

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Summary: Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (BTC) currently provides broadband service with download speeds of up to 15 Mbps throughout many rural regions of Western Montana. The BTOP applications identified in this response would greatly overbuild that existing networks, and provide no more broadband availability to Western Montana than already exists. This would threaten the viability of existing networks, and run counter to the intent of the broadband stimulus program. Specifically, the applications of Ronan Telephone (Application ID 6355), XO Communications Services, Inc. (Application ID 5601), County Executives Telecommunications Initiative (Application ID 7128), Logiclinc, Inc. (Application ID 7542), and the Native American Development Corp (Application ID 7638) all seek funding to duplicate the fiber networks already constructed by BTC, CenturyLink, 360Networks, Qwest, and others. In addition to the standard retail broadband tiers reflected in this response, BTC is capable of providing Ethernet services throughout its Western Montana service territory. The service capacity sought in these applications can be provided today by BTC and existing providers. BTC urges NTIA to not fund duplicate network proposals.