



SOUTHWEST TEXAS TELEPHONE COMPANY
Founded 1898

SOUTHWEST TEXAS
TELEPHONE COMPANY

P.O. BOX 128

ROCKSPRINGS, TEXAS 78880

Telephone (830) 683-2111 FAX (830) 683-4190

April 27, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Southwest Texas Telephone Company's Challenge of ACAM Model for Certain Census
Blocks Excluded as Served by a Qualified Unsubsidized Competitor
Connect America Fund
WC Docket 10-90

Southwest Texas Telephone Company ("Southwest Texas") is an Independent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC") and a Broadband Internet Service Provider ("ISP") in Texas. Southwest Texas has reviewed the Wireline Competition Bureau's (the "Bureau") Alternative Connect America Cost Model ("ACAM") Version 2.2 and Illustrative Results released on April 7, 2016. Southwest Texas hereby challenges certain census blocks that are currently excluded from receiving support under the voluntary ACAM Model because they've been presumed to serve both voice and broadband by a qualified unsubsidized competitor.

The ACAM Model

The ACAM Model excludes from support calculation those census blocks that are either served with fiber to the Premise ("FTTP") or with cable that meets the Federal Communications Commission's minimum standards. The ACAM Model also excludes from support calculation those census blocks that are presumed to be served by an unsubsidized competitor offering voice and 10/1 Mbps broadband service. In order to be considered an unsubsidized competitor, a service provider must be a facilities-based provider of residential fixed voice service and fixed broadband service. (47 CFR §54.5) Furthermore, the Bureau has noted that competing providers must meet the 2016 urban rate survey for fixed voice and broadband services, and the minimum usage allowance for eligible telecommunications carriers subject to broadband public interest obligations. (See DA 16-378, p. 3, released April 7, 2016). Using Form 477 data, the Bureau assumed that if a broadband provider reported any fixed voice connections in a state, then it offers voice service throughout its broadband service area in a state.

Challenged Census Blocks

Southwest Texas is challenging ten (10) census blocks that have been excluded from receiving support because they are presumed to be served by an unsubsidized competitor based on Form 477 data. Big Bend Telephone Company is identified in six (6) census blocks as an unsubsidized wireless competitor. In three (3) census blocks Ranch Wireless is identified as the unsubsidized wireless competitor. And in one (1) census block that Reach Broadband is identified as an unsubsidized wireless competitor. (Attachment 1 – Challenged Census Blocks).

1. The Big Bend Census Blocks

Big Bend Telephone Company (Big Bend”) is an Independent Local Exchange Carrier (“ILEC”) and Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) whose service area abuts Southwest Texas’ service area. The census blocks claimed by Big Bend that have been excluded from receiving support are 484659508002198 – 1 location; 484659508002614 – 1 location; 484659508002624 with 10 locations; 484659508002626 with 6 locations; 484659508002683 with 7 locations; and 484659508002687 with 3 locations. These census blocks are entirely within the service area of Southwest Telephone.

Big Bend did list these census blocks as being served by its company in its June 2015 Form 477 Report. However, Big Bend has reviewed the aforementioned census blocks and has determined that it neither provides voice nor broadband service to these census blocks. Further, Big Bend acknowledges that the census blocks are all within Southwest Texas’ service area. Big Bend intends to revise its Form 477 to reflect that it does not serve these census blocks at its earliest opportunity. (Attachment 2 - Letter).

Since Big Bend has acknowledged that it does not serve voice or broadband to these census blocks in Southwest Texas’ service area, Southwest Texas requests that the Bureau re-classify these census blocks as “unserved” so that they may be included in the model support calculations.

2. The Ranch Wireless Census Blocks

Ranch Wireless is claiming that it provides broadband service to three (3) census blocks with a speed of 25/4. The census blocks that have been excluded from receiving support based on Ranch Wireless’ Form 477 report are 48325002001387 with 1 location; 48325002001409 with 5 locations; and 48325002001548 with 2 locations.

Despite Ranch Wireless’ June 2015 477 Report that claims to serve these locations fixed wireless broadband at 25/4, there are at least two reasons why Ranch Wireless should not be considered a qualified unsubsidized competitor in these census blocks. First, a coverage map for Ranch Wireless that was found on the company’s website shows that its coverage area is nowhere near the disputed census blocks in Southwest Texas’ service area. (See Attachment 3 – Coverage Map). Second, Ranch Wireless’ own website advertises its residential internet plans but they do not include a plan with minimum 10/1 broadband service. Instead, the provider offers a “Ranch Boss Residential - \$69.95/month” with “up to 4Mbps with up to 10Mbps

Wildfire burst” with “100 GB” of data use; a “Ranch Max Residential - \$89.95/month” with “up to 6Mbps with up to 10Mbps Wildfire burst” with “150 GB” of data use; and a “Ranch Super Max Boss Residential - \$119.95/month” with “up to 6Mbps with up to 10Mbps Wildfire burst” with “300 GB” of data use (Attachment 4 – Residential Plans). None of these residential plans offers the requisite minimum 10/1 broadband service. Furthermore, the “Ranch Boss” plan does not offer the required 150 GB of data for minimum broadband service, and all three plans have price offerings above the rate comparability benchmark for broadband services. (Attachment 5 – Comparability Benchmarks).

Although Ranch Wireless’ website does advertise some business internet plans with up to 10/1 or higher with data caps at or above 250 GB, the rates for up to 10Mb are \$269.95/month; the rates for up to 15Mb are \$289.95/month; and the rates for up to 20Mb are 329.95/month (See Attachment 6 – Business Plans). Therefore, the rates for these business plans also do not meet the reasonable comparable broadband service benchmarks set by the Bureau.

Southwest Texas believes that Ranch Wireless’ coverage area and internet plans advertised on its own website, shows that Ranch Wireless does not provide the requisite broadband service at the minimum standards set by the FCC. Accordingly, Ranch Wireless should not be considered a qualifying unsubsidized competitor in Southwest Texas’ service area. Therefore, Southwest Texas requests that the Bureau re-classify the aforementioned census blocks as “unserved” so that they may be included in the model support calculations.

3. The Reach Broadband Wireless Census Block

Reach Broadband’s June 2015 Form 477 Report claims it is providing broadband service to one (1) census block in Southwest Texas’ service area with a speed of 12 down and 3 up. Based on Reach Broadband’s claim, the census block has been excluded for model support calculations for Southwest Texas. The census block that has been excluded from receiving support is 48325002001168 and has 55 locations.

Reach Broadband’s June 2015 Form 477 claims that is serving broadband service with 12/3 speed in this one census block in Southwest Texas’ service area, however, Reach Broadband’s own website shows that it does not serve the D’Hanis area where the census block that Southwest Texas is challenging is located. Indeed, Reach Broadband’s website shows that Reach Broadband only provides broadband service in the following location in Texas: Amherst, Crosbyton, Deleon, Earth, Floydada, Gorman, Lockney, Lorenzo, McCamey, Muleshoe, Odessa (West Odessa), Petersburg, Ralls, Springlake, and Sudan. (Attachment 7 – Webpage). The nearest any of the locations identified by Reach Broadband as served on its own website is 229 miles from the census block located near D’Hanis, Texas in Southwest Texas’ service area. Moreover, a call was made to Reach Broadband to inquire about whether the company provides service to the D’Hanis area. According to a Reach Broadband customer service representative (“CSR”), Reach Broadband does not offer any service near the D’Hanis area. (Attachment 8 – Affidavit).

Southwest Texas maintains that Reach Broadband’s Form 477 which indicates it is providing broadband service in this one census block located in Southwest Texas’ service area is simply an error. Indeed, Reach Broadband’s advertised coverage area for its broadband service

from its own website supports Southwest Texas' conclusion that the Form 477 reporting is an error. The advertised coverage area also shows that Reach Broadband should not be considered a qualifying competitor in Southwest Texas' service area because it does not actually provide broadband service in the census block. Reach Broadband's Form 477 does indicate that it provides VOIP services in Texas and the Bureau, therefore, will presume that Reach Broadband provides voice service statewide wherever it provides broadband. However, since Reach Broadband's own website shows that it does not actually provide broadband service near D'Hanis, Texas, and its own CSR has acknowledged this over the telephone, the Bureau should not presume that Reach Broadband provides voice services in the census block located in Southwest Texas' service area either. As such, Southwest Texas requests that the Bureau re-classify these census blocks as "unserved" so that they may be included in the model support calculations.

Southwest Texas Telephone Company, based on the aforementioned discussion and supporting information attached, requests that the Bureau declare the census blocks identified in this challenge letter to be not served by a qualifying unsubsidized competitor, and requests that the census blocks be included in Southwest Texas Telephone Company's support calculations for the voluntary ACAM Model that will be released sometime after this streamlined challenge process has been concluded.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



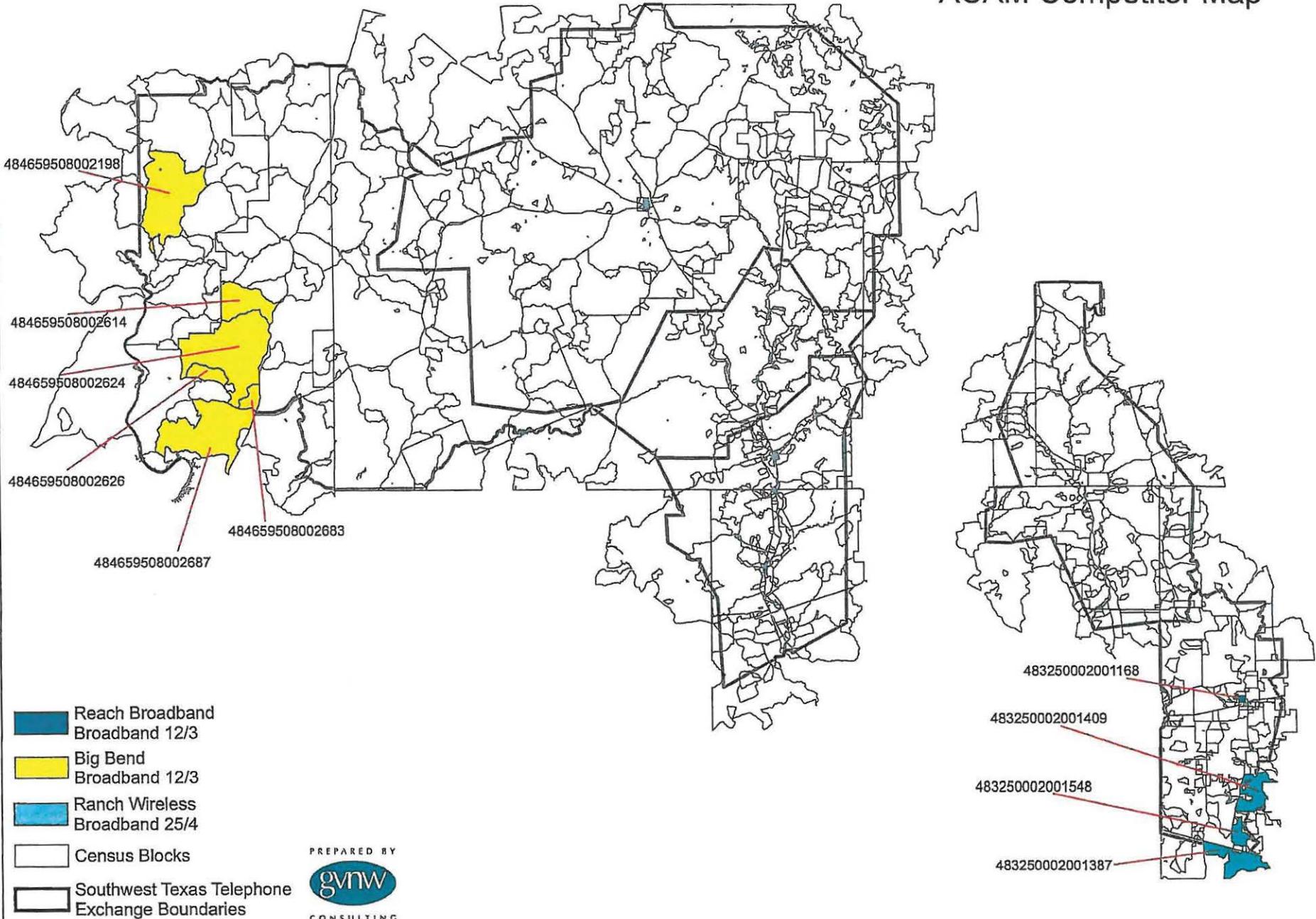
Gary C. Gilmer
President

Southwest Texas Telephone Company

Census Blocks Challenged By Southwest Texas Telephone Company

Census Blocks	FRN	SAC	Company	Holding Company
483250002001168	18270504		Reach Broadband	
483250002001387	3802303		Ranch Wireless, Inc.	
483250002001409	3802303		Ranch Wireless, Inc.	
483250002001548	3802303		Ranch Wireless, Inc.	
484659508002198	1684166	442039	Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc.	Nevill Holdings. Inc.
484659508002614	1684166	442039	Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc.	Nevill Holdings. Inc.
484659508002624	1684166	442039	Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc.	Nevill Holdings. Inc.
484659508002626	1684166	442039	Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc.	Nevill Holdings. Inc.
484659508002683	1684166	442039	Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc.	Nevill Holdings. Inc.
484659508002687	1684166	442039	Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc.	Nevill Holdings. Inc.

Southwest Texas Telephone ACAM Competitor Map



Attachment 2



Russell A. Moore

General Manager / COO

April 25, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

Big Bend Telephone Company has reviewed the census blocks listed on its' Form 477 filing and the following six blocks are not served voice or broadband from Big Bend Telephone Company:

484659508002198
484659508002614
484659508002624
484659508002626
484659508002683
484659508002687

The six census blocks mentioned above are completely in the Southwest Texas Telephone Company service area. Big Bend Telephone Company intends to make the appropriate corrections to its' Form 477 at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



Russell A. Moore
General Manager / COO
Big Bend Telephone Co.

Attachment 3



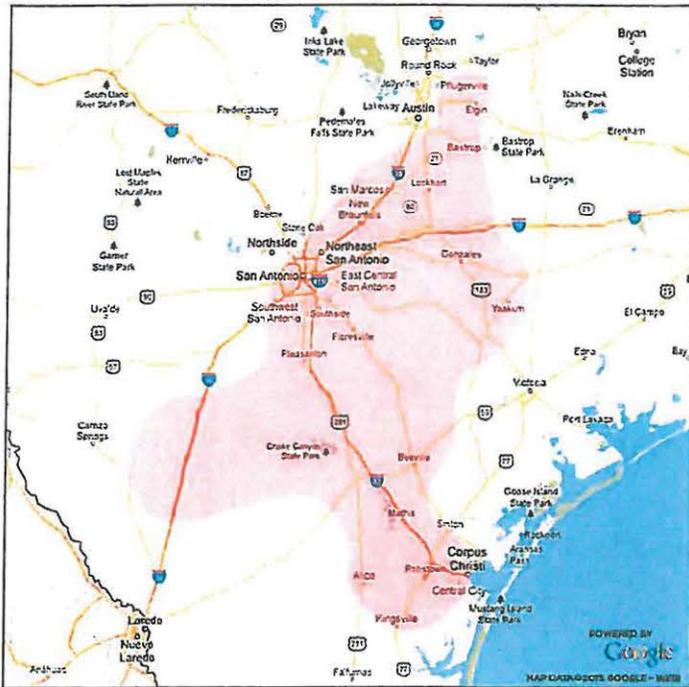
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Coverage Map



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15% OFF INSTALLATION
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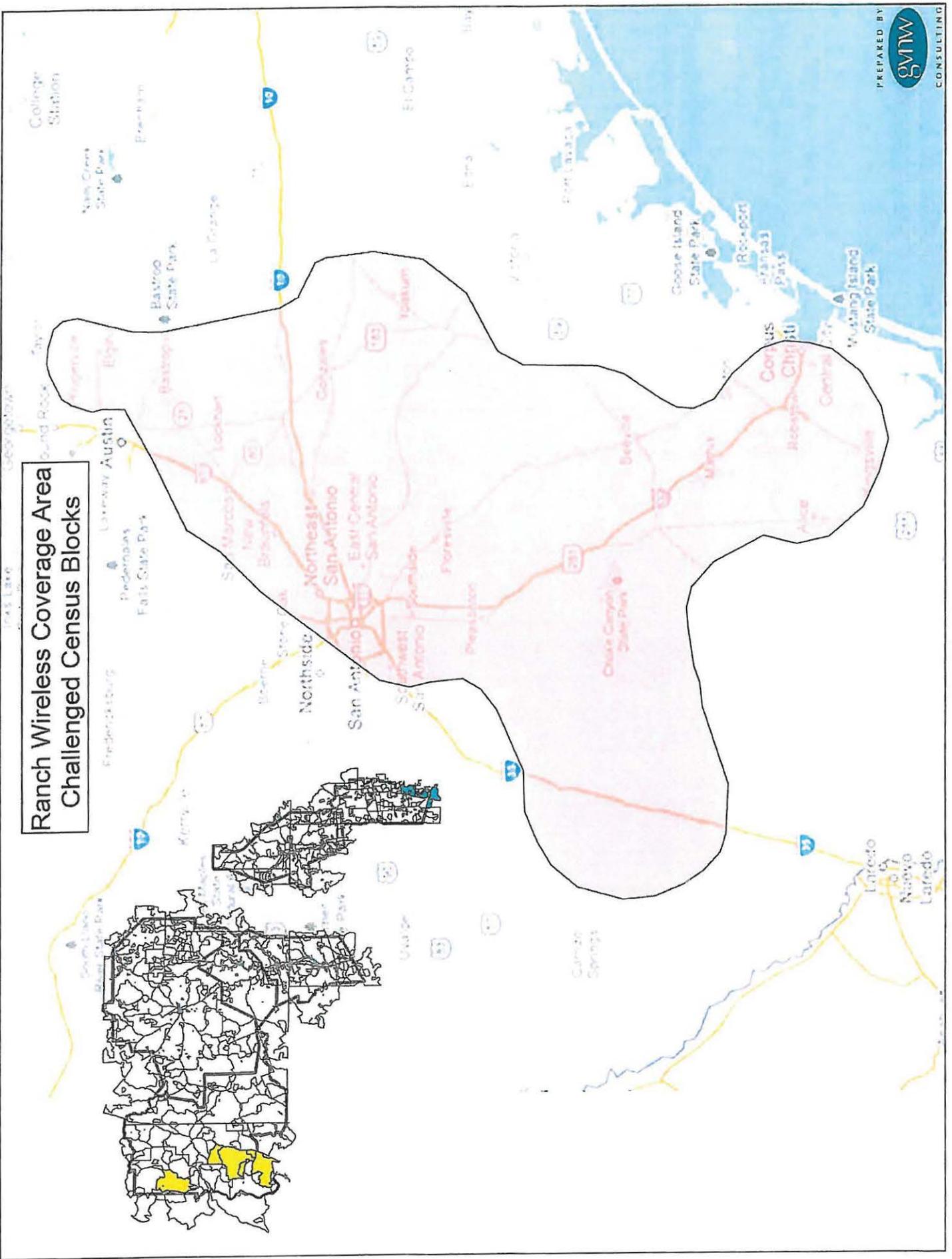
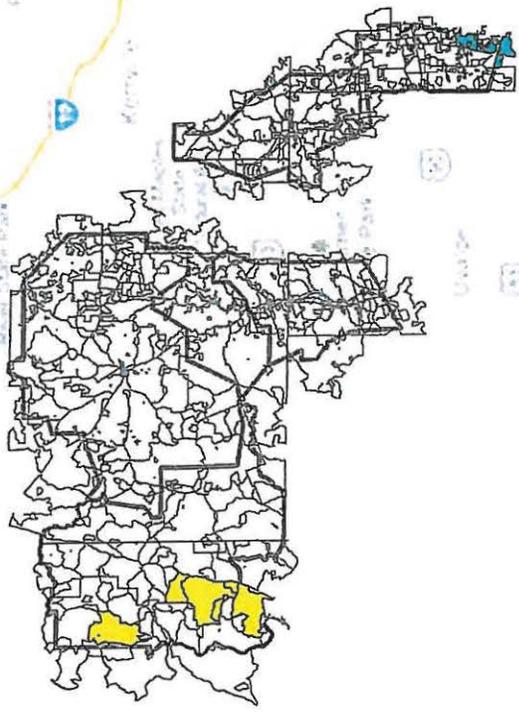
Contact Ranch Wireless

Your Email (required)

Subject

Your Name (required)

**Ranch Wireless Coverage Area
Challenged Census Blocks**



Attachment 4



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Residential Internet Plans

Ranch Wireless of Texas is a full-service provider of [Business](#) and [Residential High Speed Wireless Internet](#) providing service throughout South Central Texas. Ranch Wireless offers several wireless internet plans tailored to different needs and budgets.

Basic Residential – \$29.95/month

- up to 1Mbps with up to 5Mbps Wildfire burst
- Includes up to 30 GB of data use + \$1/GB or part thereof used over the first 30 GB

Ranch Hand Residential – \$49.95/month

- up to 2Mbps with up to 8Mbps Wildfire burst
- Includes up to 60 GB of data use + \$1/GB or part thereof used over the first 60 GB

Ranch Boss Residential – \$69.95/month

- up to 4Mbps with up to 10Mbps Wildfire burst.
- Includes up to 100 GB of data use + \$1/2GB or part thereof used over the first 100 GB

Ranch Max Residential* – \$89.95/month

- up to 6Mbps with up to 10Mbps Wildfire burst
- Includes up to 150 GB of data use + \$2/10GB or part thereof used over the first 150 GB

Ranch Super Max Residential with Static Public IP* – \$119.95/month

- up to 6Mbps with up to 10Mbps Wildfire burst
- Includes up to 300 GB of data use + \$1/10GB or part thereof used over the first 300 GB

*Ranch Max Residential and Ranch Super Max Residential plans not yet available in all areas and may require special radio equipment that must be purchased by the customer.

Maximum and sustained rates are configured as limits, not as guarantees. Maximum rates are dependent upon network conditions, service area, radio frequency band, and usage patterns. Each higher plan includes an increase in the amount of time the higher end of the plan speed is active. There is no committed minimum rate on a residential plan. A public IP may be available on a residential plan for an additional \$30/month. Committed minimum rates are standard on our Business plans. Data usage totals are monitored on our servers. The server can send an email to the account on file showing the data amount used at that time based on presets under the user control in the customer portal. The customer can also view the current usage, pay online, correct account information, etc. in the customer portal on the new server.

The Canopy or Standard Radio can be purchased for a cost of \$249 plus tax and accessories as needed with no contract, or rented from Ranch Wireless for an additional \$10/month with a two year service and rental contract (except for the Special Ranch Max Residential radio, if needed). Any rental radio accounts will still be required to pay for any additional items at the time of installation that are required to mount or otherwise install the radio and attach a computer. Not everyone will qualify for the rental option, and



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Subject

Your Name (required)

Ranch Wireless reserves the right to determine that qualification at its sole discretion. Multiple computers are allowed at no additional charge with the use of a switch or router to be supplied and managed by the customer. A router can be rented from and managed by Ranch Wireless for an additional \$15/month fee for up to three remote management incidents per month. Ranch Wireless does not allow the sharing or reselling of Internet bandwidth outside the primary household or business for which the service is purchased.

Your Message

7 C R G

Security Code:

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- [Internet Phone Service – VoIP](#)
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Phone: 830.379.0660
Email: sales@ranchwireless.com

Address:
PO Box 871
Seguin, TX 78156



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DA 15-470

Released: April 16, 2015

**WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF
2015 URBAN RATE SURVEY FOR FIXED VOICE AND BROADBAND SERVICES AND
POSTING OF SURVEY DATA AND EXPLANATORY NOTES**

WC Docket No. 10-90

Today, the Wireline Competition Bureau announces the 2015 rate floor for incumbent eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) and the reasonable comparability benchmark for fixed voice and broadband services.¹ In addition, we announce the posting of the fixed voice and broadband services data collected in the most recent urban rate survey, and explanatory notes regarding the data, on the Commission's website at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/urban-rate-survey-data>.

Based on the survey results, the 2015 rate floor for voice services is \$21.22,² and the reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services is \$47.48.³ Under the Commission's rules, by July 1, 2015, all ETCs that are incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) recipients of high-cost support must report in their annual FCC Form 481 the number of residential service lines for which the sum of the local rate and state fees (as of June 1, 2015) is below \$21.22.⁴ To the extent that an ILEC's local rates (plus state regulated fees) in 2015 are less than \$16, that carrier's high-cost support will be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis.⁵ This is the same \$16 phase-in limit for support reductions as was in effect in 2014. In addition, each ETC, including competitive ETCs providing fixed voice services,⁶ must certify in the FCC Form 481 that the pricing of its basic residential voice services is no more than \$47.48.⁷

¹ See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order*), *aff'd sub nom*, *In re: FCC 11-161*, 753 F.3d 1015 (10th Cir. 2014).

² The *USF/ICC Transformation Order* defined the average urban rate to include local end-user rates plus state regulated fees (specifically, state subscriber line charges (SLCs), state universal service, and mandatory extended area service charges). *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17751, para. 238.

³ *Id.* at 17694, para. 84.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(h).

⁵ See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order et al., 29 FCC Rcd 7051, 7077-82, paras. 77-86 (2014) (waiving full impact of local rate floor over a four-year period).

⁶ The Bureau has adopted a benchmark only for fixed voice services because "the differences in rate plans and other attributes of fixed and mobile services would make it inordinately difficult to create a unified benchmark" that

(continued...)

Under the approach adopted by the Bureau in 2014, the reasonable comparability broadband benchmark varies, depending upon the supported service's download and upload bandwidths and usage allowance.⁸ The following table provides the 2015 benchmark for the required minimum broadband offering as well as other commonly-provided service offerings:

Download Speed (Mbps)	Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Benchmark
10	1	100	\$71.40
10	1	250	\$75.99
10	1	Unlimited	\$77.80
25 ⁹	5	250	\$95.08
25 ¹⁰	5	Unlimited	\$96.89

To facilitate benchmark calculations, the Bureau will post an Excel file and online tool in which providers can plug the relevant variables to determine the benchmark for specific service characteristics at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/urban-rate-survey-data>.¹¹

Recipients of high-cost universal service and/or Connect America Fund support that are subject to broadband performance obligations are required to offer broadband service at rates that are at or below the relevant reasonable comparability benchmark in 2015.¹²

For further information, please contact Suzanne Yelen, Industry Analysis and Technology Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-7400 or TTY (202) 418-0484, or Suzanne.Yelen@fcc.gov.

- FCC -

(Continued from previous page) _____

applied to both fixed and mobile services. See *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Order, 28 FCC Rcd 4242, para. 6 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2014).

⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10); see also *USF/ICC Transformation Order* at 18046-47, para. 1026. In the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, the Commission required that as a condition of receiving high-cost support, ETCs must offer voice and broadband services in supported areas at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for similar services in urban areas. *USF/Transformation Order*, 26 FCC at 17693, 17695, paras. 81, 86.

⁸ *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 13485 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2014).

⁹ The 25 Mbps/5 Mbps benchmarks are applicable to those entities authorized to receive funding for category one projects in the Commission's rural broadband experiments. See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 29 FCC Rcd 8769, 8779, para. 26 (2014).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ We note that the Commission raised the minimum speed standard to 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream (10/1 Mbps) in December 2014. *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 et al., Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 15644, 15649, para. 15 (2014) (*December 2014 CAF Order*).

¹² ETCs will be required to certify that their rates in 2015 met this benchmark in their annual FCC Form 481, due July 1, 2016, subject to Paperwork Reduction Act approval. See *December 2014 CAF Order*, 29 FCC Rcd at 15686-88, paras. 120-122. The Bureau will issue a public notice when it has obtained Paperwork Reduction Act approval for this certification.

Attachment 6



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Business Internet Plans

Ranch Wireless of Texas is a full-service provider of [Business](#) and [Residential](#) Fixed Wireless Internet, providing service throughout South Central Texas.

Ranch Wireless establishes a dedicated wireless link to your business or residence to provide high speed internet service that is a cost effective, carrier-grade replacement for other traditional high speed internet connections.

Ranch Hand – \$49.95/month

- Up to 3Mb
- 350kb Committed Information Rate
- 50 GB Data

Ranch Boss – \$69.95/month

- Up to 4Mb
- 450kb Committed Information Rate
- 100 GB Data

Ranch Boss Enhanced – \$89.95/month

- Up to 5Mb
- 550kb Committed Information Rate
- 120 GB Data

Home Office 1 – \$109.95/month

- Up to 3Mb
- 750kb Committed Information Rate
- 150 GB Data
- 1 Static Public IP Address

Home Office 2 – \$149.95/month

- Up to 4Mb
- 850kb Committed Information Rate
- 175 GB Data
- 1 Static Public IP Address

Small Business – \$179.95/month

- Up to 3Mb
- 1000kb Committed Information Rate
- 200 GB Data
- 1 Static Public IP Address

Business 1 – \$219.95/month



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- Up to 4Mb
- 1100kb Committed Information Rate
- 210 GB Data
- 1 Static Public IP Address

Business 2 – \$239.95/month

- Up to 5Mb
- 1300kb Committed Information Rate
- 225 GB Data
- 1 Static Public IP Address

Business 3 – \$269.95/month

- Up to 10Mb*
- 1.5Mb Committed Information Rate
- 250 GB Data
- 1 Static Public IP Address

Business 4 – \$299.95/month

- Up to 15Mb*
- 2Mb Committed Information Rate
- 275 GB Data
- 1 Static Public IP Address

Business 5 – \$329.95/month

- Up to 20Mb*
- 2.5Mb Committed Information Rate
- 300 GB Data
- 1 Static Public IP Address

Static Public IP – \$30.00/Month

- Included on the Home Office and higher plans.

Email only – \$60.00/Year

- For those that have moved away but want to continue to have our wonderful email and web mail services!

Dedicated Internet Access

- No data limit per month for 1.5Mb x 1.5Mb, 3Mb x 3Mb, and 6Mb x 6Mb dedicated connection. Call us today to hear about our specials in your area.

Equipment Pricing

- Radio/Antenna \$250 to \$350 for radio and antenna. Both Canopy and Wifi options in some areas.
- Installation – if needed – is extra cost.
- 3.65 GHz Licensed band radios are \$600.
- Highest speeds only available on the new Canopy 450 system now available in some areas.
- Ask about your area options.
- Quotes made after a free site survey.

Your Message

8 F A 8

Security Code:

- Radio Rentals available with a minimum 2 year term contract.
- Any installation site specific extra equipment costs are due in full at the time of installation.

The site survey will recommend a height and placement of antenna. Save some money by doing it yourself. Installation averages about \$100 for labor if we do it for you.

* Max speed depends on your location, network loading, and your path to the tower. Highest MIR speeds only available on the new Canopy 450 system now available in some areas. Ask about your area options. Dedicated connections available for increased costs per month. Above account pricing subject to data amount limits as described in our Acceptable Use Policy. Dedicated connections are not subject to data amount limits and include a static public IP – call for pricing to fit your unique need. Basic install is defined as mounting the radio/antenna to an existing pole and drilling cat 5 through an exterior wall to your adjacent computer/router. This is NOT satellite! This works in the rain! No phone needed! Low latency! Gamers love it! Don't delay! Dump those flakey satellite connections for a highly stable link to the internet.

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Attachment 7

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- High Speed Internet
- Contact Reach Broadband

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Ultra-fast download speeds
Stream HD Video like never before
Special offers available in some areas

A faster, more reliable internet experience

Speed up your world. **Contact Us Today!** Speeds as high as 12mbps*, prices as low as \$19.95/mo



With ultra fast upload and download speeds you get more from the web, faster

Reach High-Speed Internet is convenient and easy to use with its always-on connection and speeds that download in seconds and not minutes. No phone lines are needed, so there are no more busy signals or waiting. We offer packages and pricing to fit every speed need and budget. High-speed internet service is the best choice for today's internet user!



Get more from your online gaming with lower pingtimes and faster content download

Depending on where you live, Reach Broadband uses either high speed cable internet, or leading-edge wireless technology to deliver blazing fast broadband speeds to rural areas. Dialup and satellite internet are things of the past – switch to Reach Broadband's always-on connection and start experiencing the internet the way it was meant to be experienced!

Available In:
 Texas: Amherst, Crosbyton, Deleon, Earth, Floydada, Gorman, Lockney, Lorenzo, McCamey, Muleshoe, Odessa (West Odessa), Petersburg, Ralls, Springlake, Sudan
 *Up to 12mbps service not available in all areas.

Standard Pricing

Download Speed	Monthly Rate
1mbps	\$19.95
2mbps	\$29.95
3mbps	\$34.95
6mbps	\$49.95 (Muleshoe, Sudan, Earth: \$38.00)
10mbps	\$64.95 (Muleshoe, Sudan, Earth: \$42.00)
12mbps (3mbps upload)	\$69.95 (Muleshoe, Sudan, Earth: \$48.00)
12mbps (5mbps upload)	\$79.95

Additional fee for cable modem rental if needed. Rates do not include taxes or fees.

-
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STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF EDWARDS

AFFIDAVIT OF GARY C. GILMER

BEFORE ME, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared Gary C. Gilmer, who, being duly sworn upon his oath, stated as follows:

1. My name is Gary C. Gilmer. I am over 21 years of age, of sound mind, have never been convicted of a felony, and am fully competent to make this Affidavit. I am President of Southwest Texas Telephone Company (“Southwest Texas” or the “Company”), a privately-held corporation that is an Independent Local Exchange Carrier (“ILEC”). In my capacity as President of the Company, I am responsible for all operational and financial aspects of the Company. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this Affidavit. The following statements of fact are true and correct.

2. I submit this Affidavit in support of the ACAM Model Competition Challenge Letter filed by Southwest Texas with the Commission relating to certain census blocks that have been excluded from the ACAM Model support calculations for Southwest Texas because these location have been presumed served by qualifying unsubsidized competitors.

3. For several years I have known Big Bend Telephone Company (“Big Bend”) to be a neighboring ILEC that shares a service area boundary with Southwest Texas Telephone Company. As an ILEC, Big Bend has never competed with Southwest Texas in Southwest Texas’ service area by offering voice or broadband service to consumers.

4. I have never known of Ranch Wireless, Inc. or Reach Broadband to offer or to provide voice or broadband service to customers in any census block located within Southwest Texas’ exchange.

5. After being informed that Reach Broadband had claimed in a Form 477 Report to the Commission that it offers broadband service to a census block located in Southwest Texas’ service area near D’Hanis, Texas, I made a telephone call to Reach Broadband to inquire about the service it provides in the D’Hanis area. I was told by the Reach Broadband a Customer Service Representative that Reach Broadband does not offer any service in the D’Hanis area or anywhere near the D’Hanis area.

Further affidavit saith naught.


Gary C. Gilmer

27 SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME by the said Gary C. Gilmer on this day of April, 2016, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.

Frances Nix
Notary Public, State of Texas



(Printed or stamped name of notary)

My commission expires: _____