

Title **0004** 03/21/2022

by **Marlena Jahn** in **RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT - BROADBAND ACCELERATION GRANT YR 2 APPLICANTS**

id. 23741640

108 North Main Street
P.O. Box 108
Holyrood, Kansas
67450
United States
785-252-4000
marlenajahn@hbcomm.net

Original Submission

03/21/2022

Please provide your name: **Marlena Jahn**

Please provide your address: **108 N. Main Street
Holyrood
Kansas
67450
US**

Please provide a phone number: **785-252-4000**

Please provide your email address: **marlenajahn@hbcomm.net**

I am providing response comments related to the following application (choose one): **HBCable - Kanopolis**

I am responding to concerns this project: **Proposes to serve an area that already has service**

Please provide your response to the public comments received in the text box below. **In response to Challenge 79:**

1. Eagle expressed concern that “wireless service would necessarily also cover the areas immediately surrounding the transmitter.” However, as stated in its application, “H&B is not targeting the cities of Ellsworth or Kanopolis; it is targeting the residents outside of city limits who currently have poor or no broadband service.” Any wireless coverage overlap of Eagle’s fiber facilities is incidental and unavoidable due to the nature of wireless propagation, as it is not H&B’s intention to provide service or use grant monies or facilities to

overbuild another provider. To provide high quality wireless service, it is important to install wireless equipment on a tall structure within or near the intended service area. The grain elevator in Kanopolis is the best possible location for deploying the requisite wireless antennas necessary. The position of these antennae will allow H&B's wireless solution to reach the unserved and underserved rural Kansas residents who cannot be served by current facilities. H&B did not include any locations or areas served by Eagle's fiber network in this application and has no intentions of using this wireless coverage to provide service to those residents who already have sufficient broadband available.

2. In response to Eagle's suggestion that H&B should lease fiber, it is important to note that H&B has proposed to bury its own fiber between Ellsworth and its Kanopolis wireless location to guarantee quality of service throughout its network. By building its own facilities, H&B would be solely responsible for the facilities maintenance and service. This ownership would allow for guarantees on the level of service and both the timeliness and scale of response to any service interruptions. The placement of its own fiber facilities ensures a long term, lower cost of service as compared to leasing similar facilities. Furthermore, placement of its own facilities allows for scalability without incurring any additional lease cost.

3. Eagle noted, "the fiber lines that H&B intends to construct in Kanopolis are capable of serving a substantial portion of the city." H&B's goal is to serve residents outside of city limits who currently have little or no broadband access. This grant application does not propose to serve any customers with existing access to sufficient broadband. H&B agrees that the grant program funds are best used by not overbuilding existing infrastructure in an urban area.

4. Eagle has concerns with H&B 's claim that they "will offer broadband service to 140 households in a municipality in rural Ellsworth County," and indicated that H&B was referring to Kanopolis. The application stated, "H&B will offer high speed broadband access to 140 households and 4 businesses, 1 of which is a municipality, in rural Ellsworth County." Municipality in this instance refers to a city or county governed service department. None of the locations referenced in H&B's application are within Eagle's fiber footprint, nor do they have access to Eagle's fiber infrastructure. The locations referenced in the application are rural customers who are truly lacking high speed broadband. This application is not intended to overbuild anyone's facilities but rather to bring high quality broadband service to unserved and underserved locations in rural Kansas.

Please provide supporting documents relative to your comments. Please submit multiple files as a ZIP file.

n/a

By submitting this form for public comment and evidence to support your comment, you are accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted and that it is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You agree to be contacted by the Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Commerce should the need arise. Furthermore, by making this submission, you understand that Kansas Department of Commerce and the Office of Broadband Development reserve the right to publicly publish your comment and evidence provided. Falsification of information will result in rejection of future public comment submissions and could result legal action. Please type your name and today's date in the text box below.

Marlena D. Jahn, 03/21/2022
