

## Public Notice Submission

**Provider Name:** Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

**Summary:** Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (SWAT) has invested substantially over the past 10 years in fiber infrastructure in order to provide high speed broadband services to its cooperative customers. SWAT was founded in the 1950s by its member owners with the vision to provide state of the art telecommunications services throughout their service area. SWAT for many years has been at the forefront in bringing new technologies to its member owners. Through the evolution of telecommunications from step central offices to digital switch offices to digital soft switches, SWAT has always been one of the first to provide these technologies to its member owners. SWAT has taken these same ideas and principles to task when deploying broadband services. SWAT, seeing the need to provide larger amounts of bandwidth to each customer, started an aggressive deployment construction program in 2004 where it invested millions of dollars in fiber infrastructure and updated last mile facilities. SWAT, realizing the need to connect with its comprehensive community infrastructure, concentrated on deploying facilities to these entities and thereby enabling them to meet their goals and commitments related to their broadband needs. SWAT, again seeing the need and benefits of providing larger bandwidth connections, set out on a path in 2008 to design and construct a state of the art fiber to the premise network. This project, financed by the Rural Utilities Service of the USDA ,which was started in 2009 will deploy fiber to the premise to nearly the entire SWAT service area. At a cost that equals an estimated 25 million dollars , it will provide customers with bandwidth unequalled in surrounding areas. As part of SWAT's commitment to providing such an aggressive allocation of bandwidth to its members, SWAT has built gig transport services. In addition to these gig transport services, SWAT as also acquired first mile commitments to support these services.

SWAT demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout its entire service area located in Arkansas, which is included in the proposed funded Service Area in some BTOP applications and that SWAT's service area is not unserved or underserved. 100% of the households in SWAT's 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 SWAT; 100% of the households in SWAT's service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed as set forth in the definition of broadband; SWAT and other broadband providers advertise broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout the SWAT service area; and the rate of broadband subscribership in SWAT's service area is greater than 40 percent of households. Based on the foregoing, SWAT has demonstrated that all claims that the proposed funded service area which overlaps SWAT's service area is [unserved/underserved] is not correct. Further, because 100% of households in SWAT's 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 SWAT, the proposed funded service area that overlaps SWAT's service area is not underserved.