

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: ASSESSING HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE IN IOWA	DOCKET NO. NOI-06-2
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ORDER INITIATING INQUIRY AND GRANTING CONFIDENTIALITY

(Issued February 3, 2006)

In 2000, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation, identified as Senate File 2433 requiring the Utilities Board (Board) and the Department of Economic Development (DED) to submit a joint report "with recommendations to ensure that high-speed broadband internet access is available to rural areas of the state where such access is not currently available." In compliance with that legislative mandate, the Board and DED submitted a report in October 2000, assessing the statewide availability of high-speed Internet access and offered recommendations to ensure access to high-speed Internet service in rural Iowa. Responding to the recommendations contained in the October 2000 report, the Board conducted subsequent assessments and issued reports in February 2002, May 2003, and December 2004.

NOTICE OF INQUIRY

The Board is initiating this inquiry to again evaluate the level of progress in the deployment of high-speed Internet technologies in Iowa. Comparison of this assessment with the Board's earlier efforts is critical if a clear perspective on the developing availability of high-speed Internet access in all parts of the state is desired.

Data collection will be conducted through the use of a survey instrument that will be sent to all telecommunications companies, cable providers, wireless providers, and satellite companies most likely to offer high-speed Internet access in Iowa. A copy of this survey is attached to this order. The survey will be used to create a point-in-time, community-by-community, statewide assessment of current and near-term high-speed Internet access in Iowa.

The Board directs that each company receiving a copy of this order shall complete the survey using data obtained as of January 1, 2006, and return it to Board staff on or before February 17, 2006. Electronic versions of the survey should be sent to IUBSurveys@iub.state.ia.us. Questions regarding the surveys may be directed to Brenda Biddle as the Inquiry Manager for this docket at (515) 242-0218, or e-mail Brenda.Biddle@iowa.gov.

CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

In this proceeding, the Board requests survey responses from all telecommunications companies, cable providers, wireless providers, and satellite companies most likely to offer high-speed Internet access in Iowa. These responses

will include information that many of these providers consider to be trade secrets or otherwise entitled to confidential treatment. Therefore, the Board will grant confidential treatment for the individual company information submitted in the updated survey responses pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6).

Iowa Code § 22.7(3) provides confidential treatment for trade secrets, which are recognized and protected as such by law. The material requested of the carriers may include specific line count information. The Board finds that line count information constitutes a trade secret under Iowa Code § 550.2(4) as it derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means, by a person able to obtain economic value from its disclosure. The Board finds that this information, if released, would provide an advantage to competitors.

Iowa Code § 22.7(6) provides confidential treatment to public records that are reports to government agencies and which, if released, would give advantage to competitors and serve no public purpose. The Board finds that the responses to the survey constitute a report to a government agency and the Board finds that the release of the information would serve no public purpose.

At this time, the Board anticipates that orders or reports issued in this docket will not discuss or include individual company confidential information. However, they may include aggregated information and other information in a format such that it will not be possible to reconstruct company-specific confidential information with any degree of precision. However, it is too early to predict the requirement of the



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

January 25, 2006

The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) continues to evaluate the availability of high-speed Internet access in the state. Senate File 2433 initiated the original assessment conducted in July 2000. Follow-up assessments were conducted in September 2001, January 2003, and July 2004. As with the previous assessments, this one will measure the continued deployment of these services and compare them to the previously recorded results. Additionally, this assessment will provide further information for issues related to technical and policy concerns in Iowa.

Similar to the prior assessments, the survey defines high-speed technology as technology capable of providing access services with over 200 kilobits per second (kbps), this being consistent with the Federal Communication Commission's definition of high-speed Internet access. Additionally, this survey will be distributed to all entities capable of providing high-speed broadband Internet access services in Iowa, including facilities-based local exchange carriers, cable providers, wireless, and satellite companies. This survey will assess the immediate availability of these services by geographic region of the state.

Once completed, the results and conclusions of the IUB's fifth assessment will be contained in a report entitled, "Assessing High-Speed Internet Access in the State of Iowa: Assessment V." This report, when finished, will be available with the previous reports on the Utilities Board's Web site at www.state.ia.us/iub.

In order to successfully complete the fifth assessment, the Utilities Board needs your help in responding to the attached surveys, which are also available online at www.state.ia.us/iub. The attached surveys are in Word format and you can respond to the survey by utilizing the "drop-down boxes" in each of the applicable columns. Additional sheets can be attached if necessary. We ask that you take a few minutes to complete the enclosed surveys and return them by **February 17, 2006** to:

Brenda Biddle, Utility Analyst
Iowa Utilities Board
350 Maple Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069
E-Mail: Brenda.Biddle@iowa.gov
Survey Mailbox: IUBSurveys@iub.state.ia.us
Phone: 515-242-0218 Fax: 515-281-5329

Your input is crucial to the success of the fifth assessment. All information will be aggregated on an industry basis only.

Finally, in order to maintain an updated contact database for future assessments, please complete the first page of the survey and check the applicable box even if you do not currently provide high-speed Internet service greater than 200 kbps in the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your prompt assistance in this fifth assessment.

Sincerely,

John Norris, Chairperson

Diane Munns, Board Member

Curt Stamp, Board Member



Iowa Utilities Board High-Speed Internet Access Survey

As of January 1, 2006

Section 1 – Company Information

Company Name:			
Company Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
Telephone #:	Fax #:		
Contact Person and Title:			
E-Mail Address:			

Type of Service Provider:

(Please fill out a separate survey for each type of service you provide)

ILEC CLEC Cable Wireless Satellite Other Please explain other: _____

Does your company currently provide high-speed Internet services (those with speeds greater than 200 Kbps) in the state of Iowa?

Yes No

If Yes, please list the high-speed Internet speeds you offer (**Download/Upload**):



If No, does your company plan to offer high-speed Internet service in Iowa within 12 months? Yes No

If Yes, please complete **Section 3.**



Section 2 – Current High-Speed Internet Customer Data by Community

- Please use the worksheet format to provide information for **EACH COMMUNITY** served in Iowa. Additional sheets are necessary if you serve more than 10 communities.

(a) List all Communities Currently Serving	(b) List the Community's Zip Code(s)	(c) Do You Currently Offer High-Speed Internet Services to Residential Customers in this Community/ Zip Code	(d) Do You Currently Offer High-Speed Internet Services to Business Customers in this Community/ Zip Code	(e) Total Number of Customers in this Community/ Zip Code	(f) Number of Customers Currently Subscribing to High-Speed Internet Service								(g) Number of Customers that Currently Have Access to Your High-Speed Internet Service in this Community/ Zip Code	(h) Assess the Relationships Between Customer Inquiries and High-Speed Services in this Community/ Zip Code (Low, Medium, High)
					Speeds listed below are download speeds									
					Please fill in number of Residential (Res) and Business (Bus) customers by Internet speed range									
		200-512 Kbps		513-999 Kbps		1-4.99 Mbps		Over 5 Mbps						
		Res	Bus	Res	Bus	Res	Bus	Res	Bus	Res	Bus			
Example City	99999	Yes	No	1000	200	10	125	25	0	0	0	0	675	Low
		Choose Y/N	Choose Y/N											Choose One
		Choose Y/N	Choose Y/N											Choose One
		Choose Y/N	Choose Y/N											Choose One
		Choose Y/N	Choose Y/N											Choose One
		Choose Y/N	Choose Y/N											Choose One
		Choose Y/N	Choose Y/N											Choose One
		Choose Y/N	Choose Y/N											Choose One
		Choose Y/N	Choose Y/N											Choose One

- Column (a) – Please list the communities where you provide high-speed Internet service. For areas served outside the city limits, those subscribers should be assigned to the community where they receive service.
- Column (b) – Zip Code(s) that correspond to the community listed in Column (a).
- Column (e) – This should be the total number of customers (both residential and business) for your primary service in each community (i.e. telephone, cable television or wireless telephone service). For ILEC and CLEC service providers, please list the total number of access lines.
- Column (f) – This should be the total number of your high-speed Internet customers in each community (access lines for xDSL). Please give the number of residential and business customers in each Internet speed category, which are listed by download speeds.
- Column (g) – Please list the number of customers (both residential and business) you could serve immediately with high speed Internet in each community.
- Column (h) “**Customer inquiries**” for high-speed Internet service greater than 200 Kbps is defined as: **Low** (received 3% or less inquiries); **Medium** (received between 4% and 19% inquiries); or **High** (received 20% or greater inquiries).



Section 3 – Prospective High-Speed Internet Communities

- Please list any additional communities that you plan to provide high-speed Internet service to within the next 12 months (by year-end 2006).

List all Additional Communities that will be Served by Year End of 2006	List the Community's Zip Code(s)	Month in which High-Speed Internet Service will be Available
		Pick a Month

Section 4 – Pricing Information

- Does your company currently provide a stand-alone high-speed Internet service?
 - Yes What is the price of that service?
 - No Please list all the current high-speed Internet options and corresponding prices.

Type of Service (Internet Speed, Bundled Services, etc.)	Recurring Rate Billed to the Customer per Month – Including any Rental Charges for Equipment (List Range if Price Varies by Community)	Term of Contract – if applicable	Other Items – Include any Offers or Other Features as applicable	Installation Fee
<i>Example – Internet 384 K (up and down)</i>	<i>\$79.95</i>	<i>1 year contract</i>	<i>Free Modem</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>