

## Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** Techcore Consultants II, DBA Almega

---

**Public Notice Submissions**

---

-----**Service Area:** Dryden Tower

**Submitter:** LENOWISCO

**Comment:** LENOWISCO PUBLIC NOTICE RESPONSE TO TECHCORE CONSULTANTS II (DBA ALMEGA) APPLICATION FOR PENNINGTON GAP, VIRGINIA & DRYDEN, VIRGINIA

LENOWISCO owns the LENOWISCO Rural Area Network in Lee and Wise Counties in Virginia that provides broadband and private connectivity to homes and businesses. The network is operated by Sunset Digital Communications, Inc., and network services, such as Internet, are provided by Clariti Media, LLC. Clariti Media recently became one of the few providers in the country to offer 100Mbps download speed as a residential option, and the first to offer it in a rural area.

LENOWISCO wishes to submit this Public Notice Response regarding the application submitted by Techcore Consultants II (DBA Almega) for the area surrounding Pennington Gap and Dryden in Lee County Virginia. The proposed Techcore service area is well served in that it duplicates the existing LENOWISCO network, as well as other providers, including Comcast Cable, Verizon DSL, and Verizon Wireless.

The funding to connect the surrounding Pennington Gap and Dryden residents to the LENOWISCO network to date has been previously provided by multiple organizations. These include the Virginia Indemnification and Revitalization Committee, VaCEDA (Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority). The Town of Pennington Gap and LENOWISCO have also partnered previously through a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) to lay fiber through a downtown development project, and the town received conduit for its own purposes.

The proposed area fails to meet the qualifications for underserved, and seems to reflect a significant lack of research on the applicant's part. Specifically referring to the three qualifications for "underserved" as defined in the BIP Application Guide:

1. Greater than 50% of the households in the proposed area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed. Specifically, 74.8% have accessibility to the current LENOWISCO fiber optic network. Therefore this application does not meet this requirement.

2. Multiple providers, including LENOWISCO's services provider Clariti Media, advertise broadband transmission speeds greater than 3Mbps downstream in the census designated community. This does not meet the requirements in this application

3. Though Verizon, Comcast, and Verizon Wireless will not provide us with their penetration rates, our extensive experience in the area tells us that greater than 40% of households in the census designated community subscribe to broadband. This is especially true in Pennington Gap and the area extending towards Dryden, where Comcast and Verizon have higher penetration rates. LENOWISCO estimates show that in the proposed area, the LENOWISCO network alone has a 10% penetration.

It appears unlikely that Techcore was aware of LENOWISCO's presence in the region when they submitted their application.

Advertising is done via billboards and local papers, as is shown in the attached supporting document.

-----**Service Area:** Rural Retreat Tower

**Submitter:** Virginia PCS Alliance, L.C. dba NTELOS

**Comment:** NTELOS herein provides information on its existing broadband services within Applicant's proposed service area to be funded.

**Submitter:** JetBroadband VA, LLC.

**Comment:** Since 2005, Jetbroadband VA, LLC has provided full, robust broadband service in its service areas (see service area map). JetBroadband VA, LLC advertises service of speeds above 3 Mbps throughout the identified service area[s]. JetBroadband VA, LLC passes over 50% of households within our service area and together with its existing competitors provide broadband services that combined exceed 40% subscribership penetration. Here is a recap of Jetbroadband's presence in the State:

- Jetbroadband VA, LLC has invested over \$140 million (\$140,000,000) of private capital in the State of Virginia
- Operates out of seven (7) local offices that it owns and or leases
- Employs nearly 100 local residents
- Operates its own Customer Care Call Center out of its Rustburg, VA central office
- Services the local communities with its existing 2,600 miles of cable plant, 63 vehicles and related equipment
- Jetbroadband currently offers last-mile broadband services that includes High Speed Data, Video and Digital Phone (Triple Play offerings),
- Jetbroadband service offerings are available to over 92,000 homes/households
- Serves over 50,000 customers in the State.

The service areas are served and therefore the NTIA/RUS should NOT disburse federal stimulus funds (public taxpayer funds) to applicants that seek to overbuild current service providers and Jetbroadband and compete with the significant private capital that has already been invested in these areas.

-----**Service Area:** Gate City Tower

**Submitter:** VMMicro.Net

**Comment:** We are currently covering part of that area from a Fire Tower. Please use the map to view our current coverage areas.

-----**Service Area:** Castlewood Tower

**Submitter:** VMMicro.Net

**Comment:** We have had this area covered for several months now utilizing a USDA Grant for Russell County Virginia.

-----**Service Area:** Honaker Tower

**Submitter:** VMMicro.Net

**Comment:** VMMicro.Net has had service in Honaker for 3 Years now. This deployment is currently funded via a USDA Grant through Russell County.

**Submitter:** JetBroadband VA, LLC.

**Comment:** Since 2005, Jetbroadband VA, LLC has provided full, robust broadband service in its service areas (see service area map). JetBroadband VA, LLC advertises service of speeds above 3 Mbps throughout the identified service area[s]. JetBroadband VA, LLC passes over 50% of households within our service area and together with its existing competitors provide broadband services that combined exceed 40% subscribership penetration. Here is a recap of Jetbroadband's presence in the State:

- Jetbroadband VA, LLC has invested over \$140 million (\$140,000,000) of private capital in the State of Virginia
  
- Operates out of seven (7) local offices that it owns and or leases
  
- Employs nearly 100 local residents
  
- Operates its own Customer Care Call Center out of its Rustburg, VA central office
  
- Services the local communities with its existing 2,600 miles of cable plant, 63 vehicles and related equipment
  
- Jetbroadband currently offers last-mile broadband services that includes High Speed Data, Video and Digital Phone (Triple Play offerings),
  
- Jetbroadband service offerings are available to over 92,000 homes/households
  
- Serves over 50,000 customers in the State.

The service areas are served and therefore the NTIA/RUS should NOT disburse federal stimulus funds (public taxpayer funds) to applicants that seek to overbuild current service providers and Jetbroadband and compete with the significant private capital that has already been invested in these areas.

-----**Service Area:** Speedwell

**Submitter:** JetBroadband VA, LLC.

**Comment:** Since 2005, Jetbroadband VA, LLC has provided full, robust broadband service in its service areas (see service area map). JetBroadband VA, LLC advertises service of speeds above 3 Mbps throughout the identified service area[s]. JetBroadband VA, LLC passes over 50% of households within our service area and together with its existing competitors provide broadband services that combined exceed 40% subscribership penetration. Here is a recap of Jetbroadband's presence in the State:

- Jetbroadband VA, LLC has invested over \$140 million (\$140,000,000) of private capital in the State of Virginia
  
- Operates out of seven (7) local offices that it owns and or leases
  
- Employs nearly 100 local residents
  
- Operates its own Customer Care Call Center out of its Rustburg, VA central office
  
- Services the local communities with its existing 2,600 miles of cable plant, 63 vehicles and related equipment

- Jetbroadband currently offers last-mile broadband services that includes High Speed Data, Video and Digital Phone (Triple Play offerings),
- Jetbroadband service offerings are available to over 92,000 homes/households
- Serves over 50,000 customers in the State.

The service areas are served and therefore the NTIA/RUS should NOT disburse federal stimulus funds (public taxpayer funds) to applicants that seek to overbuild current service providers and Jetbroadband and compete with the significant private capital that has already been invested in these areas.

-----**Service Area:** Jonesville Tower

**Submitter:** LENOWISCO

**Comment:** LENOWISCO PUBLIC NOTICE RESPONSE TO TECHCORE CONSULTANTS II (DBA ALMEGA) APPLICATION FOR JONESVILLE, VIRGINIA

¶LENOWISCO owns the LENOWISCO Rural Area Network in Lee and Wise Counties in Virginia that provides broadband and private connectivity to homes and businesses. The network is operated by Sunset Digital Communications, Inc., and network services, such as Internet, are provided by Clariti Media, LLC. Clariti Media recently became one of the few providers in the country to offer 100Mbps download speed as a residential option, and the first to offer it in a rural area.

¶LENOWISCO wishes to submit this Public Notice Response regarding the application submitted by Techcore Consultants II (DBA Almega) for the area surrounding Jonesville in Lee County Virginia. The proposed Techcore service area is well served in that it duplicates the existing LENOWISCO network, as well as other providers, including Comcast Cable, Verizon DSL, and Verizon Wireless.

¶The funding to connect the surrounding Jonesville residents to the LENOWISCO network to date has been previously provided by multiple organizations. These include the Virginia Indemnification and

Revitalization Committee, ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission), and VaCEDA (Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority).

¶ The proposed area fails to meet the qualifications for underserved, and seems to reflect a significant lack of research on the applicant's part. Specifically referring to the three qualifications for "underserved" as defined in the BIP Application Guide:

¶1. Greater than 50% of the households in the proposed area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed. Specifically, 100% of the households in the Jonesville census designated community have accessibility to the current LENOWISCO network, and 67% of the households in the "other area" contained in Techcore's proposed service area have access to LENOWISCO's current network. Therefore this application does not meet this requirement.

¶2. Multiple providers, including LENOWISCO's services provider Clariti Media, advertise broadband transmission speeds greater than 3Mbps downstream in the census designated community. This does not meet the requirements in this application

¶3. Though Verizon, Comcast, and Verizon Wireless will not provide us with their penetration rates, our extensive experience in the area tells us that greater than 40% of households in the census designated community subscribe to broadband. This is especially true in Jonesville proper, where Comcast and Verizon have higher penetration rates. LENOWISCO estimates show that in the proposed area, the LENOWISCO network alone has a 10% penetration.

¶ It appears unlikely that Techcore was aware of LENOWISCO's presence in the region when they submitted their application.

¶ Advertising is done via billboards and local papers, as is shown in the attached supporting document.