

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: West Central Telephone Association

Summary: West Central Telephone Association (“WCTA”), a small rural telephone operator, supplies telephone, internet, video, and other communications services for approximately 602 square miles and a total of five (5) telephone exchanges in rural west central Minnesota. Since incorporating in October of 1950, WCTA serving area includes portions of Becker, Cass, Hubbard, Ottertail, Todd and Wadena Counties with the majority of their service area in Wadena County. WCTA respectfully requests relief and seeks withdrawal of the enclosed proposed census tracts that fall within the boundaries of WCTA telephone exchanges. WCTA owns and provides fiber optic cable broadband as well as DSL broadband services that are available to 100% of WCTA service territories today including all five (5) exchanges. WCTA currently has 3,600 voice customers, of which 1,736 subscribe to Broadband services. Broadband services are offered at reasonable cooperative membership rates that remain competitive with other broadband providers in our area. WCTA is actively engaged in improving these services by deploying Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connectivity throughout 100% of their service territories and by increasing high capacity transport to 40 Gbps. This initiative is being handled by an approved Rural Utilities Service traditional loan in the total amount of \$22,200,000.00 and is scheduled to implement over the next few years with the loan construction period ending December 31, 2012. FTTP will be implemented to 100% of WCTA's subscriber base increasing broadband transmission speeds from existing service levels to a projected 20 Gbps per access node. In support of existing WCTA broadband connectivity, Connect Minnesota, a publically available interactive broadband service inventory website, provides evidence that shows all WCTA exchanges as served with WCTA High speed DSL (PDF available upon request). Therefore, WCTA, in good faith, believes that its service territories including the aforementioned Minnesota counties and enclosed census tract data, does not qualify for BTOP funding.