

## Public Notice Submission

**Provider Name:** Midcontinent Communications

**Summary:** PLEASE SEE MAP PROVIDED BELOW. Midcontinent Communications uses private fund sources to build a state-of-the-art broadband network in North Dakota, with 156.8K households passed compared with 257.1K households per the 2000 census. That means Midcontinent offers broadband service to 61% of North Dakota households. 1,870 miles of Midcontinent long haul fiber (middle mile) connects government, health care, education, business and residential customers to broadband in 110 communities, criss-crossing the state and mirroring the DCN network in most areas (see map below). Backbone transport is critical to North Dakota, and Midcontinent has responded with upgraded fiber and new fiber placement, making it the finest network in North Dakota. Midcontinent does serve the largest cities (Bismarck, Minot, Grand Forks, West Fargo, Devils Lake, etc) in addition to many small rural towns. Midcontinent offers speeds up to 50 M up/5 M down all the way to modestly priced 1 M up/ 384 K down. Midcontinent was recently awarded a dark fiber (middle mile) contract with the State of North Dakota, and Midcontinent has partnered with rural LECs in providing network connectivity for educational institutions. The Great Western Network rides on Midcontinent fiber and has provided distance learning opportunities for school systems for over ten years. This is one of many critical connections Midcontinent provides to government, education, healthcare and business in North Dakota, as well as the premier residential products. As a cable provider that has upgraded last mile as well as middle mile infrastructure, advanced wideband is available to both residential and business customers including anchor institutions. In addition to Midcontinent, many areas are also serviced by local telephone company broadband, such as Devils Lake (NDTC) and Mayville/Portland (Polar). We understand that the DCN network is already interconnected with a number of partner LECs in North Dakota since the rural LECs in North Dakota are the owners of DCN. While DCN proposes to interconnect with a similar rural LEC owned network company in South Dakota (SDN), Midcontinent's network already spans both North and South Dakota allowing access by residential and business customers and anchor institutions. Midcontinent is committed to continue upgrade existing services and provide some of the best services in the country to many small, rural towns.