

**New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Program
University of New Hampshire
April 2012 Data Submission**

I. Data Description

In accordance with the effective NTIA guidance for Round 5 data submissions, the New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Program (NHBMP) submitted the data set described below and associated documents to NTIA in April of 2012.

NH_SBDD_2012_04_01.gdb – file geodatabase containing feature classes for:

Feature Class	Number of Records
BB_ConnectionPoint_LastMile	0
BB_ConnectionPoint_MiddleMile	91
BB_Service_Address	0
BB_Service_CAInstitutions	3,914
BB_Service_CensusBlock	99,437
BB_Service_Overview	0
BB_Service_RoadSegment	38,890
BB_Service_Wireless	39
State_Boundary	1

In total, over 138,400 individual data records on broadband availability were submitted by New Hampshire. Collectively, these records describe availability as reported by 37 broadband providers in the state. In addition, the NHBMP submitted data on 3,914 community anchor institutions, an increase of 136 records from the prior submission.

To achieve this level of reporting, the NHBMP relied on a number of sources to identify potential providers in the state. The following table details the disposition of the initial set of providers:

Description	Number of Records
Potential providers identified in NH	90
Providers confirmed as delivering service in NH	60
Providers represented in the NHBMP submission	37

II. Provider Participation

The NHBMP has identified 60 broadband providers in the state. As noted above, 37 of these providers actively participated in the program for the Spring 2012 cycle. This number represents a decline of two providers from our prior submission – one national provider opted out of the program due to data quality issues, and a second provider was purchased by a larger national provider. The current participating providers include:

Provider Name	Technology
1. Argent Communications, LLC*	Cable, Fixed Wireless
2. AT&T Mobility LLC	Mobile Wireless
3. Charter Communications Inc.	Cable
4. Comcast Cable Communications, LLC.	Cable
5. Covad Communications Company	DSL, Other Copper Wireline, Middle Mile
6. Cyberpine Cooperative, Inc.	Fixed Wireless
7. Dunbarton Telephone Company, Inc.*	DSL
8. FairPoint Communications, Inc.*	DSL
9. Freedom Ring Communications, LLC. (dba BayRing Communications)*	Middle Mile
10. G4 Communications	DSL, Middle Mile
11. Granite State Communications (aka Granite State Telephone)*	DSL, Fiber
12. Great Auk Wireless (dba GAW High-Speed Internet Inc.)*, **	Fixed Wireless
13. GWI (aka Biddeford Internet Corporation)	DSL, Other Copper Wireline
14. HughesNet*	Satellite
15. IAMNOW.net*	Fixed Wireless
16. Lakes Region Wireless	Fixed Wireless
17. Level 3 Communications*	Fiber, Middle Mile
18. Lighttower Fiber Networks*	Middle Mile
19. MetroCast*	Cable
20. OTT Communications*	DSL, Middle Mile
21. Oxford Networks*	Middle Mile
22. Sidera Networks, LLC	Middle Mile
23. Sovernet Communications*	DSL
24. Spectra Access*	Fixed Wireless
25. Sprint	Mobile Wireless
26. StarBand Communications, Inc.*	Satellite
27. Tamworth Wireless Cooperative	Fixed Wireless
28. TDS Telecom	DSL, Fiber, Middle Mile
29. Time Warner Cable	Cable
30. T-Mobile	Mobile Wireless
31. Topsham Communications*, **	Fiber
32. U.S. Cellular*	Mobile Wireless
33. Verizon Wireless	Mobile Wireless
34. Wave Comm, LLC	Fixed Wireless
35. WildBlue Communications, Inc.	Satellite
36. Wireless LINC of NH and VT (f/k/a NCIC)	Fixed Wireless
37. WiValley	Fixed Wireless

* Provider did not submit revised data for this round. Data collected for the September, 2011 submission was reported as still being effective. However, in most cases, data were reprocessed based on refined methodologies introduced during this round and described further below. In some cases, the reprocessing yielded a reduced coverage footprint.

** Provider's data submission was incomplete. Data included in NHBMP submission represents only part of their coverage footprint.

The following 23 providers have remained unresponsive to multiple and ongoing requests to participate in the NHBMP, or have dropped out of the program after initially providing data.

Provider Name	
1. Boston Telephone	2. Broadview Networks
3. CityVoice	4. Cogent Communications
5. DESTEK	6. Dixville Telephone
7. DSCI	8. EarthLink Business (aka One Communications)
9. The Granite Connection	10. Grolen Communications
11. ITLLC (f/k/a Russet Communications)	12. Met Tel
13. MV Communications	14. NCIA
15. NHvt	16. Qwest Communications
17. RadiusNorth	18. segTel, Inc.
19. SkyWire Wifi (f/k/a Akers Pond)	20. TelJet
21. Turnpike Technologies	22. USAi.net
23. WindStream	

The 7 providers listed below were identified from analysis of the FCC Form 477 data (filings through February, 2011). The NHBMP has contacted these providers, but to this date they have either been unresponsive or data has not been received so we cannot confirm their status in NH.

Provider Name	
1. Airespring, Inc.	2. BergNet
3. Global Crossing North America, Inc.	4. Hickory Tech
5. NewEdge Network, Inc.	6. NextWave Wireless, Inc.
7. Telovations, Inc.	

Finally, the NHBMP identified a number of providers during previous rounds that we no longer maintain on the active list because they have either ceased providing service, have merged with other providers, or were never an active provider in NH.

Provider Name	
1. Access Communications	2. All Media, Inc.
3. Alterracom Networks	4. BIT-NET
5. CheshireNet	6. Cooperative Resources
7. Equal Access Networks	8. FCG Networks
9. Finowen	10. First Bridge
11. GreenNet	12. Green Wave Wireless
13. JLC	14. Level One Communications
15. Mainstream EIS	16. Mason Coop

17. Megapath	18. RNK Communications
19. TTLC.net	20. Vermont Telephone
21. WaveGuide	22. Wireless Horizon
23. Worldpath	

The initial master list of providers was extracted from the “New Hampshire Broadband Action Plan”, 2008, NH Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB) and NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED). This listing was cross-referenced against a statewide cell tower inventory maintained by the NH Office of Energy and Planning. NHBMP staff maintains an ongoing effort to identify additional active service providers in the state based on continuing interactions with TAB and DRED, review of speed test results, updated FCC data when published, and other sources as available.

III. Data Collection and Integration

A. Primary Data Collection

Data Acquisition

Primary data was collected directly from the service providers. The NHBMP first developed a set of guidance documents based on NTIA specifications, and distributed those to the individual providers. Once the guidance was disseminated, NHBMP staff followed up with providers via phone/email to encourage participation and address questions, as required. Typically, multiple communications were required to ensure a complete data submission was received.

Data Pre-Processing

To support the data mapping and integration efforts, the following base data sets were acquired and/or retrieved from the NH GRANIT state GIS clearinghouse archives:

- State and town boundaries (based on 1:24,000 USGS DLG files);
- 2001 Land Cover data set (derived from Landsat TM imagery);
- 2010 TIGER Census Blocks;
- 2010 Census MAF/TIGER Road Segments; and
- 2009 USGS National Elevation Data set (NED).

All required NTIA fields were added to the census block and road segment data sets. In addition, the road segments were processed against the census blocks to populate two fields used internally – the left block ID and the right block ID associated with each road segment.

Data Processing and Integration

The broadband availability data was processed and integrated using a suite of GIS tools and procedures, depending upon the format and content of the data submitted by the individual providers. Generally, the processing involved executing one or more of the following steps:

- Scanning and georeferencing paper maps and using the results as a visual reference to select out corresponding features from the project base data sets.

- Geocoding addresses using both an internal locator based on the TIGER road segments, and where required, the ESRI TA_BatchAddress_US subscription service; where NDAs were in place, geocoded points were then used to identify the host census block (if ≤ 2 sq. mi.), or the TIGER road segment in closest proximity but within 500' (if the host census block was > 2 sq. mi.). Related note(s):
 - In some cases, the selection of the TIGER road segment in closest proximity to the geocoded point yielded a pattern of disconnected road segments with broadband service.
- Using ArcGIS Network Analyst to select road segments within a cumulative distance of 3,000 and/or 18,000 lineal feet from central office locations, depending upon data submitted by the provider. The selected segments were subsequently used to identify adjacent census blocks ≤ 2 sq. mi. or used as features to quantify coverage along census blocks > 2 sq. mi. Note that in previous rounds, adjacent census blocks were flagged based on road segments intersecting those blocks. In this round, we refined our approach to define adjacency as blocks sharing a boundary with the road segment. This more conservative approach resulted in some blocks dropping out of provider coverage footprints.
- Processing KMZ image files, using the bounding rectangle to establish interior georeferencing, and then converting the georeferenced image to polygons.
- Utilizing Cellular Expert ArcGIS extension to generate a signal prediction surface for wireless providers submitting antenna locations (and associated data). Related note(s):
 - The statewide cell tower inventory provided the starting point for the signal propagation modeling efforts.
 - Subsequently, working with UNC-Raleigh and a NH-based fixed-wireless provider, the data processing models were refined to take into consideration visibility parameters (in addition to vegetation and topography).
 - During the current processing round, program staff participated in additional Cellular Expert training sessions to further enhance the signal propagation models. As a result, some provider coverage footprints have been reduced from previous submissions.
 - A -90 DB threshold was used to define service areas of fixed-wireless providers.
 - In processing the fixed-wireless polygon data, exterior polygons, e.g. those outside of the main coverage footprint, that were $< .125$ sq. mi. were eliminated. Interior non-coverage polygons were not eliminated.
- Processing satellite coverage footprints to incorporate the Utah shadow analysis (as posted on PBWorks).

The NHBMPP maintains a record of all specific processing steps applied to each provider's data submission in each round. We review that methodology with each provider as part of the verification process to ensure appropriate processing steps are followed.

Data Processing Issues

The NHBMP encountered a number of issues in processing the broadband data for the state. These include:

- Most providers submitted data only on areas that are currently served, and not on areas that could be served following the NTIA guidance. This contributed to the pattern of occasional disconnected rural road segments with broadband service.
- Reliance on the TIGER road segments likely yielded overstated broadband coverage in rural areas. A single rural customer address, when geocoded, could result in a long street segment being selected as part of a provider's coverage area.
- Most providers did not submit typical speed data. As the volume of our speed test data set grows, we will explore using this information to estimate typical speeds.
- Fixed wireless providers frequently did not deliver the full set of antenna parameters required for the signal propagation software, and required multiple requests for data followed by requests for clarification of those data submitted. While the submissions this round were more complete than in previous rounds, this remains an issue.
- Elevation data submitted by middle mile providers was typically reported relative to sea level, not relative to grade.
- Providers who are knowledgeable and experienced with the original 2009 NTIA NOFA and corresponding clarification documentation provided information appropriate to that data schema / model, and modifications to these in June 2011 resulted in additional follow-up required to achieve a complete data submission.
- As a result of reprocessing data to incorporate enhanced methodologies, there are some instances of reduced provider footprints being reported.
- For providers who submitted address records, the first process was to geocode those addresses to the 2010 TIGER road segments. For any ungeocoded addresses, the program next utilized ESRI's online geocoding services. Any remaining, ungeocoded records were geocoded manually using Bing. In some instances, records continued to remain uncoded after this three-phase approach. We have identified a number of issues with some of the resulting geocoded data:
 - In reviewing addresses geocoded against ESRI services, we discovered a small number of records that did not appear to be correctly positioned. The incorrect positioning was confirmed by viewing the geocoded points relative to both TIGER road data and by referencing Bing. In some instances, the geocoded points were positioned a significant distance away from any mapped road segment. A proximity analysis with a 500' distance constraint was used to identify the closest road in these instances.
 - Finally, some geocoded results were mapped in a town other than the town identified by the provider in their address records. In most instances the geocoded result was to a neighboring town and was within .1 miles of the recorded town. The NHBMP retained the geocoded locations and notified the provider of these discrepancies.
- For speeds reported by providers in ranges, e.g. 4G LTE, the speed tier reported was selected to include the upper end of the range.
- Some fixed wireless providers continue to report minimum download speeds < 768 kbps, e.g. outside of the NTIA domain, but maximum download speeds within NTIA

speed tier domain values. In these instances, the NHBMP reported the data based on the maximum speed reported.

B. Community Anchor Institutions

Data was submitted for 3,914 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) in the state covering the full range of categories established by NTIA, as follows:

Category	Number of CAIs	Percent of Total
1. School – K through 12	765	19.5%
2. Library	769	19.6%
3. Medical/health care	807	20.6%
4. Public safety	565	14.4%
5. University, college, other post-secondary	64	1.6%
6. Other community support – government	745	19.0%
7. Other community support – non governmental	199	5.1%
TOTAL	3,914	100.0%

In this data collection and maintenance round, the collection was largely accomplished by the nine regional planning commissions in New Hampshire, with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) & NHBMP staff at the University responsible for developing guidance, for overseeing collection, and for compiling the resulting regional data sets into a standardized statewide layer. The primary steps in the process included:

- Develop a master list of CAIs by category that were not inventoried in previous rounds through review of updated statewide lists (schools, libraries, health care facilities), existing GIS data sets (largely from local hazard mitigation plans), and local knowledge;
- Develop a list of previously identified CAIs with incomplete broadband information;
- Contact those entities to collect their broadband details using an email outreach methodology, as well as phone surveys;
- Map the location of each unmapped CAI, using existing GIS data sets, reference to aerial imagery, property boundaries, web research, and field data collection where necessary;
- Verify data (see verification section below).

IV. Validation

A. Primary Data Collection

The NHBMP utilized multiple processes to verify the broadband provider data collected during the current round. These processes, each of which is described further below, included:

- Internal verification
- Provider verification

- Ground infrastructure checks
- Use of orthophotography
- Use of parcel data
- Use of FCC filing data
- Crowdsourced data – including speed tests and surveys
- Satellite dish inventory

First, the NHBMPPP continued to use local knowledge to conduct an internal analysis of the reasonableness and consistency of our mapping results. Significant overstatements or understatements of service areas resulting from internal processing issues were readily identified and addressed. The NHBMPPP also verified the “reasonableness” of data by comparing current coverage footprints to those reported during the prior round. This allowed us to identify areas where service areas changed substantively, and to communicate these findings to the provider for verification.

Secondly, the Spring, 2012 feedback loop with providers was more robust than prior rounds, largely due to increased effort on the part of program staff to solicit comment and the strong relationship now established between the providers and program staff. This round’s efforts engaged all providers, including those who did not submit new data but whose prior data was reprocessed according to new guidelines (described above). The NHBMPPP returned maps (.pdf files) to each provider for review and correction. Where providers delivered addresses or road segments, the product returned was a geographically referenced version of the data that was submitted. For wireless providers who delivered antenna locations and specifications, the program provided maps that displayed the modeled coverage area generated from the Cellular Expert signal propagation modeling software. Some providers requested the data verification information be provided in shapefile and/or Google Earth (.kmz) format. The provider verifications yielded a number of requests for modifications, all of which are represented in the data submission.

Thirdly, the NHBMPPP performed a round of ground infrastructure checks, primarily to confirm central office locations.

Orthophotography was utilized to support a number of mapping activities. Among other applications, it assisted in verifying tower locations and mapping results for the wireless signal propagation modeling, was used as an important reference layer in the verification maps delivered to providers, and contributed extensively to the mapping and verification of Community Anchor Institutions.

Community Anchor Institution mapping was supported by two other substantive data sets – parcel data and “community destination” data. The parcel data was used to map and/or verify locations. (Note that it also was used to assist in verifying the positional accuracy of address data submitted by providers.) The statewide community destinations inventory served as a starting point for compiling and mapping municipal facilities.

The NHBMPPP utilized FCC Form 477 filings (through February, 2011) to support the verification of provider coverage areas. Analysis of tracts reported as being served by each provider against those developed from the provider’s submission allowed for verification and validation of

service areas. There were some instances where a provider's FCC report indicated a greater footprint than indicated by their data submission, and this information was relayed back to the provider during the data review period. In two cases to date, providers identified that their FCC Form 477 was incorrect and would require updating due to the NHBMP mapping and verification efforts.

Other verification measures included:

- Speed test – The NHBMP program has posted a customized speed test on the project web site (iwantbroadbandnh.org). To date, over 4,500 records have been submitted. We have processed those data to generate speed result summaries and the locations from which the tests were conducted. Through further analysis of the speed tests focusing on reported providers, the program will compare the service identified to the provider's reported coverage area to ensure there are not areas unreported, and/or areas where speed test results represent a significant deviation from the reported speed tier.
- Broadband survey – The NHBMP website also hosts an online broadband survey, encouraging users to report their broadband access (or lack thereof) at the address level. The address submitted is then geocoded, which delivers a means of verifying provider coverage data at specific locations. (The survey is also linked to the speed test, so that users completing the form are asked to take the speed test as well.) To date, 405 surveys have been completed.
- Satellite dish survey – The NHBMP has completed a drive-by inventory of satellite dishes in selected rural areas of the state, under the premise that a cluster of buildings with satellite broadband dishes signifies an area with no other broadband options available. This information has been utilized as part of the internal data review cycle.

B. Community Anchor Institutions

The CAI data has been subjected to several rounds of verification during this and previous data submission cycles. An initial round of verification was completed in May, 2010 by re-interviewing a randomly selected subset of CAI contacts (20% of the entities within each of the 7 data categories). Subsequent verification rounds, including one conducted during July/August of 2011, were accomplished by generating a broadband profile sheet for each CAI, emailing that to each CAI contact for review, and modifying the CAI record based on any updates returned.

During the current round, we modified our verification methodology to better leverage web technologies. We created an interface for CAI contacts to review and modify their individual records via the NHBMP website. This yielded a significant increase in the number of records that were verified and updated, as almost 33% of the records were reviewed (as compared to < 10% in prior rounds).