

Comments in Docket 07-52 and 08-7, the Broadband Marketing Practices proceeding. If this is late-filed, I move that these comments be treated as original comments. The news story quoted in full in the comments may not reach the Commission or staff any other way.

This news story appeared today in the 'Daily Herald' published out of Provo Utah.

Points to many of the issues laid out in other comments, including some I've submitted in this case, including speed throttling, price tiering, and other issues.

I urge the Commission therefore to ban 'price for speed' tiering, as it puts a gap between those who can afford good broadband Internet service, and those who cannot. It may be necessary for the Commission to set standards on upload vs. download speeds as well. One scheme is mentioned in this article.

Upon reading the article, there are claims that need to be investigated about requiring new equipment to take advantage of the new speeds, and I thought most 802.11g and similar routers were supposed to have throughputs higher than that, and the 802.11g routers are standard in the business now, there seems to be no mention of higher-speed routers and that means that most of the equipment today should take care of the average customer taking advantage of higher speeds under 100mbps.

The Commission and its staff need to investigate all claims of speed to see which is correct, how to monitor and regulate minimum standards, and even pricing schemes along with speed schemes and price vs. speed tiering.

The following was retrieved from:

<http://www.heraldextra.com/content/view/263919/17/>

25 April 2008. Assume it is under copyright although no mention is given.

Qwest juices up Internet service
DAILY HERALD

Joe Pyrah

Feeding the pent-up demand for higher Internet speeds, Qwest Communications International Inc. is rolling out a broadband system nearly three times faster than its current offerings. As of today, customers in parts of Draper and Salt Lake City have access to 20-megabits-per-second download speeds, if they want to pay for it.

The new service will cost \$99 on top of a paid phone line or \$5-\$15 more without one. In return, you can get speeds capable of downloading a two-hour movie in six minutes or 30 songs in one minute.

"We're very excited about fiber to the node, and we believe our customers will be excited," said Qwest spokesman Gary Younger.

"To the node" means that it still has to travel a short distance over copper lines to customers' homes. Some may require new equipment to take advantage of the speed.

While the service isn't available in Utah County yet, Younger said the company is rolling out the service through the rest of this year, with "more announcements soon."

The speed boost is available because of a \$300 million company-wide effort to extend fiber optics to neighborhood nodes.

The announcement comes in the midst of hard questions regarding the municipally owned fiber projects UTOPIA and iProvo.

Those systems in some cases offer faster download speeds than even Qwest's new offerings and their future capacity remains substantially higher.

They also have faster upload speeds. The fiber systems typically offer the same upload speed as their download speeds. Younger says uploads via Qwest will remain at about 1 Mbps.

While the municipal systems may hold the lead in speed, they're struggling financially.

UTOPIA officials are asking their 11 cities to back millions of dollars in new bonds, and Provo leaders are trying to figure out how to stop their system from losing \$2 million a year.

High-speed service