meet the NOFA definitions of underserved or unserved as defined in NOFA.

Bresnan, along with other local telcos provide broadband service in this service area via cable modem and DSL technology. Bresnan provides several tiers of broadband service with download speeds ranging from 1.5mbps to 15mbps.

Our market research and in-depth knowledge of our markets show that we occupy approximately 45-55% of the market share of broadband subscribers in this market, with the remaining distributed among incumbent telcos. With the subscribers and penetration levels entered below, this market area exceeds the penetration and access thresholds as defined in the NOFA, thus making this application ineligible for BTOP/BIP funds in this proposed funded service area.

We have outlined our service areas on the mapping tool provided. Also, see the attached supporting document for additional information regarding our product offering and price points in this market. We also entered confidential and sensitive subscriber details to support our case.

**Submitter:** CenturyLink

**Comment:** 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 7 million access lines and 2.1 million broadband customers in 33 states.

**Submitter:** Haxtun Telephone Co.

**Comment:** Haxtun Telephone Company demonstrates that the application filed by Spacenet, Inc. is incorrect in its claim that the area it proposes to serve which overlaps Haxtun Telephone's service area is unserved. Further, Haxtun Telephone demonstrates that the area Spacenet, Inc. proposes to serve which overlaps Haxtun Telephone's service area does not meet all of the criteria which categorize an area as underserved.

As demonstrated, 60% of households in Haxtun Telephone's service area, including those areas which are part of Spacenet, Inc's proposed funded service area, are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services at a minimum transmission speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from Haxtun Telephone. Therefore Spacenet, Inc's claim that this overlapping area is unserved is incorrect. Further, no part of this overlapping area is underserved on the basis of access to broadband service. In addition, Haxtun Telephone demonstrates that the rate of broadband subscribership for households in [the part of the proposed funded service area which overlaps Haxtun Telephone's service area] [its service area] is significant.

**Submitter:** PC Telcorp

**Comment:** Phillips County Telephone Company (PCTC) is a small, progressive, cooperative Rural Local Exchange Carrier (RLEC) located in Holyoke, Colorado. PCTC and its subsidiaries, Phillips County Communications, LLC (PCC, LLC) and PC Telcorp, Inc. (Telcorp) provide broadband Internet access ranging from 512 kbps down to 3 Mbps down to the entire service area for PCTC as well as the neighboring rural communities of Fleming, Haxtun, Julesburg, and Ovid, Colorado. All three entities are doing business as PC Telcom. Overall, greater than sixty percent of PC Telcom's customers subscribe to speeds of 768 kbps down or greater. PC Telcom is one of the largest employers in northeastern Colorado and projects increasing its staff at an annual rate of two percent.

In keeping with its long tradition of providing cutting-edge technologies and after substantial investments in network infrastructure and facilities, one hundred percent of PC Telcom's customers can enjoy broadband access. PC Telcom utilizes a variety of broadband technologies, each tailored to specific local needs and geographical challenges. These include Fiber to the Premise (FTTP), DSL, cable modem and unlicensed wireless.

PC Telcom provides broadband and Ethernet services to most anchor tenants in the communities within its service areas. These entities include all secondary schools; all County Government offices; hospitals and other health care facilities; and large businesses. In addition to Internet access at broadband speeds, PC Telcom also provides state-of-the-art Ethernet services to business customers at affordable rates.

PC Telcom has been the technology leader in northeast Colorado for its one hundred plus years of existence and is looking forward to continuing its excellent customer service record. PC Telcom was one of the first broadband providers in northeast Colorado and now relies on 10 years of experience delivering services to difficult to serve areas that larger providers ignore. PC Telcom is a local company that helps anchor the communities it serves. It provides much-needed jobs, 24-7 customer service and support and local offices. It serves from a local perspective because PC Telcom's owners, who are its customers, have a personal stake in the communities where they work and live.

**Submitter:** Blanca Telephone Company

**Comment:** Broadband service of at least 3 mbps in the subject grant area is already advertized and provisioned. Accordingly, the area is neither "underserved" nor "unserved" as defined by the NOFA. It is uneconomic for stimulus money to be used to overbuild existing broadband services. The NOFA seeks irrelevant information, fails to apply the standard required by the ARRA, requires commenters to provide information without first publishing those requirements and procedures in the Federal Register, and awards stimulus grants based upon "presumptions" which are not found in the ARRA.

**Submitter:** Wiggins Telephone

**Comment:** Wiggins Telephone Association has an existing RUS approved construction project design and \$29.7 million loan in place to provide broadband access throughout the entire service area with Fiber to the Home. The town of Wiggins and surrounding area is now served by FTTH placed in service beginning in the fall of 2008. All bandwidth packages offered to all areas are at FCC minimum (768 Kbps) and above.

**Submitter:** Phillips County Communications dba PC Telcom

**Comment:** Phillips County Telephone Company (PCTC) is a small, progressive, cooperative Rural Local Exchange Carrier (RLEC) located in Holyoke, Colorado. PCTC and its subsidiaries, Phillips County Communications, LLC (PCC, LLC) and PC Telcorp, Inc. (Telcorp) provide broadband Internet access ranging from 512 kbps down to 3 Mbps down to the entire service area for PCTC as well as the neighboring rural communities of Fleming, Haxtun, Julesburg, and Ovid, Colorado. All three entities are doing business as PC Telcom. Overall, greater than sixty percent of PC Telcom's customers subscribe to speeds of 768 kbps down or greater. PC Telcom is one of the largest employers in northeastern Colorado and projects increasing its staff at an annual rate of two percent.

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**Submitter:** Qwest

**Comment:** As authorized by the BIP and BTOP Notice of Funds Availability and the Public Notice associated with the publication of BIP and BTOP broadband infrastructure project funding applications found on the BroadbandUSA.gov website, Qwest responds with broadband service data to the application of Spacenet Inc, ACalder for funding for an area represented as "underserved" that is located, in whole or in part, in Qwest's broadband service area.

**Submitter:** Beulahland Communications, Inc.

**Comment:** Beulahland Communications, Inc. provides broadband services at speeds greater than 768 KB to all customers requesting service in the SE corner of Custer County, CO along State Highway 165 from the Pueblo County Line to Fairview as shown on map submitted.