

May 3, 2007

Dear Broadband Survey Recipients:

The purpose of this correspondence is to permit the Staff to respond to questions and potential concerns regarding the broadband survey you received this week. We hope answers to the following questions are helpful.

(1) The survey requests responses by next Tuesday. Why the sense of urgency in responding to the survey?

Response: The response date is being driven by factors at the federal level. The FCC recently released a Broadband Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WC Docket No. 07-38 and a Broadband Notice of Inquiry in GN Docket 07-45. The first comments in these dockets are due May 16, 2007. In addition, the Universal Service Joint Board released its recommendation on May 1. Comments are due May 31, 2007.

(2) What is the purpose of the survey?

Response: First, let us say that the purpose of the survey is not to focus on broadband deployment activities of any certain company. In fact, our survey is designed to gauge broadband deployment from all landline sources in all areas of Missouri, not just those of any particular segment of the industry or area of the state.

The purpose of the survey is to gather information so the Commission can provide well-informed input on the various federal inquiries.

(3) Will the survey results be made public?

Response: There are no plans to make the actual survey results public. However, it should be expected that certain general conclusions will be drawn from survey responses, and those general conclusions will be made public. The following may serve as examples of general statements likely to be drawn from the survey results.

(a) In communities with less than 5,000 residents, X percent of households have access to some form of landline broadband Internet access.

(b) In “out-state” Missouri, X percent of households have access to some form of landline broadband Internet access.

(c) In Missouri’s major metropolitan areas, the average upload/download speed is X megabits (or kilobits) per second.

(d) In Missouri's major metropolitan areas, X percent of households have access to X broadband providers.

(e) The average price consumers in Missouri pay for broadband access is \$X.XX per month.

(f) In Missouri, X percent of telephone exchange areas have [do not have] access to [any] some form of landline broadband access.

(4) Will my survey responses be kept confidential?

Response: Yes. Information obtained from the survey results will be kept confidential. Additionally, all information made public will be done so in a manner that avoids the possibility of readers being able to obtain confidential information by "back door" methods. For example, if a "cable TV company" reports a certain quantity of broadband customers in an exchange and the "local telephone company" also reports a certain quantity, a concern immediately arises when publishing the total quantity of customers because each competitor may be expected to simply subtract its own customer quantity in order to determine the quantity of its competitor's customers. Every effort will be undertaken to minimize the potential for obtaining confidential information by such back-door manner and all confidential information will be kept confidential.

(5) What reporting period (i.e. 2005 or 2006) is to be used for the data?

Response: The survey responses should be based on the most recent data available.

(6) How was the number of households in Column One calculated?

Response: The figure(s) in column one represent the Staff's estimation of the number of residential households on a telephone exchange basis. The figure(s) are based on a compilation of residential telephone exchange access lines reported by all local exchange carriers in Missouri on an exchange-specific basis. Included among the access lines forming the basis of our estimation are access lines provided by C-LECs; I-LECs; resellers; "pure" resellers; "UNE-P" providers; "UNE-L" providers; "wholesale" providers; "retail" providers, "Cable TV" telephone providers as well C-LECs utilizing their own switch but utilizing the outside plant "loop" facilities of a cable TV company. The number of access lines from all sources was added and a ten percent allowance was then estimated to account for households for multiple lines. Similarly, a four percent allowance was calculated to account for households estimated as not having landline telephone service. It should be noted that "Integrated VoIP" lines are normally reported to the MoPSC but such lines were not counted because of the likely hood that such methods would result in "double counting" the number of residential households (stated differently, the number of "naked" DSL lines is believed to be relatively small). Lastly, and as can be seen, there are 688 telephone exchange areas in Missouri. According to this method of estimation, there are approximately 2,157,866 households in Missouri.

(7) Should the number of households in column one be changed by the survey respondent?

Response: No; the numbers in column one represent the survey base line and should not be changed.