

FRANKLIN CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

28 Catherine Street, St. Albans, Vermont 05478

Phone (802) 524-2600; Fax (802) 524-1540

*Fairfield Center School • St. Albans City School • St. Albans Town Educational Center
Bellows Free Academy Union District #48 • Northwest Technical Center*

ROBERT E. ROSANE

Superintendent

STEFANIE BLOUIN
Curriculum Director

JULIE REGIMBAL
Special Education Director

MARTHA GAGNER
Business Manager

March 23, 2010

To NTIA Reviewers:

Franklin Central Supervisory Union enthusiastically supports Vermont Telephone Company, Inc.'s (VTel) proposal for a GigE fiber network, offering connectivity to Vermont schools to promote a statewide and higher education learning cooperative.

VTel's proposed system would unite all school districts in the singular motive of promoting our students to the best of their ability at a reasonable cost. The Broadband Enhanced Learning Link (BELL) would ring resonantly throughout the state. The virtual classroom would support Vermont's excellence of learning and provide students with the course curriculum to prepare them for higher learning. Teachers would have online access to the best higher education institutions for professional development. Students would have access to AP and core curriculum courses. Off-site, secure storage for student data would also be available.

As the Superintendent of the FCSU, I see VTel's vision as the viable and sustainable link to education in Vermont.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Rosane
Superintendent

Patricia H. Gaston
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction & Assessment
802-223-9796

Jessica B. Little
Director of Support Services
802-223-6341

MONTPELIER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5 High School Drive, Unit #1
Montpelier, VT 05602

FAX 802-223-9795
WEB PAGE: mpsvt.org

Mark R. Mason
Superintendent of Schools
802-223-9796

Cynthia E. Rossi
Business Manager
802-223-9798

Lynn Ribolini
Director of Facilities & Athletics
802-225-8006

March 24, 2010

NTIA
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of VTel's proposal for the funding of a high-speed, broadband network, which would serve healthcare and educational institutions across the state of Vermont.

As current VTel customers, we can attest to their ability to deliver high-quality services at reasonable cost. Our current service level has given our students and faculty ready access to information on the Internet with a reliability that has permitted our teachers to develop curriculum based on those resources.

The success with such curriculum has, predictably, led to greater demand for bandwidth and encouraged us to seek even greater benefits from Internet connectivity. The ability to participate in distance-learning programs through video conferencing, which would provide educational opportunities that would otherwise be denied a relatively small school system like ours, is of particular importance to us. However, we do not, at present, have the capacity to take full advantage of such offerings. The funding of VTel's proposal would give us that capacity and provide even greater access to resources by connecting us directly to major universities in our region.

We look forward to working with VTel to expand our educational horizons.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Mason
Superintendent of Schools

BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Community Anchor Institution and Network Points of Interest Detail Template

Please complete the Anchor Institution Details worksheet by providing information on Community Anchor Institutions that will be directly connected by the proposed network as necessary. All Community Anchor Institutions should be given a type from the specification. A Community Anchor Institution is considered a minority-serving institution if it is a post-secondary educational institution with enrollment of minority students exceeding 50% of its total enrollment. The "Project Role" column only requires a word or two, or a short phrase, not a detailed explanation of the role of project partners and community anchor institutions provided in the essay portions of the application.

Please complete the Points of Interest worksheet by providing information on all points of interest (passive, non-environmentally controlled points of interconnection, cell tower points, may be excluded), collocation facilities, central offices, head ends, and other central office facilities, network access points to last mile service providers, Internet peering points, etc. For each point of interest you may provide either a street address or geocoordinates (lat/long). You must provide detail on what the point of interest is, whether it is already existing or will be created by the proposed project. Where more than one facility type applies, select the most appropriate facility type. For example, if a central office houses a point of interconnection, select central office as the facility type, or if a cell site is located on a tower, select tower as the facility type. Interconnection Available at the Facility field should be Yes if interconnection to the proposed network is available at that location, otherwise No. The brief description field is optional and can be used to convey a better understanding of what the facility is. You may use the space at the bottom of the table to provide additional notes, if desired.

The data provided via this template will be subject to automated processing. Applicants are therefore required to provide this upload as an Excel file, and not to convert it to a PDF or other format for upload. Additionally, applicants should not modify the format of this file.

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BTOP CCI Community Anchor Institutions Detail Template								
Title: Vermont Broadband Enhanced Learning Link (VTBELL)								
	Easy Grants ID:	7508						
Facility Name	Organization	Address Line 1	City	State	Zip	Facility Type	Minority Serving Institution	Project Role



7 Pages

Withheld in their entirety
pursuant to FOIA Exemption 4
(5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(4))

March 25, 2010

Michel Guite
President
Vermont Telephone Co., Inc.

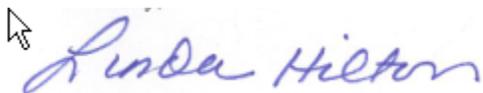
Dear Michel:

The Vermont State Colleges fully support the efforts to make broadband access available to all communities in the State of Vermont. We are acutely aware that reliable, ubiquitous broadband is a critical requirement for achieving both our institutional mission and national broadband goals for education in the 21st Century.

Currently, bandwidth availability and cost vary widely across the State and many educational institutions cannot obtain or reasonably afford the amount of throughput required to fulfill educational needs. It is in the interest of all Vermont schools and colleges that we see increased bandwidth supporting the expansion of applications and services that reliable broadband access will enable for all levels of learning.

The Vermont State Colleges wish to convey support for VTEL's proposal to bring optical fiber to every state college and every high school over 500 students, and broadband wireless to every un-served home and office in the state."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Hilton". A mouse cursor is visible at the top left of the signature.

Linda Hilton, Chief Information Officer
Vermont State Colleges



March 18, 2010

Michel Guite, President
Vermont Telephone Co. Inc.
345 River Street
Springfield, VT 05156

Dear Michel:

I am writing in support of your grant application to the RUS BIP and NTIA BTOP stimulus program applications. We would like to confirm CBN Connect's intent to interconnect our network with yours, subject to funding, so that we may use Vermont Telephone's network for transport to Rouses Point, NY, Albany NY, and to offer our customers an option for hand off to a company that can provide them with broadband transport through Vermont, New Hampshire and to Boston. The interconnection will also allow VTEL to use CBN Connect's fiber for transport to provide services to end users in our six county service area as well as to provide transport for other providers that might want to provide services in our six county footprints.

As we have discussed several times in the past, we like the work that VTEL has done and are impressed with large healthcare and education customers that you have today. This represents a big opportunity to connect the healthcare and education organizations in our region to these large and valuable resources on your network. It will be especially interesting due to our interconnection to the telemedicine network being constructed in our region through the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program that is intended to connect urban healthcare organizations to larger and urban healthcare organizations and eventually to form a National Healthcare Network in the United States. By connecting to VTEL, we are enabling connectivity of all of the healthcare and healthcare education organizations from Boston to Syracuse and from Montreal to New York City. This will be a valuable resource for our rural healthcare institutions.

We also want to note that Vermont Telephone fully owns more than 80 Meg of FCC wireless spectrum licenses for the Plattsburgh area and we are very interested in working with you to use these to assist our anchor institutions. In addition, many of the potential residential and business customers in our region will be best reached through a wireless broadband connection, and your wireless assets represent an effective solution.

Best regards,

Howard Lowe
President



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Jonathan Adelstein, Administrator
David Villano, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications
Ken Kuchno, Broadband Division
RUS
USDA
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Adelstein, Mr. Villano, and Mr. Kuchno,

This letter is to express our support and commitment to the proposed high-speed broadband network being planned by VTel. We are hopeful that the applications being submitted to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) will be approved, as they would directly assist the state of Vermont in further developing robust broadband resources for our schools and communities.

Five years ago VTel began building optical fiber to the high schools in Burlington, Montpelier, Rutland, Springfield, Chester, Hartford, and St. Albans and have been adding schools each year since. We believe they have demonstrated an ability to further serve the needs of Vermont schools and students and hope to see them continue doing so with your support.

The Vermont Department of Education believes there are many benefits of high-speed broadband access for our schools and students;

- Given the rural nature of large sections of Vermont, many of our schools and students homes are located in underserved or un-served areas, which limits their access to the Internet, and therefore vital sources of information needed to become more globally connected in the development of 21st century classrooms.
- In our schools there is increased use of real-time media via audio and video resources via the Internet. These audio and video streams provide engaging learning opportunities for students in many core curricular activities. The ability for Vermont students to connect to these resources is crucial.
- Our Supervisory Unions are now using the Vermont Data Consortium (VDC). As more teachers are utilizing the VDC, our schools will need increased through-put in their current Internet connections. Data is a powerful tool for our schools in creating learning environments meeting the needs of students.

- Many schools are positioning themselves to take advantage of online course materials to support student learning both within and beyond the classroom day. These opportunities to access courses not currently available in small rural schools, such as language courses, AP courses and enrichment activities are necessary as Vermont students look to careers beyond high school and college. The Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative, funded with federal Title IID/ARRA funds is underway and broadband expansion will bring this opportunity to many rural schools.
- Many schools in Vermont currently reach saturation levels at various points throughout the day where Internet traffic slows considerably. This inconsistent access over the course of the school day poses challenges for teaching and learning.

In order to achieve the goals we have for transforming Vermont schools and bringing education into the 21st century a reality, it is essential that we have a statewide infrastructure that furthers this work. Extending existing Internet networks, improving bandwidth, speed and access to accommodate more sophisticated applications is crucial to supporting the learning needs of Vermont students, particularly in underserved or un-served areas of the state. Expanding this capacity broadens the options for learners of all ages and brings communities together around new opportunities for learning. We believe VTel's BIP and BTOP proposals will aide us in accomplishing these goals.

We look forward to RUS and NIIA helping to increase high-speed broadband penetration in the state of Vermont.

Sincerely,



Peter Drescher
Education Technology Coordinator
Vermont Department of Education
120 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-828-5149
peter.drescher@state.vt.us



March 25, 2010

Dr. J. Michel Guite

President & CEO

Vermont Telephone Company, Inc.

354 River Street

Springfield, VT 05156

Dear Michel,

Our companies have made a bit of progress discussing how to closely cooperate on the opportunities in Vermont to improve and expand broadband communications including the opportunity to use VTel's WiMax and 700 MHz licensed spectrum and other wireless frequencies, to help implement Smart Grid in Vermont. We very much appreciate your kind offer to GMP and our technology partners, Motorola and General Electric, to operate on your licensed WiMax spectrum at zero cost for a full year during our Montpelier Smart Grid pilot. Your offer has been important to rationalizing the business model of the pilot project, which can be important to informing Vermont's overall Smart Grid communications planning.

I also want to thank you for the informative telephone calls we've had helping to focus discussion on the lively global debate comparing WiMax and 4G LTE. Your own company's gradual migration to supporting 4G LTE, rather than WiMax, seems consistent with the news released March 24, 2010, that Sprint and Clearwire too have now opened the door to migrating to LTE.

The collaboration you have advocated for, and that VTel has demonstrated, is the type of cooperation sorely needed to enable Vermonters to innovate and to bring the best of



broadband technology to serve rural homes and businesses. GMP looks forward to more opportunities to work with VTEL in pursuing these types of important objectives.

This letter expresses our enthusiastic support for your application to RUS, named "Wireless Open World (WOW) by VTel Wireless Inc." It also expresses support for your application to NTIA, named Broadband Educational Learning Link (BELL), to extend Middle Mile optical fiber broadband to 250 key community sites statewide.

As a regulated, investor-owned utility GMP cannot make firm and final commitments until all details are fully known, of course. I want to assure you and reviewers at RUS and NTIA, that the leadership at Green Mountain Power looks forward to working to incorporate VTel, VTel Wireless and WOW as meaningful long-term investors and partners in our Smart Grid efforts for Vermont.

Good luck with your application process. We are looking forward to seeing your results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Otley".

Brian Otley

Leader of Technology Operations

Green Mountain Power



March 25, 2010

Michel Guité
CEO
VTel, Inc.
354 River Street
Springfield, VT 05156

Dear Michel:

Please accept this as an enthusiastic letter of support from Shoreham Tel for VTel's proposals to expand broadband throughout Vermont. Our companies have worked closely together for years, and we share the same goals of preserving strong independent rural telephone companies, while extending rural broadband wherever possible. The schools and community institutions inside our independent telephone company footprints have a lot to gain from mutual cooperation and inter-dependence between our networks.

VTel has been a critical ally over the years as a joint member of the Telephone Association of Vermont, and together we have worked hard to make the legislative and regulatory environments of Vermont more supportive. Prohibitively high costs for Internet bandwidth have long disadvantaged rural Vermont broadband companies, and VTel has worked hard to help reduce these. The fiber Meet-Point between our companies is a meaningful conduit to distribute advanced data services. Distance learning, shared access by libraries to local and global data bases, shared access to GigE and other product trials, better cooperation between emergency responders, and better access to shared data storage, are all examples of new iterations of our historic cooperation. VTel's plans promise to accelerate delivery of rural broadband services, but to also contribute to an environment in which fiber construction and broadband become more economical and sustainable. The ultimate goal for any broadband proposal has to include continued growth in adjacent territories. VTel's plans can help all of us achieve our shared goals.

VTel has been an outstanding neighbor supporter of broadband growth in Vermont. We welcome working with you to help make VTel's broadband plans a success, and to enable all of us to cooperate to provide better broadband services to all our customers.

Sincerely,

Don Arnold, President

March 18, 2010

Michel Guité
Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Telephone Company, Inc.
354 River Street
Springfield, VT 05156

Dear Michel:

Please accept this as an enthusiastic letter of support from Topsham Telephone Company for VTel's proposals to expand broadband throughout Vermont. Our companies have worked closely together for years, and we share the same goals of preserving strong independent rural telephone companies, while extending rural broadband wherever possible. The schools and community institutions inside our independent telephone company footprints have a lot to gain from mutual cooperation and inter-dependence between our networks.

VTel has been a critical ally over the years as a joint member of the Telephone Association of Vermont, and together we have worked hard to make the legislative and regulatory environments of Vermont more supportive. Prohibitively high costs for Internet bandwidth have long disadvantaged rural Vermont broadband companies, and VTel has worked hard to help reduce these. The fiber Meet-Point between our companies is a meaningful conduit to distribute advanced data services. Distance learning, shared access by libraries to local and global data bases, shared access to GigE and other product trials, better cooperation between emergency responders, and better access to shared data storage, are all examples of new iterations of our historic cooperation. VTel's plans promise to accelerate delivery of rural broadband services, but to also contribute to an environment in which fiber construction and broadband become more economical and sustainable. The ultimate goal for any broadband proposal has to include continued growth in adjacent territories. VTel's plans can help all of us achieve our shared goals.

VTel has been an outstanding neighbor supporter of broadband growth in Vermont. We welcome working with you to help make VTel's broadband plans a success, and to enable all of us to cooperate to provide better broadband services to all our customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Davenport", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charlie Davenport
General Manager
Topsham Telephone Company
East Corinth VT, 05040

Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.



42 Wescom Road
Johnson, VT 05656-9717

Toll Free: 1-800-832-2667
Telephone: 802-635-2331
Fax: 802-635-7645

~Committed to our Members~

www.vermontelectric.coop

Sam Coleman
VTEL Corporation
354 River Street
Springfield, VT 05156-224

March 24, 2010

Dear Sam,

VEC looks forward to working with you and VTEL in your effort to secure Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program funding to construct a fiber network in northern Vermont that would provide connections through Johnson to Newport, Vermont. Our implementation of the smart grid has demonstrated the important role of fiber to ensure the reliability and security of our electric grid. VEC is the first in Vermont to have installed smart grid and we have been using smart meters for our Outage Management System since February, 2008. Copper, radio, and cellular are not reliable enough for the demands of the smart grid.

This project will also provide highly needed broadband access to Newport and the towns along the way.

Feel free to contact me if you would like additional support or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Hallquist".

David Hallquist
CEO, Vermont Electric Cooperative

March 25, 2010

Michel Guite
President
Vermont Telephone Co., Inc.

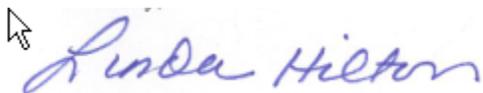
Dear Michel:

The Vermont State Colleges fully support the efforts to make broadband access available to all communities in the State of Vermont. We are acutely aware that reliable, ubiquitous broadband is a critical requirement for achieving both our institutional mission and national broadband goals for education in the 21st Century.

Currently, bandwidth availability and cost vary widely across the State and many educational institutions cannot obtain or reasonably afford the amount of throughput required to fulfill educational needs. It is in the interest of all Vermont schools and colleges that we see increased bandwidth supporting the expansion of applications and services that reliable broadband access will enable for all levels of learning.

The Vermont State Colleges wish to convey support for VTEL's proposal to bring optical fiber to every state college and every high school over 500 students, and broadband wireless to every un-served home and office in the state."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Hilton". A mouse cursor is visible at the top left of the signature.

Linda Hilton, Chief Information Officer
Vermont State Colleges



Connecting Vermont's Learning Community

Monday, March 22, 2010

Dear Michel,

This letter of support from the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative is to illustrate the large impact that VTel fiber optic project would have on the ability of our program to move forward and increase our effectiveness in providing online educational opportunities for children throughout a multitude of regions across Vermont.

The Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC) has been funded by a Vermont Department of Education grant with a \$400,000 ARRA/Title IID award to establish a statewide K-12 distance-learning organization that is managing and coordinating the efforts of Vermont schools to provide online-learning opportunities to students. Beginning Fall 2010, dozens of schools and hundreds of students will be learning online with our courses. By Fall 2011, our program will grow to provide these opportunities to thousands of students over a majority of the state. One of the key elements of VTVLC's program is to assist partnering Vermont schools develop and offer online content to other partnering schools around the state.

In working with VTel Wireless, we have had the opportunity to identify key schools that have limited access to broadband resources. Providing fiber connectivity for these regions would mean students would be able to participate in these K-12 online programs and our efforts to provide availability and effectiveness for student learning would be greatly enhanced.

We respectfully support VTel Wireless' efforts to offer fiber optic connectivity to our students and schools throughout the state in these key areas, thus maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency with which VTVLC may provide online learning opportunities to the students of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Renard, MSIT, COFT, MECF
Program Coordinator
Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative



March 22, 2010

Michel Guité
Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Telephone Company, Inc.
354 River Street
Springfield, VT 05156

Dear Michel:

I am writing in support of VTel's proposals to expand broadband throughout Vermont. Over the years we have worked together on projects and both share a vision of preserving strong independent rural telephone companies and extending rural broadband wherever possible. The schools and community institutions that we both serve have a lot to gain from mutual cooperation and inter-dependence between our networks.

Through our participation with the Telephone Association of Vermont, we have worked hard to make the legislative and regulatory environment in Vermont more supportive. Prohibitively high costs for Internet bandwidth have long disadvantaged rural Vermont broadband companies, and VTel has worked hard to help reduce these. Distance learning, shared access by libraries to local and global databases, better cooperation between emergency responders, and better access to shared data storage are all examples of new and possible iterations of our continued cooperation. VTel's plans contribute to an environment in which fiber construction and broadband become more economical and sustainable and can help all of us achieve our shared goals.

We support broadband growth in Vermont. We welcome working with VTel's broadband plans to enable all of us to provide better broadband services to all our customers

Sincerely,

Gregg L. Haskin
President & CEO

P.O. Box 9
WAITSFIELD, VERMONT 05673-0009
TELEPHONE 802-496-3391
OR 1-800-496-3391
FAX 802-496-7040

BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Subscriber Estimates Template

Please complete the complete the Subscriber Estimates worksheet.

All applicants should indicate their 8-year subscriber forecasts with a breakdown by type of subscriber (residential/individual, businesses, community anchor institutions, third party service providers) and service offerings. The names of the service offerings should match those provided in the Service Offering and Competitor Data upload, enabling reviewers to easily cross-reference between the two documents. The Year 0 column should be used to denote any existing customers within the Proposed Funded Service Area. In addition, applicants that project that they will have third party service provider customers should include a line for parties "Served by Third Party Service Providers," showing an estimate of how many residential/individual, community anchor institution, and business customers will be served by those service providers, as demonstrated in the example below. At the bottom of the table, applicants should provide customer totals across all service offerings, with and without customers indirectly served through a third party service provider (if applicable). Applicants should also include a brief discussion of their methodology for deriving these estimates.

In contrast to several other upload templates in this application, the data provided via this template will NOT be subject to automated processing. Applicants are permitted to modify the template layout in order to provide the most effective presentation of the data for their specific project, but such modifications are generally discouraged. Applicants should, in any case, ensure that they provide at least as much detail as the provided template requires. To the extent that you modify these templates please ensure that the print layouts are adjusted so that rows do not break across pages in a manner that will be difficult to understand. A PDF of this file will be automatically generated upon upload to Easygrants, and the print settings will be used to format the PDF file.

EXAMPLE

Name of Service Offering	Customer Type	Year 0	Cumulative/ Net Add	Year 1				Year 2			
				Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Mega-Metro E - 100 Mbps	Community Anchor Inst.	0	Cumulative	0	0	0	0	5	10	17	26
			Net Add	0	0	0	0	5	5	7	9
	Business	0	Cumulative	0	0	0	0	12	27	52	82
			Net Add	0	0	0	0	12	15	25	30
	Third Party Service Provider	0	Cumulative	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	6
			Net Add	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2
Served by Third Party Service Providers	Indirect - Res./Ind.	0	Cumulative	0	0	0	0	1000	3000	5000	10000
			Net Add	0	0	0	0	1000	2000	2000	5000
	Indirect - Business	0	Cumulative	0	0	0	0	2	8	18	30
			Net Add	0	0	0	0	2	6	10	12
	Indirect - Com. Anchor Inst.	0	Cumulative	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5
			Net Add	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2

Broadband Subscriber Estimates

