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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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FCC RELEASES NEW CENSUS TRACT-LEVEL DATA ON HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICES

Detailed Data Pinpoints Disparities in Broadband Adoption

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today released the first *High-Speed Services for Internet Access* report to be based on the new census tract-based Form 477 data collection requirements.

The FCC has collected information from facilities-based broadband service providers since 2000. In 2008, the FCC released orders implementing significant improvements to its data collection. As part of the improvements, providers of fixed-location Internet access connections faster than 200 kilobits per second (kbps) report connection counts at the census tract level as well as the state level. All reporting providers, including mobile wireless providers, report connection counts for an increased number of upload and download speed tiers. Therefore, for the first time, this report summarizes information about fixed-location Internet access connections in 3,232 counties and 66,287 census tracts and in 72 combinations of upload and download advertised transmission speeds. Additionally, the report summarizes information about subscribers with full Internet access at transmission speeds above 200 kbps as part of their mobile wireless service package.

New features of the report include:

- Our estimates of the share of households with fixed-location high-speed connections in individual census tracts and counties, which indicate there are substantial areas of relatively low and high adoption. In 200 counties (6% of counties, containing 1% of U.S. households), we estimate that no more than 20% of households had such connections, while in 104 counties (3% of counties, containing 8% of U.S. households) we estimate that at least 80% of households had such connections. Fixed-location technologies include asymmetric and symmetric digital subscriber line (DSL), wireline technologies other than DSL, cable modem service, fiber-to-the-premises (“FTTP”), satellite, fixed-wireless services provided by WISPs and others, power line, and other fixed-location technologies.
- New nationwide maps showing our estimates of household adoption rate ranges in individual census tracts – for fixed high-speed connections (that is, faster than 200 kbps in at least one direction) and separately for connections that meet the definition of

broadband service used for the purposes of awarding broadband grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (that is, 768 kbps or higher advertised downstream speeds and upstream speeds above 200 kbps).

- More finely detailed maps of areas with multiple high-speed service providers. Instead of a single ZIP Code-based map combining providers of connections over all technologies and to both residential and business end users, we now map: (1) providers of total (combined residential and business) fixed-location connections by census tract, (2) providers of *residential* fixed-location connections by census tract, and (3) providers making mobile wireless high-speed service *available* by census tract.
- New charts illustrating the relationship between household subscribership, or *adoption*, rates and demographic factors, such as median household income, household density, and educational attainment.

Other report highlights include:

- High-speed Internet access connections to homes and businesses over fixed-location technologies increased by 10% during 2008, to 77 million. By contrast, the annual rate of increase was 17% during 2007.
- At year-end 2008, 25 million mobile wireless service subscribers had mobile devices (such as laptops and smartphones) with high-speed data plans for full Internet access. These subscribers are a subset of the 86 million subscribers whose mobile device was capable of transmitting information at speeds above 200 kbps, including subscribers who purchased only a voice service plan for the handset and subscribers whose data service included only customized-for-mobile content (for example, text and multimedia messaging, or the capacity to download ringtones and games). Because reporting practices previously varied among providers to a largely unknown degree, neither of the December 2008 figures is directly comparable to mobile wireless high-speed connections reported for earlier dates.
- Reported connections for the most widely adopted fixed-location technologies, cable modem and aDSL, increased by 14% and 3%, respectively, during 2008, to 41 million cable modem connections and 30 million aDSL connections, with the cable modem increase being partly due to more comprehensive reporting by small cable systems. A 56% increase in total FTTP connections, to 3 million, was the largest rate of increase among fixed-location technologies.
- Of the 102 million total high-speed connections at year-end 2008 (including residential and business fixed and mobile connections), 86 million (or 84% of the total) were faster than 200 kbps in both upstream and downstream directions, 77% met the definition of broadband service used for the purposes of awarding broadband grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (with 768 kbps or higher advertised downstream speeds and upstream speeds above 200 kbps), 49% had downstream speeds of 3 megabits per second (mbps) or more and upload speeds above 200 kbps, 34% had downstream speeds of 6 mbps or more and upload speeds above 200 kbps, and 11% had downstream speeds of 10 mbps or more and upload speeds above 200 kbps.

- For fixed-location technologies as a group, 89% of connections met the definition of broadband service used for the purposes of awarding broadband grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (with 768 kbps or higher advertised downstream speeds and upstream speeds above 200 kbps). Among mobile wireless subscribers whose subscription included a data plan for full Internet access, 41% of subscriptions met the definition.

The report also includes statistics for residential high-speed connections at the national level and substantially expanded state-by-state information. The state-by-state information includes expanded information about speed tiers of connections in service in each state and newly available information about the distribution of counties and census tracts according to our estimated household adoption rates for fixed high-speed connections.

The report is available for reference in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. Copies may be purchased by calling Best Copy and Printing, Inc. at (800) 378-3160. The report can also be downloaded from the Wireline Competition Bureau Statistical Reports Internet site at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.

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