

**Exh. SB-8
Docket UT-240029
Witness: Sean Bennett**

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of the

DOCKET UT-240029

**QWEST CORPORATION;
CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON;
CENTURYTEL OF INTERISLAND;
CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE; AND
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF
THE NORTHWEST**

**to be Competitively Classified Pursuant
to RCW 80.36.320**

EXHIBIT TO TESTIMONY OF

SEAN BENNETT

**STAFF OF
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

FCC Broadband Map “About” Webpage

April 3, 2024



About

What the Map Shows

This map displays where Internet services are available across the United States, as reported by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to the FCC. The map will be updated continuously to improve its accuracy through a combination of FCC verification efforts, new data from Internet providers, updates to the location data, and—importantly—information from the public.

How to Use This Site

From the Home Page, you can...

- Enter an address into the **Search by Address** window to zoom to that address point on the map. When you enter an address, you can see information about that location, along with a list of Internet providers that can serve it and the types of service and speeds offered.
- Pan, zoom, and generally explore the map, or search for a location by clicking **Location**.
- Search for service availability or coverage by specific providers by clicking **Providers**.
- Review Internet service availability and characteristics in your state, county, congressional district, census place (town), Tribal area, or CBSA (metro area) by clicking **Area**.
- Save the underlying data locally by clicking **Download**.


To learn more about how to use the map and its features, visit the [BDC Online Help Center](#) .

How to Help Improve the Map

You, as a user of the map, can assist in the ongoing process of improving the data in one of the following ways:

- If you think the information about the location point of your home or another location is wrong, you can submit a **Location Challenge**, from the map. You can also submit a **Location Challenge** if you think a location is missing from the map.
- If you think the information on the map about which ISPs offer broadband service to your home, or to another location, is wrong, you can dispute it by submitting an **Availability Challenge** from the map.
- If you think the information on mobile coverage is wrong, you can dispute that as well by taking speed tests on your mobile phone with the FCC Speed Test app. The results of these tests will be aggregated to create **Mobile Challenges** that mobile providers must respond to improve their coverage maps.

About the Data

The availability data shown on the map are submitted by ISPs through the FCC's [Broadband Data Collection](#)  (BDC). As part of the BDC, all ISPs must file data with the FCC twice a year on where they offer mass-market Internet access service using their own broadband network facilities.

ISPs offering broadband Internet to fixed locations (such as homes and small businesses) must report where they offer service on a location-by-location basis - the same location points you see on the map - which come from the Fabric.

Mobile providers generate the 3G, 4G LTE, and 5G-NR coverage areas shown on the map using propagation modeling, where the models include certain common settings for consistency. The coverage areas are meant to represent the areas where a user should be able to establish a mobile connection, either outdoors or moving in a vehicle, and achieve certain upload and download speeds. Please note that the map does not include information on the availability of mobile wireless broadband service while indoors. Moreover, because the coverage map is based on propagation modeling, a user's actual, on-the-ground experience may vary due to factors such as the end-user device used to connect to the network, cell site capacity, and

terrain. The coverage maps on mobile wireless service providers' websites may be based on different parameters and assumptions, such as service availability provided through roaming agreements, and therefore may differ from the information shown here.

All providers must report data as of June 30 (due September 1) and December 31 (due March 1) each year.

For More Information

The FCC's [Broadband Data Collection](#) site includes more information on the National Broadband Map and the BDC, including various resources for consumers, governmental entities, broadband providers, and other stakeholders.

The [BDC Online Help Center](#) includes help articles, video tutorials, frequently asked questions, and other materials on how to use the National Broadband Map, how to file challenges, and how to submit availability data in the BDC system. It also includes a [help form](#) where users can submit a request for additional support.

License and Attribution

Broadband availability data from the BDC, and data from the U.S. Census Bureau that are presented on this site, are offered free and not subject to copyright restriction. Data and content created by government employees within the scope of their employment are not subject to domestic copyright protection under 17 U.S.C. § 105. See, e.g., [U.S. Government Works](#).

While not required, when using in your own work content, data, documentation, code, and related materials from [fcc.gov](#) or [broadbandmap.fcc.gov](#), we ask that you provide proper attribution of the data. Examples include:

- Source data: FCC Broadband Data Collection
- Map layer based on FCC BDC

CostQuest Associates, Inc. and its third-party licensors, as applicable, own all right, title, and interest, including all intellectual property rights, in and to the data for locations reflected in the Fabric (including the Location ID, latitude and longitude, address, unit count, and building type code for each location in the Fabric). CostQuest is granted certain rights to Fabric correction submissions for the purpose of correcting or otherwise modifying BDC Fabric data. Broadband service providers, governmental entities, and other third parties are able to license Fabric data, including any changes to Fabric data that have been made as a result of challenges, at no cost for purposes of their participation in the FCC's Broadband Data Collection.