

Public Comments on Grant Applications (NOFA #001)

Received Date	Commentor	Applicant Name	Control Number	Comment
04/03/11	Andrew Telephone Company	Windstream	301481	I have reviewed the Windstream proposed fixed wireless buildout in census block 9503 in Jackson County Iowa. This census block borders the Andrew Telephone Company Exchange at Iron Bridge Road in Fairfield township and 100th Street In Jackson Township, Jackson County Iowa. The Andrew Telephone Company has completed fiber to the home in all of Andrew's exchange and is able to provide broadband to all customers along these routes. We have various broadband speeds available to the customers in the Andrew Exchange, based on customer need. Windstream did not specify in the public documents where the tower sites would be located, so I am not able to ascertain if Windstream will be overlapping Andrew's Exchange with a fixed wireless signal. Andrew Telephone Company strongly objects to Windstream overlapping the Andrew Telephone Exchange with fixed wireless. Windstream has identified the following census blocks in their application which is currently served by F&B Communications as having 25/3 Mbps services or greater already. F&B disputes Windstream funding for these census block areas listed below from their application to serve Clinton County, Iowa. 22764 190450012005083 6 9 0 0 1.140483 Clinton 0 Yes ConnectedNation Residential Data Existing provider not meeting 25/3 speeds or no known providers. {EEBE7573-F48A-42BF-AC66-57B3F5BBF3E2} 4/18/2017 19:20 pwlkibrown_iowa 6/27/2017, 9:17 AM pwlkibrown_iowa 2017.04.18 0.000321 0.072206 22936 190450012005025 1 2 0 0 1.792293 Clinton 0 Yes ConnectedNation Residential Data Existing provider not meeting 25/3 speeds or no known providers. {418EAC9D-896B-4F18-9114-3EA5FF740C72} 4/18/2017 19:20 pwlkibrown_iowa 6/27/2017, 9:17 AM pwlkibrown_iowa 2017.04.18 0.000504 0.093403 22950 190450011002033 2 6 0 0 0.497452 Clinton 0 Yes ConnectedNation Residential Data Existing provider not meeting 25/3 speeds or no known providers. {568BC870-8167-47BB-B138-DB5F7A316149} 4/18/2017 19:20 pwlkibrown_iowa 6/27/2017, 9:17 AM pwlkibrown_iowa 2017.04.18 0.00014 0.053332 23021 190450011002010 2 14 0 0 0.582691 Clinton 0 Yes ConnectedNation Residential Data Existing provider not meeting 25/3 speeds or no known providers. {B9C91B5B-0CBE-4A73-92BE-DACD53F03960} 4/18/2017 19:20 pwlkibrown_iowa 6/27/2017, 9:17 AM pwlkibrown_iowa 2017.04.18 0.000164 0.058875 23044 190450011001135 1 1 0 0 0.504667 Clinton 0 Yes ConnectedNation Residential Data Existing provider not meeting 25/3 speeds or no known providers. {BE4AB74B-6B4D-48E4-B270-ED76B7FE513D} 4/18/2017 19:20 pwlkibrown_iowa 6/27/2017, 9:17 AM pwlkibrown_iowa 2017.04.18 0.000142 0.054489 23149 190450011002050 2 10 0 0 1.30408 Clinton 0 Yes ConnectedNation Residential Data Existing provider not meeting 25/3 speeds or no known providers. {83B08673-FC8D-49D6-9449-9F9B5C0F3489} 4/18/2017 19:20 pwlkibrown_iowa 6/27/2017, 9:17 AM pwlkibrown_iowa 2017.04.18 0.000366 0.082211 23351 190450011002034 3 6 0 0 1.498944 Clinton 0 Yes ConnectedNation Residential Data Existing provider not meeting 25/3 speeds or no known providers. {97511F3A-33F1-4000-A680-7EA5444FBC3C} 4/18/2017 19:20 pwlkibrown_iowa 6/27/2017, 9:17 AM pwlkibrown_iowa 2017.04.18 0.000421 0.082299
04/03/11	F&B Communications	Windstream	301481	Miles Cooperative Telephone has fiber to the home in parts of Census Blocks: 190879702003039 190979503001101 190979503003037 190979503001099 190979503001109 190979503001049 Also, Miles Cooperative Telephone Association has recently had an engineering firm look at a fixed wireless solution in the same area of Eastern Jackson and Clinton counties that Windstream is proposing. They determined it would be very difficult for fixed wireless in this area due to the terrain and foliage at speeds of 25/3 or greater
04/08/11	Miles Telephone Cooperative	Windstream	301481	After reviewing this application, exhibits and Project Map Area, we have determined Windstream is applying for funding to build in areas of Mahaska, Keokuk and Poweshiek Counties that are currently serviced and or planned service areas for 40/4 Mbps fixed wireless Internet or optic fiber Internet. Attached map MCG Fixed Wireless Coverage Map.pdf shows areas in green that are in-service fixed wireless coverage areas, area in yellow as in-process build fixed wireless service areas and areas in grey as planned fixed wireless service areas. Attached map named MCG Fiber Optic Coverage Map.pdf shows areas in green that are in-service optic fiber service, yellow areas that are in-process build optic fiber areas, and areas in red as potential fiber optic service areas. Please find also attached the file mcg fixed wireless census tract.xlsx that contains Census Tract and Census Blocks associated to the fixed wireless coverage areas related to areas on the map. It is Mahaska Communication Group's belief that it is already providing service or in the process of providing service that exceeds the 25/3 Mbps minimum requirement of the grant program and that Windstream's application for grant funding in these areas does not meet the requirements or serve the intended purpose of this grant. Respectfully Submitted, Mark Falck Operations and Administrative Manager Mahaska Communication Group
04/10/19	Mahaska Communication Group, LLC	Windstream	301481	Dear Chief Information Officer, This is a notice of misfiling by Windstream in their Iowa Broadband Grant Application process, number 301481. Our small telephone company boards Windstream in eastern Iowa on three sides. Since the advent of the Census Block process, it is clear that our Iowa Utility Board certified territories cross Census Blocks in many instances. It is an arduous process, but we have identified at least two Census Blocks in our territory that Windstream has listed. We are not sure if there are many more, but with such little time, it is important to make this comment. The Preston Telephone Company services 250 sq miles in southeastern Jackson and northeastern Clinton counties. The maps offered in the Windstream application are far from specific, but, again, Windstream boards us on three sides. We have offered 25/5 internet speeds to all of our customers for several years. The Census Blocks Windstream lists that offer 10/1 speeds or less include some of our territory. Their application should be questioned further before approved to be assured that they properly represent the territories they propose to improve. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Mary Beth Heister Preston Telephone Company 111 N Anna St Preston, Iowa 52069 563-689-3811
04/09/19	Palmer Mutual Telephone Company	Evertex	302089	I am the General Manager of Palmer Mutual Telephone Company in Palmer, IA. As I look at the TSA area for Evertex many of those areas within the Exchange boundary of Palmer Mutual already have FTTH and those that do not already have at minimum a 10/1 service and will have FTTH by the end of 2019. This has all been done without the help of Federal or State grants. This concerns me that funding would be granted in the Palmer Mutual Exchange area where coverage is already there.
04/09/19	Northwest Communications	Evertex	302089	Northwest Communications respectfully challenges key coverage areas stated as being under-served using what we interpret to be dated map information and not reflective of current broadband progress in the application. We have attached a word document with more details and a coverage map of our network.
04/11/19	West Iowa Telephone Company, dba WesTel Systems	Evertex	302089	West Iowa Telephone Company, dba WesTel Systems, has been building Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) to customers in our exchanges beginning in 2010. We constructed FTTP using Active Ethernet to all urban customers allowing them to receive symmetrical Internet speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second. The rural customers are being constructed using a combination of Active Ethernet and GPON service. With GPON technology it is possible for our customers to receive 100Mbps symmetrical Internet service. Attached are maps that show in orange the rural customers we currently serve with FTTP. You will notice some overlap with the Evertex application. FTTP construction to the remaining rural customers in Remsen and Marcus is underway and we will complete the construction of FTTP to all rural Marcus and Remsen customers in 2019. In 2020 we will complete FTTP construction to all rural Sutherland, Calumet and Quimby customers. When complete, we will have at least 100Mbps to all of our customers. These FTTP builds have been 100% financed with internal funds. We believe it is not in the best interest to use grant funds where WesTel Systems has already build FTTP. In areas that WesTel already has plans to build FTTP offering 100Mbps service, using internal funds, we would request discretion in granting these awards.
04/11/19	Frontier Communications	Evertex	302089	Frontier Communications of Iowa currently can offer broadband at speeds of 25M/3M in portions of the project area. In addition, approved projects are currently slated for construction in 2019 which will offer broadband at speeds of 25M/3M in additional areas within the project area. The attached map shows those locations, with areas outlined in red identifying where Frontier Communications of Iowa can currently provide 25M/3M service, and the areas outlined in yellow identifying the areas of planned 2019 construction to provide broadband at 25M/3M speeds.
04/11/19	Premier Communications	Evertex	302089	To Whom It May Concern: I would like to comment on application 302089 - LTE Expansion Project submitted by Evertex. Premier Communications ("Premier") is a broadband service provider in NW Iowa and provides qualifying Broadband coverage in portions of Evertex's application and approval of grant dollars in those census blocks would be an inefficient use of scarce grant dollars. Attached is a CSV file indicating the census blocks where Premier already provides qualifying broadband service. This CSV file matches census blocks filed in the most recent FCC 477 filing indicating service provided as of 12/31/18 and the confidential data filed with the FCC indicates a speed capability of 150 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. Our Chief Technology Officer provided the following statement when I asked him about our Broadband capabilities in these census blocks, "Premier Communications has a hybrid-fiber coax (HFC) cable broadband network using DOCSIS 3.0 that can deliver speeds of at least 25/3. We regularly monitor usage and add capacity well in advance of any congestion so that customer can enjoy their subscribed to speeds." In addition I have provided a page from our website (www.mypremieronline.com) showing the most popular speed packages. On top of these speed packages we allow customers to increase their upload speed, for an additional cost, to up to 5 Mbps. I understand the broadband availability map on the OCIO's website from 2015 indicates these areas are eligible, but since 2015 we have upgraded the network to be able to provide speeds well in excess of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream and it would be extremely unfortunate to award grant dollars to an entity to provide an inferior service to census blocks that can already obtain Broadband at qualifying speeds. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there are any follow-up questions or if I need to clarify the statements above or the attachments included in any way. Sincerely, Ryan Boone COO Premier Communications
04/11/19	Frontier Communications	Omnitel Communications, Inc.	299297	Frontier Communications of Iowa currently can offer broadband at speeds of 25M/3M in portions of the project area. In addition, additional projects are being evaluated for construction in 2019 which would offer broadband at speeds of 25M/3M in additional areas within the project area. The attached map shows those locations, with areas outlined in red identifying where Frontier Communications of Iowa can currently provide 25M/3M service, and the areas outlined in yellow identifying the areas of projects being evaluated for 2019 construction to provide broadband at 25M/3M speeds.