

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: Walnut Hill Telephone Company, Inc.

Summary: Walnut Hill Telephone Company, established April 26, 1901, serves over 5,700 lines in 6 exchanges across 5 counties in the southwest corner of Arkansas. The commercial and plant offices are located in Lewisville, Arkansas. There is also a local business office in Foreman, Arkansas. Walnut Hill Telephone Company serves a predominantly rural economic base centered on agriculture, timber, and oil production. Backed by over a century of local service, Walnut Hill is a powerhouse of telecommunications technology. Walnut Hill Telephone Company strives to bring its customers the latest and most advanced telecommunications products and services. Walnut Hill has invested considerably in fiber infrastructure over the past decade to connect each exchange central office to the company's main access points enabling the company to deploy broadband services to these remote rural areas. Walnut Hill historically has taken advantage of the Rural Utilities Services financing programs as a means to invest in this infrastructure build out. Walnut Hill's current construction activities involves deploying more fiber facilities to all node locations in order to meet their goal of being the premier broadband provider. As a part of Walnut Hill's commitment to provide bandwidth services to its customers, the company has obtained first mile commitments in order to support these services. Walnut Hill Telephone Company 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 Walnut Hill Telephone's service area is not unserved or underserved. Almost 100% of the households in Walnut Hill Telephone'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 Walnut Hill Telephone; Almost 100% of the households in Walnut Hill Telephone'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; Broadband providers advertise broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout the Walnut Hill Telephone service area; and the rate of broadband subscribership in Walnut Hill Telephone's service area is greater than 40 percent of households. Based on the foregoing, Walnut Hill Telephone Company has demonstrated that all claims that the proposed funded service area which overlaps Walnut Hill Telephone's service area is [unserved/underserved] is not correct. Further, because almost 100% of households in Walnut Hill Telephone'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 Walnut Hill Telephone, the proposed funded service area that overlaps Walnut Hill Telephone's service area is not underserved.