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Public Comment Received on 331564

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To: public-comments@iowa.gov
Cc: joanne@lamotte-telco.com

Fri, Nov 8, 2019 at 8:28 AM

A new public comment has been received on **331564**. The comment and contact information are listed below.

Comment

To whom it may concern: La Motte Telephone Company is responding to Maquoketa Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's request for broadband grant funding to census blocks where La Motte Telephone already has fiber build-out completed or nearly completed. These blocks should not be eligible for additional funding to overbuild areas that are already being served. In MVREC's own application, it states that several of the blocks they are claiming already have CAF II funding; why then are additional funds being requested? Documentation is attached proving La Motte Telephone's presence in blocks where MVREC is claiming need; including blocks in the Nita Ho Valley area east of St. Donatus in our exchange where MVREC not only already has existing build-out, but also has connected broadband customers. With customers already connected in these blocks, we are disputing MVREC's need for additional funding here. La Motte Telephone is continuing our build-out in the Nita Ho Valley area because residents there have requested our service. Another area of dispute is along Sieverding Ridge Road near Bellevue where La Motte Telephone has built out a fiber-to-the-premise network. Construction in this area has been ongoing since 2018, and is near completion. Indeed, several blocks along Sieverding Ridge Road have customers who are already connected and are experiencing the benefits of our Active-E fiber network. La Motte Telephone Company has been providing telecommunication services to our communities since 1953. We have the expertise and knowledge needed to provide the best possible services to our customers, including the Active-E fiber network that is better positioned to serve current as well as future needs. We have a strong local presence in the communities we serve: we employ local residents, we pay taxes in our communities, and we support our businesses and fire departments with employees and financial contributions. Supported by the attached documentation, La Motte Telephone asks that the OCIO remove the disputed blocks from targeted service area funding. Please let us know if you have any questions concerning this request or the accompanying documentation. Sincerely, JoAnne Gregorich General Manager La Motte Telephone Company

Contact Information

Name: **La Motte Telephone Company**
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Phone: **(563) 773-2213**

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La Motte Telephone Company OCIO documentation_RE MVREC Doc 331564_11-08-2019.pdf
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