



## THE FEDERAL WIRE

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### About this Newsletter

Greetings from Strain Slattery Barkley & Co. This is the first edition of our e-newsletter *THE FEDERAL WIRE* that is aimed at providing our clients with the latest information specifically related to Federal proceedings regarding the telecommunications industry. Each issue will give you up to date information about the broadband stimulus legislation, procedures for applying for grants and loans, important deadline filing dates, Federal legislation regarding the telecommunications industry, and links to read-worthy articles that you may have missed.

### Quick Links

- [NTIA Broadband Stimulus](#)
- [Economic Stimulus Information](#)
- [RUS Telecommunications Home](#)
- [Broadband Opportunities for Rural America](#)
- [Federal Grants](#)
- [Central Contractor Registration \(CCR\)](#)

### Broadband Stimulus Information

There have been a few leaks and interviews over the past few weeks regarding the release of the broadband stimulus grants and loans rules and regulations, but overall, the agencies have been pretty tight lipped about the details of this information. At this point, it does not appear that definitions for the key terms of broadband, unserved, and underserved, public interest, and rural will be released early as many companies had hoped.

It sounds like the Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) will be published as early as next week, but most likely before July 1, so either way, we should have the information in the next two weeks. However, as we have seen since March, the implementation of the program is subject to change. I have attached an internal memo from the RUS to its employees and subsequently posted on their website. The main change from this memo appears to be that a joint NOFA from NTIA and RUS will be published in the Federal Register. Previously, it was stated that separate NOFAs would be published simultaneously by each agency.

With the news that the first available funds will not be allocated until December 2009, there have been a few requests from companies and public officials to release broadband funding much earlier than that time frame. A few days ago, the Governor and state delegation of Vermont sent a letter to Vice President Biden and their U.S. Senators asking for the allocation of funding as soon as possible so that they do not miss the state's construction season.

### Filing Deadlines

#### June

**30:** Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) Use Certification

#### July

**21:** Form 497: Lifeline and Link Up Worksheet

**31:** Form 507: ICLS Line Counts

## Articles of Interest

### Open Range Signs \$100 Million Deal for Rural WiMAX

By *Telecompetitor.com*

Open Range Communications, a Colorado based rural wireless network operator, has signed a five year agreement with Alvarion for WiMAX equipment that could reach \$100 million. The deal provides the equipment necessary to build Open Range's broadband wireless network, which spans 546 rural markets, across 17 states, covering 6 million people.

<http://telecompetitor.com/node/1312>

### Bill Would Limit Broadband Fees Based on Use

By *Grant Gross, IDG News Service*

A new bill in the U.S. House of Representatives would require large broadband providers to get permission from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission before rolling out broadband subscription fees based on bandwidth use.

[http://www.pcworld.com/article/166866/bill\\_would\\_limit\\_broadband\\_fees\\_based\\_on\\_use.html](http://www.pcworld.com/article/166866/bill_would_limit_broadband_fees_based_on_use.html)

### Julius Genachowski to ramp up efforts to ensure equal access on the Internet

By *Jeanne Cummings, Politico.com*

The political sea change brought by Democratic dominance that's already affecting the energy and health care sectors is about to wash over a new one: technology.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0609/23210.html>

### Avoiding a \$300 Million Broadband Mapping Boondoggle

By *Karl Bode, Broadband DSLreports.com*

As we've frequently discussed, a broadband mapping organization by the name of Connected Nation stands to grab a huge chunk of the government's new \$300 million budget set aside for broadband mapping. But consumer advocates believe the group is little more than a front organization for giant carriers like AT&T and Verizon -- tasked with over-inflating broadband penetration numbers to make carriers look good and keep government regulation at bay.

<http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Avoiding-A-300-Million-Broadband-Mapping-Boondoggle-102748>

### FCC develops strategy on Rural Broadband

By *Marguerite Reardon, CNET News*

Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps released a report on broadband strategy for rural America on Wednesday.

The report was mandated as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. In that bill Congress asked the Federal Communications Commission to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to submit "a report describing a comprehensive rural broadband strategy."

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578\\_3-10250404-38.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-10250404-38.html)

I will keep you posted on the latest developments as they become available. Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have at this time.

If you know coworkers or anyone else that would be interested in receiving this electronic publication, please have them contact David Slattery ([dslattery@ssbcpas.com](mailto:dslattery@ssbcpas.com)) to be added to the email list.

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