

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: InternationalBroadband Electric Communications

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** IBEC Service Area 1 B

Submitter: Utopian Wireless Corporation

Comment: Proprietary data regarding actual service provider broadband penetration in the proposed service area for this application demonstrates the area is already served by broadband options and therefore this application is ineligible for funding pursuant to the requirements of the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

Submitter: MetroCast Communications of Mississippi, LLC

Comment: MetroCast Communications of Mississippi, LLC offers broadband service to approximately 5% of the applicant's proposed service area.

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. 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, 7 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 Red Bay and other areas of Franklin 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: National Telephone of Alabama, Inc.

Comment: National Telephone of Alabama, Inc. (NTA) is an existing RUS Traditional Telephone Borrower and since the early 1920’s has served as the existing Incumbent Local Exchange Company (ILEC) for 3 exchange areas within the rural county of Colbert in the State of Alabama, portions of which are proposed to be served by InternationalBroadband Electric Communications in their ARRA Broadband Stimulus application.

NTA currently advertises and provides broadband services, at speeds up to 3 Mbps to residential and up to 10 Gbps to business subscribers within the area proposed by this applicant. In addition, broadband service, at speeds greatly in excess of the minimum broadband speed defined by the ARRA NOFA is currently available through the NTA broadband network to approximately 86% of homes and businesses within the NTA service territory. This has been confirmed by Governor Riley’s “ConnectingALABAMA” Broadband Availability mapping project. The area proposed to be served by the applicant contains 5,014 households according to the 2000 U.S. Census, of which 229 residential and business subscribers are already served by NTA. For these reasons the applicant’s request for funding to overbuild areas already served by NTA should be denied.

-----**Service Area:** IBEC Service Area 1 D

Submitter: Hayneville Telephone Company, Inc.

Comment: Hayneville Telephone Company and AT&T provide telecommunications and Internet services within the proposed service areas included in Lowndes County, Alabama. Hayneville Telephone Company provides service to all areas of Lowndesboro, Gordonville and Hayneville at speeds of 3 MB or less. Lowndesboro, Hayneville and Gordonville thus may not qualify as unserved areas. Further, Braggs, Benton, Fort Deposit, Georgiana, McKenzie and Greenville receive telecommunications and broadband services from AT&T, Brighthouse, CenturyLink and Hayneville Fiber Transport at speeds of 3-6 MB or less and thus may not qualify as unserved and/or underserved areas.

Submitter: Hayneville Fiber Transport d/b/a Camellia Communic

Comment: Hayneville Fiber Transport, AT&T, Brighthouse, Hayneville Telephone Company and CenturyLink all provide telecommunications and Internet services within the proposed service areas included in Butler and Lowndes County, Alabama. Hayneville Fiber Transport provides service to all areas of Greenville, as does Brighthouse, at speeds of 3 MB or less. Greenville thus does not qualify as an unserved area and may not qualify as an underserved area. Further, Braggs, Benton, Fort Deposit, Hayneville and Lowndesboro receive telecommunications and broadband services from various of these five (5) carriers at speeds of 3-6 MB or less and thus may not qualify as underserved areas.

Submitter: Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, Inc. provides telecommunications and high-speed Internet services within the proposed service areas included in Crenshaw County, Alabama. Mon-Cre is an RUS loan recipient providing service to Crenshaw County at speeds of 1.5 MB or less and is the sole provider of telecom and Internet services in its service area. Crenshaw County thus may not qualify as an unserved and/or underserved area.

Submitter: Pine Belt Cellular Inc. dba Pine Belt Wireless

Comment: Pine Belt Cellular, Inc., dba Pine Belt Wireless, has been offering broadband data service to its subscribers for 3 years. The area applied for by the ARRA applicant falls within the franchised, FCC licensed and fixed wireless service areas of Pine Belt Cellular, and is served with high speed internet broadband service.

Submitter: Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc.

Comment: Pine Belt Telephone Company, Inc. has been offering broadband speed data service to its subscribers for 7 years. The area applied for by the ARRA applicant which falls within the telephone exchange boundary is served with high speed internet broadband service. Pine Belt, through its subsidiary Pine Belt Broadcasting, LLC, also provides fiber broadband interconnectivity to eleven school locations in Orville, Lindon, Sweetwater, Dixon Mills and Choctaw County School district.

-----**Service Area:** IBEC Service Area 1 C

Submitter: Brindlee Mountain Telephone Company

Comment: Brindlee Mountain Telephone currently provide dsl ranging from 256k to 1.5Mbps in a portion of the area described as IBEC Service Area 1C. We are currently upgrading facilities in portions of this area and are ready to offer some 3,6 and 10 Mbps services. No advertising of these higher speeds has been done as of today. The number of establishments capable of receiving broadband service is estimated using 70% of the households passed.

-----**Service Area:** IBEC Service Area 1 A

Submitter: Utopian Wireless Corporation

Comment: Proprietary data regarding actual service provider broadband penetration in the proposed service area for this application demonstrates the area is already served by broadband options and therefore this application is ineligible for funding pursuant to the requirements of the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).