

USAC and the Connect America Fund

Broadband Deployment Verification Reviews

March 22, 2023



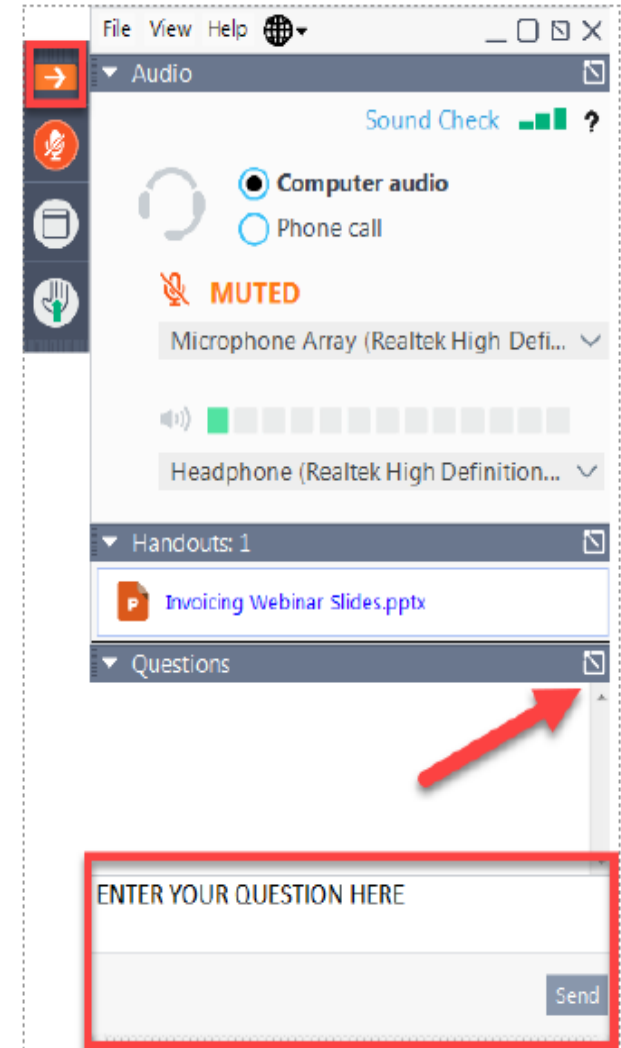
Universal Service
Administrative Co.

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- If your audio or slides freeze, restart the webinar.
- A copy of the slide deck is in the “Handouts” section of webinar panel.



Today's Speaker

- **John Putman**

Communications Specialist | High Cost

USAC and the Connect America Fund

Broadband Deployment Verification Reviews



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

High Cost and the Connect America Fund (CAF)

The High Cost program ensures universal availability of essential telecommunications services in rural America.

- **Legacy Voice Funds**
 - Subsidize voice service to provide universal access to basic phone service
 - Calculate support based on carrier costs
 - Provide support to traditional rural telephone companies
 - Are subject to USAC audit process
- **Modernized Broadband Funds (Connect America Fund)**
 - Subsidize broadband to support advanced communications networks and high-speed Internet access
 - Rely on forward-looking cost models and competitive bidding to give carriers a set amount of support to deploy broadband at certain speeds over a clear timeline—with interim and final deployment milestone deadlines—to a defined number of locations in rural communities
 - Provide support to not only traditional rural phone companies, but also rural electric cooperatives, cable operators, wireless operators, wireless Internet service providers and satellite providers
 - Are subject to compliance framework to ensure required deployment

Connect America Fund Compliance

USAC closely monitors carrier compliance with broadband deployment obligations to ensure that carriers are using CAF support to build out high-speed Internet access that meets minimum speed and latency standards to required location counts by relevant deployment milestone deadlines in rural areas eligible for funding.

Compliance process consists of three steps:

HUBB Portal: Tracking Broadband Deployment

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Network Performance Testing: Measuring Speed and Latency

Carriers may also be subject to site visit audits following final deployment milestones.

This compliance framework safeguards Connect America Fund accountability, transparency and integrity.

HUBB Portal: Tracking Broadband Deployment

- Carriers participating in modernized funds with defined fixed broadband build-out obligations – requiring them to provide voice and broadband service to a specific number of fixed locations in areas eligible for support - must file deployment data annually with the High Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) portal
- HUBB collects the geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) of locations where carriers are deploying broadband using CAF support, the broadband speeds available at those locations (speed tier) and deployment dates
- HUBB performs automated, real-time validation of data submissions and only accepts locations that pass all validations checks:
 - Checks that lat/long of a reported location fall within area eligible for funding
 - Checks that the location is not a duplicate of one already submitted
 - Checks that date of deployment falls within fund timeline
- HUBB tracks carrier progress toward meeting interim and final deployment milestones. Carriers with annual milestones must also complete separate milestone certifications (including separate certifications by speed tier) in HUBB
 - Carriers that miss a deployment milestone are required to inform the FCC, USAC and relevant state and Tribal governments within 10 days of the milestone deadline
- **Annual HUBB filing deadline is March 1 for carriers to report broadband deployed with CAF support in the prior calendar year or certify “no locations to upload”**

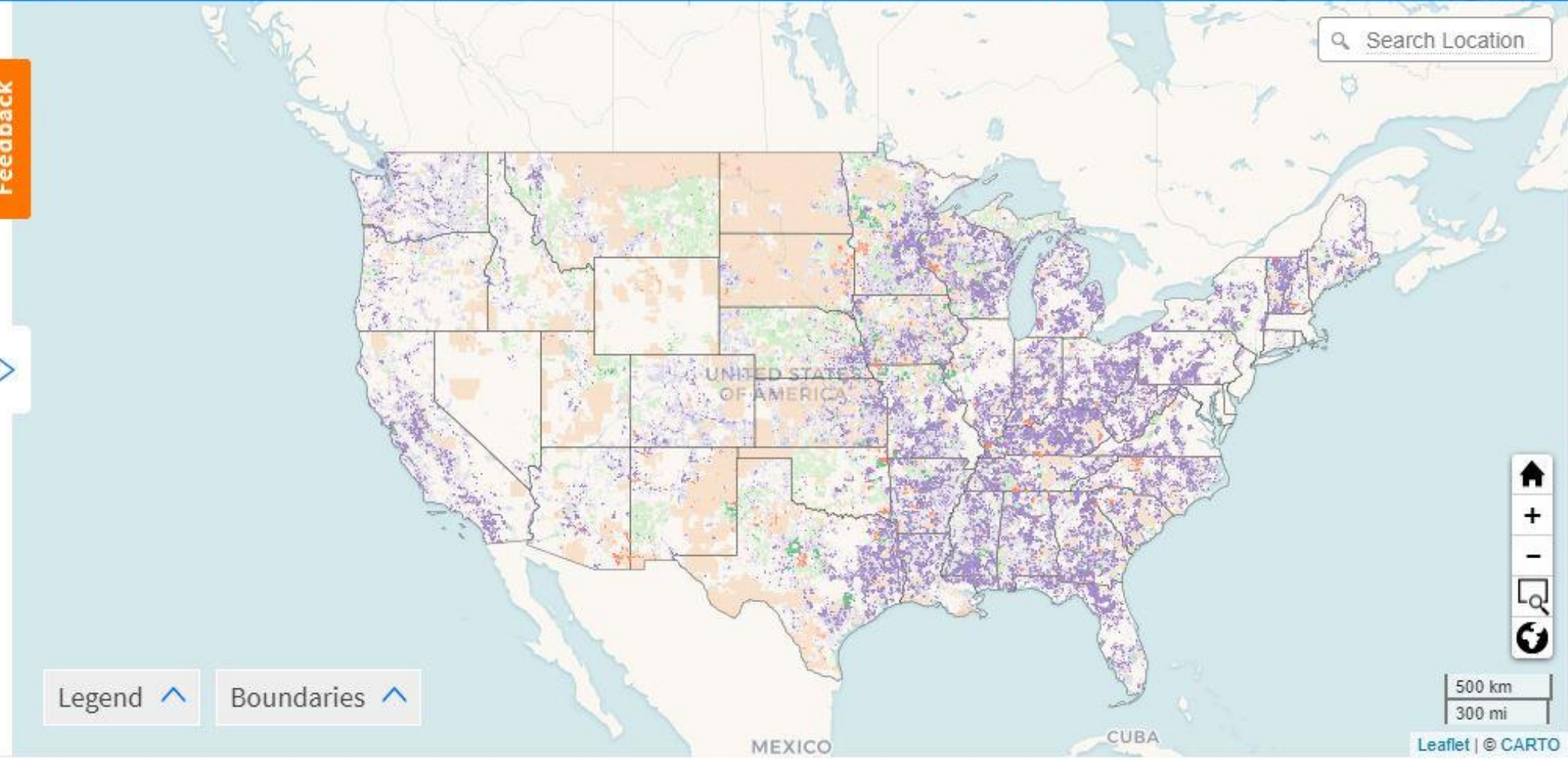
HUBB Data Fields

Available for Public Use

Field Name	Description	Example / Notes
Study Area Code (SAC) *	6-digit study area code	579999
Latitude *	Latitude of the location	6 decimal places = (35.509220)
Longitude *	Longitude of the location	6 decimal places = (-98.433700)
Date of Deployment *	Date the carrier made service available	08/04/2022
Download / Upload Speed Tier *	ID representing the speed available	4 = (25mbps / 3mbps)
Address *	Location Street Number and Name	700 12 th Street
City *	Location City Name	Washington
State *	2-Letter State Abbreviation	DC
ZIP Code *	Location Zip Code	20005
# of Units *	Number of units at location	2
HUBB Location ID	ID Assigned by System	12345
Carrier Location ID	ID Assigned by the Carrier	12345
Technology ID #	Technology Type ID	Required for CAF II Auction, RDOF
Other Technology	Description of Other Technology	Text Description
Latency ID #	High or Low	Required for CAF II Auction, RDOF, Alaska

* Required Field; # Required for Specific Funds

Feedback



Search Location

Fund
All Funds

State
All States

Company Name
Search Company Name

Speed (Applicable only to Local Data)
All Speeds

Deployment Year
All Years

Clear All Filters

State Data

Local Data

Displaying 1-25 of 762 records | Download Data

State ▲	Fund	Company Name	Deployment Year	Locations Obligation	Locations Deployed	Total Support Disbursed
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Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

All carriers participating in CAF programs with defined broadband build-out obligations are subject to verification reviews to confirm deployment to a random sample of locations reported in the HUBB. Verification reviews fall into three main categories:

- Reviews tied to deployment milestones that begin after annual March 1 HUBB filing deadline
 - Original and Revised ACAM, ACAM II and CAF II Auction carriers had mandatory deployment milestones at the end of 2022 and may face verification reviews in 2023
- Verification reviews conducted at the request of carriers that complete deployment ahead of required milestones and are seeking to reduce their Letters of Credit (LOC) values
 - RDOF carriers can take advantage of an optional deployment milestone by the end of the second year of the program to reduce LOC values
- Verification reviews conducted as part of the Rural Broadband Accountability Plan (RBAP), a new FCC initiative to expand oversight of carrier compliance with CAF obligations, ensure public funds are properly invested and enhance program transparency
 - These reviews can occur before deployment milestones

Carriers may also be subject to site visit audits following final deployment milestones

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

- The goal of the verification review process is to confirm that a carrier deployed broadband service meeting the FCC's performance standards to a qualifying number of locations by the relevant deployment milestone deadline. For each location selected for review, USAC seeks to confirm that:
 - The structure at the reported location is eligible for CAF support
 - The reported service address accurately corresponds with the reported lat/long coordinates
 - The upload and download speeds available are at or above the speeds the carrier must deliver
 - The carrier deployed service at the required speeds in time to meet the deployment milestone
 - The actual number of units or dwellings at the location accurately ties back to the reported number of units or dwellings for the location record
- Carriers will be asked to supply documentation that can serve as evidence of deployment to all locations selected for verification review
 - Examples of acceptable documentation include: customer bills, screen shots from service availability and provisioning tools, letters of certification by outside engineers
- **Carriers found to have missed deployment milestones face increased reporting obligations and potential withholding/recovery of support**

Network Performance Testing: Measuring Speed and Latency

- Performance Measures testing framework ensures that CAF-supported broadband service meets basic speed and latency standards
- Carriers must conduct one week of speed and latency testing in each quarter of calendar year at a USAC-selected random sample of CAF-supported locations reported in the HUBB that have active subscribers, and submit and certify all test results with USAC
 - Carriers have until July 1 to submit and certify results from quarterly testing conducted during the prior calendar year, although USAC encourages carriers to submit and certify results after testing is complete each quarter
 - USAC provides compliance reports to carriers that submit and certify quarterly to help them track their progress in meeting FCC metrics
- At least 80 percent of speed measurements must be at 80 percent of required speeds and 95 percent of low-latency measurements must fall at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time
- FCC will consider failure to meet speed and latency requirements as a failure to deploy and may withhold support
- Before official testing begins carriers are subject to a year of quarterly “pre-testing” at the USAC-selected random sample of CAF-supported locations with active subscribers
 - During pre-testing, carriers must submit and certify results from quarterly testing within one week of the end of the quarter, but will not face withholding of support for failing to meet speed and latency standards
- Carriers must obtain a new sample after two years of pre-testing/testing

Network Performance Testing: Measuring Speed and Latency

The USAC Performance Measures Module (PMM):

- Lets carriers identify which locations that have been deployed with CAF support and reported in the HUBB have active subscribers
- Generates a random sample of those locations for speed and latency testing and provides the obligated speed tiers to be tested (based on the speed tiers reported for those locations in the HUBB compared with the speeds that carriers are required to deliver)
- Collects the speed and latency test results from carriers
- Calculates compliance with performance measures standards based on certified test results

Network Performance Testing: Measuring Speed and Latency

The windows to conduct performance measures pre-testing/testing vary by fund and began in 2020 with CAF II Model carriers (now done, with exception of ACS). Carriers participating in the following funds are currently in official testing:

- **Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM) and Revised ACAM ***
- **Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE) ***
- **Alaska Plan ***
- **ACS ***
- **ACAM II**
- **Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (CAF BLS)**
- **Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Auction**

* Now in their second year of official testing, carriers in these funds must submit and certify results from quarterly testing conducted in 2022 no later than July 1, 2023. These carriers were required to obtain a new random sample for quarterly testing starting this year

A man with a beard is shown in profile, looking at a tablet device. He is standing in a field of solar panels. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

HUBB Portal:

**2022 Filing Obligations
and Milestones by Fund**



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HUBB Portal: Filing Obligations by Fund

Carriers in these funds had until March 1, 2023, to file data for locations deployed in 2022 or certify “no locations to upload”:

- Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM)
- Revised ACAM
- ACAM II
- Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (CAF BLS)
- Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE)
- Alaska Plan (other than carriers with individualized performance plans requiring them to maintain service)
- Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Auction (CAF II Auction)
- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) (except for RDOF carriers authorized for support by the FCC in DA 23-33)
 - RDOF carriers were required to submit any locations deployed since July 1, 2019
- Bringing Puerto Rico Together (Uniendo a Puerto Rico) and the Connect USVI Fund (PR/USVI)
 - Carriers receiving PR/USVI Stage 2 fixed support file in the HUBB

HUBB Portal: Tracking Broadband Deployment

- **Accurate geolocation data is the key to filing successfully with the HUBB**
 - See [Geolocations Methods Guide](#) for overview of different methods for collecting accurate lat/long coordinates
- **Carriers that did not deploy any locations in 2022 were still required to log into the HUBB and certify "no locations to upload" by March 1, 2023**
 - Coming next year: Carriers that file and certify early in 2023 will be required to confirm that their filing activity is complete with an additional certification between Jan. 1 , 2024 and March 1, 2024
- **Carriers with 2022 deployment milestones were also required to complete a separate milestone certification as part of the annual HUBB filing**
 - New this year: This included separate milestone certifications for separate deployment obligations by speed tier
 - Carriers may face verification reviews of their 2022 milestones to confirm deployment to a random sample of reported locations
 - Carriers found to have missed deployment milestones face increased reporting obligations and potential withholding/recovery of support
 - Carriers that missed a deployment milestone were required to inform the FCC, USAC and relevant state and Tribal governments within 10 days of the milestone deadline (deadline passed in January)

HUBB Portal: Deployment Milestones by Fund

- **2022 Deployment Milestones**
 - **Original ACAM** carriers faced a 60 percent milestone for deploying 10/1 Mbps broadband as of the end of 2022
 - **Revised ACAM** carriers faced a 60 percent milestone for deploying 10/1 Mbps broadband and a 40 percent milestone for deploying 25/3 Mbps broadband, both as of the end of 2022
 - **ACAM II** carriers faced their first milestone, for deploying 25/3 Mbps broadband to 40 percent of required location counts as of the end of 2022, and were required to meet similar deployment obligations on Tribal lands
 - **CAF II Auction** carriers faced their first mandatory milestone, for 40 percent of required deployments as of the end of 2022
 - **RDOF** carriers can take advantage of an optional 20 percent milestone by the end of the second year of the program to reduce Letter of Credit (LOC) obligations to one year of support
- **Other Deployment Milestones:**
 - **CAF BLS** carriers face one final milestone (for deploying 25/3 Mbps broadband service) as of the end of 2023
 - **RBE** carriers face rolling deployment milestones
 - **Alaska Plan** carriers faced five-year milestone as of the end of 2021

A man with a beard is shown in profile, looking at a tablet device. He is standing in a field of solar panels. The entire image has a blue color cast. The text is overlaid in the center-right area.

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment



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Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

All carriers participating in CAF programs with defined broadband build-out obligations are subject to verification reviews to confirm reported deployment. Verification reviews fall into three main categories:

- Reviews tied to deployment milestones that begin after annual March 1 HUBB filing deadline. In 2023:
 - **Original ACAM** carriers will face 60 percent 10/1 Mbps milestone reviews
 - **Revised ACAM** carriers will face 60 percent 10/1 Mbps milestone and 40 percent 25/3 milestone reviews
 - **ACAM II** carriers will face 40 percent 25/3 milestone reviews
 - **CAF II Auction** carriers will face reviews of 40 percent milestone for required deployments
- Verification reviews conducted at the request of carriers that complete deployment ahead of required milestones and are seeking to reduce their Letters of Credit (LOC) values
 - **RDOF** carriers can take advantage of an optional 20 percent milestone by the end of the second year of the program to reduce LOC values to one year of support
- Verification reviews conducted as part of the Rural Broadband Accountability Plan (RBAP), an FCC initiative to expand oversight of carrier compliance with CAF obligations, ensure public funds are properly invested and enhance program transparency
 - These reviews can occur before required deployment milestones even if a carrier does not request a review

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

The goal of the verification review process is to confirm that a carrier deployed broadband service meeting the FCC's performance standards to a qualifying number of locations by the relevant deployment milestone deadline. The review seeks to confirm that:

- The structure at the reported location is eligible for CAF support
 - Examples of eligible structures: housing units, apartment buildings and small businesses that would subscribe to consumer-grade broadband
 - Examples of ineligible structures: community anchor institutions, buildings that are under construction or abandoned, condemned properties, shelters open to the elements
- The reported service address accurately corresponds with the reported lat/long coordinates
 - USAC needs to confirm this link in order to tie address-based documentation for a location record back to the certified coordinates for that record.
- The upload and download speeds available are at or above the speeds the carrier must deliver
- The carrier deployed service at the required speeds in time to meet the deployment milestone
- The actual number of units or dwellings at the location accurately ties back to the reported number of units or dwellings for the location record

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Carriers must submit documentation that serves as proof of deployment for each location record in the HUBB that is selected for verification review. Examples of acceptable documentation include:

- Subscriber bills
- Screen shots from public-facing service availability tool showing upload/download speeds available at a particular address
- Letters of certification certified by an outside engineer licensed by the state (including Professional Engineer number) where service was deployed
- Screen shots from an internal provisioning system showing the broadband speeds available at a particular service address (and associated geo-coordinates if available)
- DSLAM construction project completion sign-off sheets that releases all locations tied to this DSLAM to sales for marketing
- Engineering team emails showing that all locations tied to a particular DSLAM are released to sales for marketing

SAMPLE SUBSCRIBER BILL



KEY



INCLUDE: CUSTOMER ADDRESS, DATES OF SERVICE, SPEED

REDACT: ALL CUSTOMER PERSONAL INFORMATION: NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, PIN

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

ACCOUNT NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

PIN NUMBER:
[REDACTED]

Billing Date	12/22/18
New Charges Due Date	1/09/19
Previous Balance	84.83
Payments Received Thru 12/08/18	-84.83
Balance Forward	.00
New Charges	84.83
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$84.83



PAYMENT STUB

Total Amount Due	\$84.83
New Charges Due Date	1/09/19
Account Number	[REDACTED]
Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

[REDACTED]
CUSTOMER STREET ADDRESS
CUSTOMER CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

MAIL TO:
ABC PHONE COMPANY
PHONE COMPANY STREET ADDRESS
PHONE COMPANY CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES FROM 12/22/18 to 1/21/19

Digital Phone Unlimited	30.99
Broadband Service 10/1	29.99
TOTAL MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES	60.98

OTHER SERVICE CHARGES AND CREDITS

Carrier Cost Recovery Surcharge	3.99
TOTAL OTHER SERVICE CHARGES AND CREDITS	3.99

TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES

Federal Taxes and Charges*	13.06
State Taxes and Other Charges*	6.80
TOTAL TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES	19.86

TOTAL **84.83**

*INCLUDES BASIC CHARGES

DETAIL OF TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES

DETAIL OF FEDERAL TAXES AND CHARGES*

Federal Excise Tax	.26
Access Recovery Charge	1.98
Primary Federal Subscriber Line Charge	6.50
Federal USF Recovery Charge	1.71
Telecom Long Distance — Federal USF Surcharge	2.61

TOTAL FEDERAL TAXES AND CHARGES **13.06**

STATE TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES **6.80**

TOTAL TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES **19.86**

*INCLUDES BASIC CHARGES


SAMPLE QUALIFICATION TOOL RESULTS


KEY



INCLUDE: CUSTOMER ADDRESS, BROADBAND SERVICE, UPLOAD/DOWNLOAD SPEEDS

Results for:

 Customer Street Address, Customer City, State, Zip Code
Not your address? Change it.



INTERNET

Internet
Download and watch videos and music
Access social network sites
Surf the information superhighway

FEATURE:
Speeds of up to 10 mbps download, 1 mbps upload

Screen shot from public-facing service availability tool showing upload/download speeds available at this address.

SAMPLE ENGINEER CERTIFICATION

Available for Public Use

KEY

INCLUDE: DATES OF AVAILABILITY, PLACE, SPEED



April 18, 2018

Re: Engineering Certification of Gigabit Technology and Coverage

Dear USAC Representative,

XYZ Engineering Company has reviewed the maps, designs and equipment specifications for the ABC Phone Company fiber network build-out in the 123 exchange of Anytown, USA.

I certify that they meet or exceed the CAF II performance requirements and have the capability of providing gigabit speeds for any CAF II eligible locations within these exchanges. All locations within Anytown, USA are covered by 123 exchange and the 100% fiber network capable of delivering up to 1 gig service. The fiber in this location was live and in effect by December 31, 2017.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

Best regards,

Signature

Firstname Lastname

Title

XYZ Engineering Company

123.456.7891

name@email.com

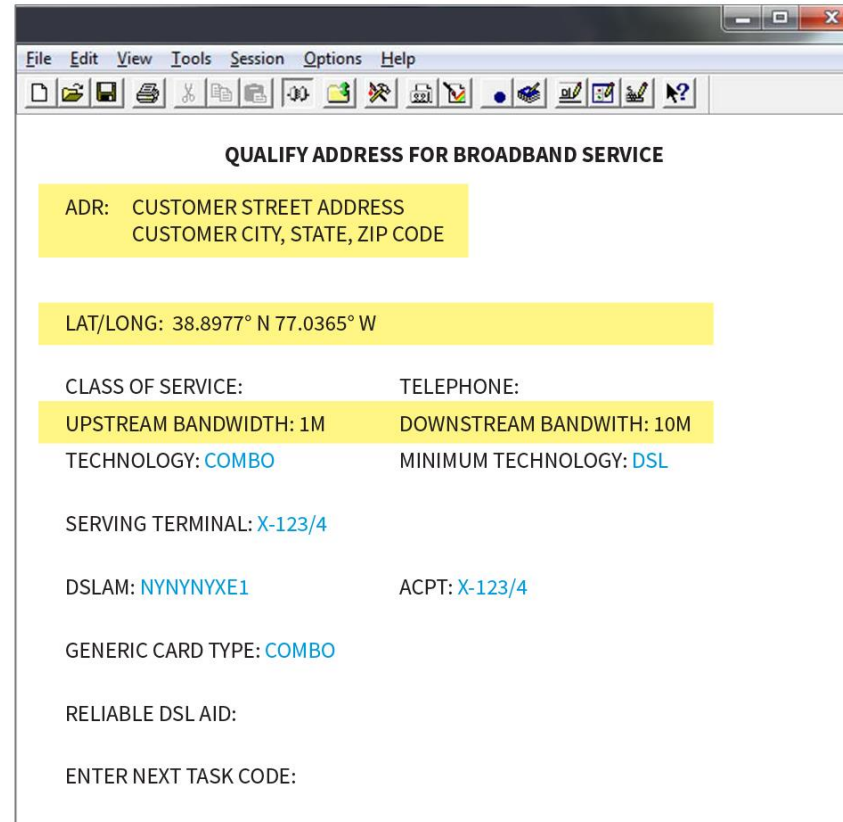
License #456789

State Licensed: VA

SAMPLE PROVISIONING SYSTEM SCREENSHOT

KEY

INCLUDE: CUSTOMER ADDRESS, LAT/LONG, UPSTREAM/DOWNSTREAM SPEEDS



The screenshot shows a software window with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Tools, Session, Options, Help) and a toolbar. The main content area is titled "QUALIFY ADDRESS FOR BROADBAND SERVICE" and contains the following information:

ADR: CUSTOMER STREET ADDRESS
CUSTOMER CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

LAT/LONG: 38.8977° N 77.0365° W

CLASS OF SERVICE: TELEPHONE:
UPSTREAM BANDWIDTH: 1M DOWNSTREAM BANDWIDTH: 10M
TECHNOLOGY: COMBO MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY: DSL

SERVING TERMINAL: X-123/4

DSLAM: NYNYNYXE1 ACPT: X-123/4

GENERIC CARD TYPE: COMBO

RELIABLE DSL AID:

ENTER NEXT TASK CODE:

Screen shot from internal provisioning system showing service address and broadband speeds available at this location.

SAMPLE RELEASED FOR SALE EMAIL

KEY INCLUDE: DATE, DSLAM CLLI CODE



Wed 6/21/2017 9:48 am

Doe, John

Re: Released for Sale

To: Richard Roe, Sales

DSLAM

NYNYNYXE1

is built and ready for release.

John Doe
Specialist, Network Engineer
Company Communications
123-456-7890

website.url

Email from engineering team showing that all locations tied to this DSLAM are released for sale.

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Verification reviews of multi-unit locations – i.e. locations with more than one living unit, such as apartment buildings or duplexes – will also confirm that the number of units at the location selected for review ties back to the number of units reported for that location in the HUBB

- Carriers will be required to submit documentation to prove the existence of each individual unit at that location
- Carriers that cannot provide acceptable documentation proving the number of units at a multi-unit location reported in the HUBB may see a reduction in the number of units counting toward deployment obligations

Tips for success:

- Carriers should not group separate single-unit locations together – using the same latitude/longitude coordinates, but labeled as multiple units at one location – when reporting deployment in the HUBB
- Carriers that provide separate broadband connections to multiple structures on a single property, lot or land parcel should report each structure served as a separate location record – with separate latitude and longitude coordinates – in the HUBB

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Examples of acceptable documentation for multi-unit locations include:

- Subscriber bills for each individual unit at the location
- Screen shots from a public-facing service availability tool showing upload/download speeds available for each individual unit at the location
- Screen shots from an internal provisioning system showing upload/download speeds available for each individual unit at the location
- Screen shots of a mapping software street view or satellite view of the location that provide evidence of the number of units at that location, such images showing two separate front entrances or two separate driveways
- Screen shots from an apartment complex website, property tax website or real estate website (such as Realtor.com, Xome, Trulia, Redfin, etc.) showing the number of units at the location
- Geotagged photos or video clips (taken using a mobile phone or camera with geotagging turned on) that provide evidence of the number of units at the location, such as images of separate electric meters or separate mailboxes, along with a screenshot of the file properties page for each picture or video that displays the associated latitude/longitude coordinates

SAMPLE SUBSCRIBER BILL FOR MULTIPLE UNITS



KEY



INCLUDE: CUSTOMER ADDRESS, DATES OF SERVICE, SPEED



INCLUDE: CUSTOMER UNIT NUMBER/UNIT NAME



REDACT: ALL CUSTOMER PERSONAL INFORMATION: NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, PIN

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

[REDACTED]

PIN NUMBER:

[REDACTED]

Billing Date	12/22/18
New Charges Due Date	1/09/19
Previous Balance	84.83
Payments Received Thru 12/08/18	-84.83
Balance Forward	.00
New Charges	84.83
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$84.83



PAYMENT STUB

Total Amount Due	\$84.83
New Charges Due Date	1/09/19
Account Number	[REDACTED]
Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

[REDACTED]
CUSTOMER STREET ADDRESS

CUSTOMER UNIT NUMBER/UNIT NAME

CUSTOMER CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

MAIL TO:
ABC PHONE COMPANY
PHONE COMPANY STREET ADDRESS
PHONE COMPANY CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES FROM 12/22/18 to 1/21/19

Digital Phone Unlimited	30.99
Broadband Service 10/1	29.99
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OTHER SERVICE CHARGES AND CREDITS

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TOTAL OTHER SERVICE CHARGES AND CREDITS	3.99

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DETAIL OF TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES

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TOTAL FEDERAL TAXES AND CHARGES 13.06**STATE TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES 6.80****TOTAL TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES 19.86**


*INCLUDES BASIC CHARGES

SAMPLE QUALIFICATION TOOL RESULTS FOR MULTIPLE UNITS

KEY

- INCLUDE: CUSTOMER ADDRESS, BROADBAND SERVICE, UPLOAD/DOWNLOAD SPEEDS
- INCLUDE: CUSTOMER ADDRESS, CUSTOMER UNIT NUMBER/UNIT NAME


Results for:

 Customer Street Address

Customer Unit Number/Unit Name

Customer City, State, Zip Code

Not your address? Change it.



INTERNET

Internet
Download and watch videos and music
Access social network sites
Surf the information superhighway

FEATURE:
Speeds of up to 10 mbps download, 1 mbps upload

Screen shot from public-facing service availability tool showing upload/download speeds available at this address.

SAMPLE PROVISIONING SYSTEM SCREENSHOT FOR MULTIPLE UNITS

KEY

INCLUDE: CUSTOMER ADDRESS, LAT/LONG, UPSTREAM/DOWNSTREAM SPEEDS

INCLUDE: CUSTOMER UNIT NUMBER/UNIT NAME

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CUSTOMER UNIT NUMBER/UNIT NAME
CUSTOMER CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

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CLASS OF SERVICE: TELEPHONE:
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TECHNOLOGY: COMBO MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY: DSL

SERVING TERMINAL: X-123/4
DSLAM: NYNYNYXE1 ACPT: X-123/4
GENERIC CARD TYPE: COMBO
RELIABLE DSL AID:
ENTER NEXT TASK CODE:

Screen shot from internal provisioning system showing service address and broadband speeds available at this location.

SAMPLE PHOTO OF LOCATION WITH MULTIPLE UNITS

Available for Public Use



Street Level Photo

Photo shows two units at this location—two entrances and two mail boxes.



High Altitude Photo

Photo shows two units at this location—two separate walkways that lead to two separate entrances.

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Step One: Announcement and Data Collection

- Following each deployment milestone deadline, USAC selects carriers for verification review
 - RDOF carriers must contact hcverifications@usac.org to initiate an on-demand milestone verification review after certifying deployment data in the HUBB
- For each carrier, USAC selects a statistically valid, random sample of locations certified in the HUBB for review
- USAC sends announcement letters to carriers identifying sampled locations and requesting documentation to prove deployment
- Carriers cannot edit or modify HUBB records for locations selected for review

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Step Two: Document Review and Testing

- USAC encourages carriers to send documentation as it becomes available, rather than waiting to provide everything at once
- Documentation will be unique to each carrier and may vary by region of the country
- Carriers may need to submit more than one piece of evidence to prove location, speed and date of service availability for a particular HUBB record
- USAC reminds all carriers to retain all records and analysis needed to demonstrate that universal service support is being used in accordance with High Cost Program rules (see [47 CFR Section 54.320\(b\)](#))

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Step Three: Conclusion

- When the verification process is complete, USAC holds exit conferences with carriers selected for review to provide details of findings
- USAC sends closure letters summarizing findings and carriers have an opportunity to respond
- Carriers found to have missed milestones face increased reporting obligations and potential loss of support

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Interacting with USAC

- USAC has migrated to an automated process for collecting documents and feedback from carriers
- Carriers and USAC use Box, a secure platform, to send, share and receive files
- During the verification process, carriers receive automated notifications from this USAC verifications email address: noreply_usac_verifications@usac.org
 - Carriers should not reply to this email address
 - For live support, carriers should reach out to the lead reviewer listed in the announcement letter - Lead reviewer performs the verification work

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Process Questionnaire

- Carriers receive an email with a blank process questionnaire (attached as a Word document) for carriers to download and complete as part of pre-verification process
- Process questionnaire collects info about methodology used by carriers to identify locations for deployment and report them in the HUBB, as well as the types of evidence that carriers could supply to prove deployment
- Carriers upload the completed process questionnaire, as well as examples of evidence to substantiate speed, date and unit count, at one time using the link in the email to avoid a delay in processing of the information

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Announcement Package

- Carriers receive a Box folder invitation email from noreply@box.com
- Carriers accept the invitation and set up their Box accounts to gain access to a Box folder
- Carriers access the Box folder to find an announcement letter (PDF), list of locations selected for verification (Excel) and a folder under the carrier name with a subfolder labeled by SAC
- Carriers upload all evidence as individual files (not folders) to the SAC folder
- Carriers should reach out to the lead reviewer listed in the announcement letter with questions. USAC may also contact carriers with questions about evidence submitted for locations under review

Closure Letters

- Carriers receive an email notifying them that their closure letter has been uploaded to their company's Box folder
- Carriers review the closure letter and upload a response to the "placeholder" in the Box folder
- USAC uploads the final version of the closure letter, with company and USAC responses appended, to the company's Box folder

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

For more information about the verification review process,

please visit the verification resources webpage:

<https://www.usac.org/high-cost/resources/fund-verification-reviews/>

Resources include:

Verification review schedule (by fund)

Examples of the types of documentation that carriers can supply to prove deployment

HUBB Portal: Tracking Broadband Deployment

For more information about filing in the HUBB,

please visit the HUBB resources webpage:

<https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/submit-data-in-the-hubb/>

Resources include:

HUBB [FAQs](#)

USAC [Guide](#) to Geolocation Practices

FCC [Guidance](#) on Location Reporting

[HUBB User Guide](#) and [Data Formatting Instructions](#)

Templates for [data uploads](#), [bulk deletions](#) and [bulk modifications](#)

HUBB webinar [recording](#)

HUBB webinar [presentation](#)

Network Performance Testing: Measuring Speed and Latency

For more information about performance measures testing,

please visit the performance measures resources webpage:

<https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/performance-measures-testing/>

Resources include:

Performance Measures testing schedule (by fund)

[FCC information](#) about the performance measures testing program

[Charts](#) showing acceptable test paths and remote server locations

List of [vendors](#) that are helping carriers with speed and latency testing

Quick tips [guide](#) to the PMM

Performance measures testing webinar [recording](#)

Performance measures testing webinar [presentation](#)

An [explanation](#) of PMM compliance calculations

Questions?



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