

**From:** [rkblackhorse](#)  
**To:** [BOCrfc2015](#)  
**Subject:** Broadband availability; comment period, June 10  
**Date:** Saturday, May 30, 2015 4:58:05 PM

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Due to heavy equipment down the road, and heavy rain, the phone failed (including internet).

I had a really interesting conversation with the Centurylink telephone service guy. It's amazing what you can sometimes learn from people who've just learned their job won't exist after 2016.....

He said Centurylink had an employee "meeting", which he described as "We talk, you listen". They were referring to fiber, DSL, etc, i.e. connectivity. Which of course, pending a turnaround by the legislature, is an unregulated service. He specifically referred to connection speeds, 50Mbps, 10Mbps, while rural DSL will remain at 0.5 Mbs. Their figures. He told me they plan no improvement to rural internet service, ever; forget about ever seeing fiber. It's a deregulated service, and the profits in rural areas don't support the cost of infrastructure; there will be minimal maintenance after 2016, with once-a-week truck dispatch. He said they really hope landline service will die out, and everyone will get much more profitable \$100 per month wireless data plans. (If they felt like spending the money for enough cell towers that you don't have to stand on top of your truck with one arm over your head to get a signal.) I'm pretty sure they will have to maintain minimum access to 911 voice service. Or pretend to; this is centurylink after all, which was a spin off of unprofitable rural Verizon exchanges in the first place.

Motto: "So bite me if you don't like it, we're a monopoly! We don't have to care!"

I suppose there's always a chance there will be a landslide in '16 and the new legislature will decide infrastructure matters, internet for all, etc. I notice it took them less than a week to decide to quit farting around with installing train controllers after the Amtrak wreck, maybe a national internet collapse may change their minds. Google and Amazon can't stream at 0.5 Mbs. Corporate lives matter, that's our only hope.

Randy Kopecky and family

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Wireless number unknown; (it changes by itself every so often).