



VIA ECFS
March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Attention:
Wireline Competition Bureau

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment –Expression of Interest

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Big River Telephone Company, LLC (“Big River”) hereby expresses interest in participating in the Federal Communication Commission’s rural broadband experiments initiative to provide reliable, high speed data and voice services in a 7 county rural footprint in southeast Missouri.

Background on Big River

Big River Telephone Company is headquartered in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and we are one of the oldest competitive telephone companies in the United States. Big River was founded in 1983 as a competitive long distance provider and has evolved over the years into one of the premier Competitive Local Exchange Companies in the United States.

Big River Telephone started out as a Long Distance reseller and migrated to a CLEC servicing the needs of customers in Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky. Big River Telephone has since evolved into one the market leaders for delivering VoIP – Digital Telephone Service – to the cable industry.

Big River enjoys a successful record of deploying wireline and wireless networks that service thousands of residential and commercial customers in Southeast Missouri.

The Company’s executive team has combined telecommunications experience that exceeds 100 years.

Proposed Service Area

State	County	CountyName	Census Tract	Eligible High Cost Locations	Extremely High Cost Locations
MO	29017	Bollinger	29017950100	1671	208
MO	29017	Bollinger	29017950200	599	26
MO	29017	Bollinger	29017950300	1504	255
MO	29031	Cape Girardeau	29031880100	1036	105
MO	29031	Cape Girardeau	29031880200	566	33
MO	29031	Cape Girardeau	29031880300	1133	106
MO	29031	Cape Girardeau	29031880400	38	0
MO	29031	Cape Girardeau	29031880600	236	5
MO	29031	Cape Girardeau	29031881500	21	1
MO	29123	Madison	29123960100	1431	214
MO	29123	Madison	29123960200	31	1
MO	29123	Madison	29123960300	729	122
MO	29157	Perry	29157470100	660	67
MO	29157	Perry	29157470200	312	17
MO	29157	Perry	29157470500	590	70
MO	29186	Ste. Genevieve	29186960100	369	26
MO	29186	Ste. Genevieve	29186960300	98	4
MO	29186	Ste. Genevieve	29186960400	803	43
MO	29187	St. Francois	29187950101	280	10
MO	29187	St. Francois	29187950102	124	19
MO	29187	St. Francois	29187950600	16	1
MO	29187	St. Francois	29187950700	556	21
MO	29221	Washington	29221460100	941	90
MO	29221	Washington	29221460200	740	173
MO	29221	Washington	29221460300	10	3
MO	29221	Washington	29221460400	489	19
MO	29221	Washington	29221460500	623	85

Reference: <http://transition.fcc.gov/bureaus/wcb/ExperimentEligibleLocationsPN020514.csv>

Proposed Services and Packages

Along with broadband offerings, Big River will bundle - unlimited basic and expanded area telephone service, long distance, operator and directory services, voicemail, advanced phone features and E- 911

- **Residential**

- 5Mbps down / 1 Mbps Up \$54.90 a month (includes Modem with Built in WiFi)(Customer can save an additional \$5 if they sign up for autopay) (no cap)
- 10Mbps down / 1 Mbps Up \$79.90 a month (includes Modem with Built in WiFi)(Customer can save an additional \$5 if they sign up for autopay) (no cap)
 - Most packages are self install. If install required there is a \$0 upfront charge

- **Commercial**

- 2 year 5Mbps down / 1 Mbps Up \$64.90 a month (includes Modem with Built in WiFi)(Customer can save an additional \$5 if they sign up for autopay) (no cap)
- 2 year 10Mbps down / 1 Mbps Up \$89.90 a month (includes Modem with Built in WiFi)(Customer can save an additional \$5 if they sign up for autopay) (no cap)
- 3 year 5Mbps down / 1 Mbps Up \$54.90 a month (includes Modem with Built in WiFi)(Customer can save an additional \$5 if they sign up for autopay) (no cap)
- 3 year 10Mbps down / 1 Mbps Up \$79.90 a month (includes Modem with Built in WiFi)(Customer can save an additional \$5 if they sign up for autopay) (no cap)
 - Most packages are self install. If install required there is a \$0 upfront charge

Anchor Institutions

A large number of anchor institutions including; public safety entities, and critical community organizations passed and/or involved with this project (e.g., health care, education, libraries, etc.) occupy the proposed footprint. Big River is working extensively with representatives with most of the sheriffs departments, police departments, fire protection districts, school districts, libraries, hospitals and clinics that operate in the service territory. There are approximately 140 such key anchor institutions in the service territory.

Proposed Technology

Big River will be utilizing a wireless broadband network using AWS licensed spectrum for delivery of high speed internet and voice services. The Advanced Wireless Services (AWS) frequency used by Big River will operate in the 2.110 to 2.120 Ghz in the downlink (tower to customer) and 1.710 to 1.720 in the uplink (customer back to tower). Big River will be deploying Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology over these licensed frequencies. LTE is a 3GPP standards-based technology and is deployed globally.

Big River will be providing high speed Internet access at download speeds up to 14.4 Mbps and upload speeds of 5.8 Mbps.

Existing Providers

There are a small number of existing service providers within the service area. AT&T provides ADSL service within <18,000 feet of their serving wire centers hence their coverage is limited and also falls within "served areas". Charter Communications also provides broadband via coaxial cable and is also centered in more populated centers within our proposed service area.

Project Timeline

Big River does not own construction assets but currently works with several engineering and construction firms which are ready to commence buildouts as required to cover the target areas. Much of the foundational engineering is underway for the project and we estimate that construction could begin within 60 days of funding. Effectively, we are shovel ready. We anticipate completion to 65% of addresses within 24 months and up to 90% within an additional 18 months.

Scalability

Big River has mapped out plans to deploy broadband in its seven county serving area, defined within the census tracts listed above. The buildout process involves securing land, if needed, building towers or leasing space on existing structures, installing fiber and then deploying the service within each tract.

Funding

Big River is unable to estimate the construction costs and the amount of funding required because the unserved high-cost census blocks with the selected census Tracts have yet to be identified. These costs will be identified if a formal proposal (phase 2 of the applicaiton) is submitted.

We trust you will find this information sufficient and provide us with an authorization to proceed. However, should you require additional information, please contact Jay Briscoe, Manager – Wireless Engineering and Operations at (314) 225-2255.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Keaveny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Kevin Keaveny

Chief Technical Officer
Big River Broadband, LLC
(314) 225-2207