

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of:)
)
BroadbandConnect, Inc.)
)
Certification to Operate an)
Open Video System)
)

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Adopted: March 14, 2001

Released: March 15, 2001

By the Chief, Consumer Protection and Competition Division, Cable Services Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On March 5, 2001, BroadbandConnect, Inc. ("BroadbandConnect") filed an application for certification to operate an open video system pursuant to Section 653(a)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 ("Communications Act") and the Commission's rules.¹ BroadbandConnect seeks to operate an open video system in various communities in Anne Arundel County, Maryland (the "Service Areas").² In accordance with our procedures,³ the Commission published notice of receipt of the BroadbandConnect certification application⁴ and posted the application on the Internet.⁵ No comments were received.

¹47 U.S.C. § 573(a)(1); 47 C.F.R. § 76.1502. We note that while BroadbandConnect's certification application was received prior to March 5, 2001, there was an outstanding question regarding a portion of the application which prevented its processing. We received a response to our inquiry on March 5, 2001, and have treated BroadbandConnect's certification application as being filed on that date.

²The Service Areas for which BroadbandConnect seeks certification in Anne Arundel County, Maryland are: Annapolis (CUID 0054); Unincorporated AA (CUID 0059 and 0135); Unincorporated North AA (CUID 0060); Unincorporated Central AA (CUID 0133); Crofton (CUID 0211); Gambrills (CUID 0212); Capt St. Claire (CUID 0213); Arnold (CUID 0214); Severna Park (CUID 0215); Millersville (CUID 0216); Odenton (CUID 0217); Glen Burnie (CUID 0218); Crownsville (CUID 0219); Anne Arundel Unicorp (CUID 0257); Anne Arundel South (CUID 0262); Pasadena (CUID 0264); Boones MH Estates (CUID 0266); Annapolis Unicorp (CUID 0270); Hanover (CUID 0271); Maryland City (CUID 0272); Curtis Bay (CUID 0293); Davidsonville (CUID 0294); Harmans (CUID 0295); Jessup (CUID 0296); Laurel (CUID 0297); Sherwood Forest (CUID 0298); Fort Meade (CUID 0313); Gibson Island (CUID 0337); Linthicum (CUID 0338); Glen Burnie Unincorporated (CUID 0339 and 0357).

³See *Implementation of Section 302 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Open Video Systems, Second Report and Order*, 11 FCC Rcd 18223, 18247 (1996) ("*Second Report and Order*").

⁴See *Public Notice*, "BroadbandConnect, Inc. Files An Application For Open Video System Certification," DA 01-592 (CSB, rel. March 5, 2001).

⁵The BroadbandConnect application is available *via* the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/csb/ovs/csovscer.html>.

2. Pursuant to Section 653(a)(1) of the Communications Act, any entity meeting the requirements may obtain certification to operate an open video system.⁶ In light of the brief period (ten days) for Commission review of certification filings, the Commission concluded that Congress intended there to be a streamlined certification process.⁷ Open video system operators may apply for certification at any point prior to the commencement of service. Open video system operators must obtain certification prior to the commencement of service, allowing sufficient time to comply with the Commission's requirements regarding notifications that applicants must provide to potential programming providers.⁸

3. As part of the certification process, the applicant must acknowledge and accept the obligations associated with operation of an open video system and must provide certain information regarding its proposed system.⁹ To obtain certification, an applicant must file FCC Form 1275, which requires, among other things: (a) a statement of ownership, including a list of all affiliated entities;¹⁰ (b) a representation that the applicant will comply with the Commission's regulations under Section 653(b) of the Communications Act;¹¹ (c) a list of the names of the communities the applicant intends to serve; (d) a statement of the anticipated type and amount of capacity that the system will provide; and (e) a statement as to whether the applicant is a cable operator applying for certification within its cable franchise area.

II. DISCUSSION

4. BroadbandConnect has submitted an application on FCC Form 1275 for certification to operate an open video system in the Service Areas. We have reviewed the information contained in BroadbandConnect's application. As required by Form 1275, the BroadbandConnect application provides the following: company information and a separate statement of ownership listing affiliated entities; eligibility and compliance representations; and system information and verification statements. BroadbandConnect also confirmed that it served its application upon the designated telecommunications officials in the communities involved.

⁶See 47 U.S.C. § 573(a)(1); 47 C.F.R. § 76.1501. However, an operator of a cable system generally may not obtain such certification within its service area unless it is subject to "effective competition" as defined in Section 623(1)(l) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 543(l)(l).

⁷*Second Report and Order*, 11 FCC Rcd at 18243.

⁸*Id.* at 18247; 47 C.F.R. § 76.1502(a). See also *Implementation of Section 302 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996: Open Video Systems*, Order on Remand, 14 FCC Rcd 19700, 19705 (1999)(deleting the pre-construction certification requirement from Section 76.1502(a) of our rules).

⁹*Second Report and Order*, 11 FCC Rcd at 18245-46.

¹⁰We note that for purposes of determining whether a party is an affiliate, we have adopted the definitions contained in the notes to Section 76.501 of our rules, 47 C.F.R. § 76.501, with certain modifications. 47 C.F.R. § 1500(g). Generally, we will consider an entity to be an open video system operator's "affiliate" if the open video system operator holds 5% or more of the entity's stock, whether voting or non-voting. *Implementation of Section 302 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Open Video Systems, Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration*, 11 FCC Rcd 20227, 20235 (1996) ("*Third Report and Order*"); 47 C.F.R. § 1500(g).

¹¹47 U.S.C. § 573(b). This provision sets forth the Commission's requirements regarding non-discriminatory carriage; just and reasonable rates, terms and conditions; a one-third capacity limit on the amount of activated channel capacity on which an open video system operator may distribute programming when demand for carriage exceeds system capacity; channel sharing; sports exclusivity, network non-duplication and syndicated exclusivity; and non-discriminatory treatment in presenting information to subscribers. See also 47 C.F.R. § 1502(a).

5. We find that BroadbandConnect has provided the requisite facts and representations concerning the open video system it intends to operate and has certified that it "agrees to comply and remain in compliance with each of the Commission's regulations" under Section 653(b) of the Communications Act. We note that if any representation in the BroadbandConnect certification filing proves to be materially false or materially inaccurate, the Commission retains the authority to revoke BroadbandConnect's certification or impose such other penalties it deems appropriate, including forfeiture.

III. ORDERING CLAUSES

6. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED**, that the application of BroadbandConnect, Inc. for certification to operate an open video system in the Service Areas¹² **IS GRANTED**.

7. This action is taken by the Chief, Consumer Protection and Competition Division, Cable Services Bureau, pursuant to the authority delegated by Section 0.321 of the Commission's Rules.¹³

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Deborah Klein, Chief
Consumer Protection and Competition Division
Cable Services Bureau

¹²See *supra* n. 2, listing the communities contained within the Service Areas.

¹³47 C.F.R. § 0.321.