NRECA/NRTC
Broadband Map Challenge Project

DECEMBER 8, 2022

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Member driven. Technology focused.

Panelists

Bailey White
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an NRTC solution

Brian O'Hara
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Telecom & Broadband
NRECA

Joe Carbone
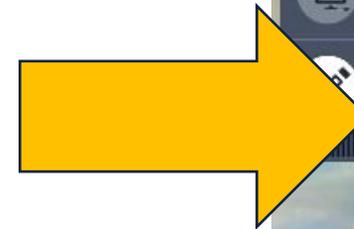Solution Engineering
Manager
NRTC

Teresa Ferguson
Sr. Director, Broadband
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Questions & Answers

Click on white triangle next to "Questions" to open the question box

Today's Topics

- What's At Stake

- FCC's Broadband Map Availability Challenge Process

- Why is Challenging the FCC maps so Challenging

- How to Engage NRECA and NRTC and Prepare Your Challenge

- Q&A

What's at Stake

- Roughly $42 Billion of IIJA BEAD funding

- Congress directed the NTIA to use FCC maps for BEAD distribution

- FCC
  › Broadband Data Collection - Sept 2022
  › FCC released the "New Map" - Nov 2022
  › Challenge timeline ongoing *but* NTIA January 13, 2023

Why is the Challenge Process so Challenging?

- Individual challenges are now open

- Map takes some familiarity to use

- Only allow challenges to one provider in one location at a time –
  - › Challenge to availability only and _not_ on the speed or quality of service
  - › Despite this, please urge your members to review the map for their homes, businesses, etc. and challenge if needed:

  https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home

Overview FCC's Broadband Map Availability Bulk Challenge Process

- Types of Bulk Challenges
  - **Knowledge of Infrastructure** – could be based on knowledge of where network facilities and plant exist
  - **Information collected from individual consumers (crowdsource)** – collecting information from individual consumers about the broadband services available, and not available, to them
  - **Other**

- NRECA - NRTC Broadband Map Challenge Project

Knowledge of Infrastructure Challenge Information

- Examples of information that may inform Knowledge of Infrastructure Challenge:
  - Local building permits
  - Rights-of-way access
  - Franchise agreements
  - On-the-ground examination of broadband infrastructure, including trenching activity, in a particular area
  - Pole attachment agreements
  - Engage with local and state officials

Knowledge of Infrastructure Bulk Challenge Format

1. CSV data file

Field	Data Type	Example	Description/Notes
contact_name	String	Jane Broadband	Full name of the individual contact associated with the challenge at the location - Omit field if using Methodology 1
contact_email	String	Jane.broadband@fcc.gov	Email address of the individual contact associated with the challenge at the location. - Value must match valid email address format, e.g.: atom@domain.tld. - Omit field if using Methodology 1
contact_phone	String	888-225-5322	Phone number of the individual contact associated with the challenge at the location. - Value is optional and may be null. - Value must match valid US phone number format: 000-000-0000, if not null. - Omit field if using Methodology 1
provider_id	Integer	900104	Unique identifier for the fixed service provider about which challenge or crowdsource data is being submitted.
brand_name	String	Acme Broadband	Brand name of the service, as shown on the Broadband Map, about which challenge or crowdsource data is being submitted.
technology	Integer	50	10 – Copper Wire 40 – Coaxial Cable / HFC 50 – Optical Carrier / Fiber to the Premises 60 – Geostationary Satellite 61 – Non-geostationary Satellite 70 – Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless 71 – Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless 0 – Other
location_id	String	1357135307	Unique identifier for the location, from the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, subject to the fixed broadband availability challenge or crowdsource data.
data_vintage	Date	2022-06-30	- Value must match valid ISO-8601 date format, e.g.: YYYY-MM-DD - Value must correspond to the as-of date of published fixed broadband availability data.
category_code	Enumerated	5	5 – Provider does not offer the technology entered above at this location.

2. Supporting Evidence file

Knowledge of Infrastructure) *must* also upload a separate file that provides evidence to support the fixed availability challenge.
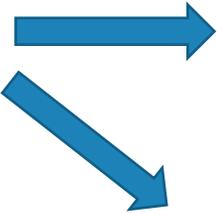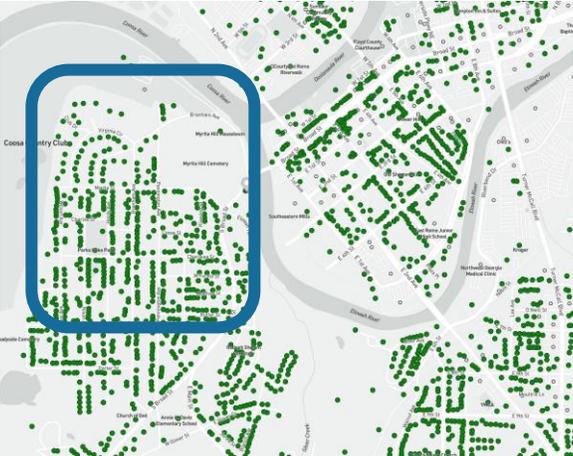
At least one evidence file must be submitted for each bulk fixed challenge file.

Accepted file formats for the evidence file are: DOC, DOCX, PDF, JPEG, PNG.

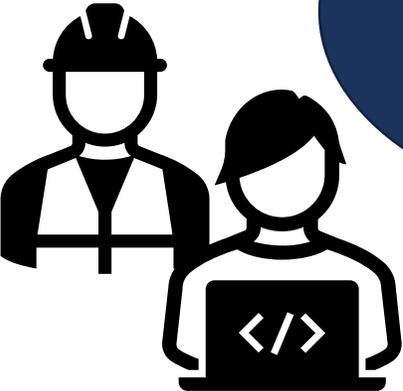*Don't get too discouraged as we can help.*

Infrastructure Bulk Challenge Start & Finish

1. CSV data file

provider_id	brand_name	technology	location_id	data_vintage	category_code
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300762609	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300762609	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300763038	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300767748	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300767722	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300769068	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300767787	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300767221	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300763938	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300768370	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300760584	6/30/22	5
130001	ACME INTERNET	50	1300769029	6/30/22	5

We see ACME on the FCC map claiming to offer fiber in this area, but we don't have any attachers on our poles for communications at all in this area and have never seen any burying projects there either
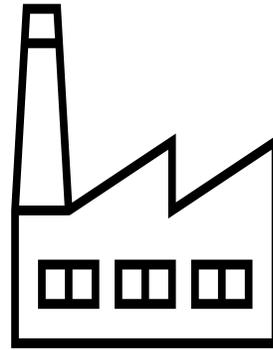
2. Supporting Evidence file

"Our utility owns all the poles in this area and we have no attachments for ACME or any other fiber-based broadband at all in this area."

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Inputs and Outputs for NRECA/NRTC Infrastructure Bulk Challenge Assistance

Member Cooperative provides

❑ Polygons of Challenge Areas

❑ Provider(s) and their Tech (Fiber, DSL, Coax, Fixed Wireless, etc.) to challenge for each polygon

❑ Supporting evidence for each polygon

Bulk Challenge Assistance using FCC Location Fabric

Member Cooperative receives

❑ Bulk Challenge CSV File

❑ Supporting Evidence File

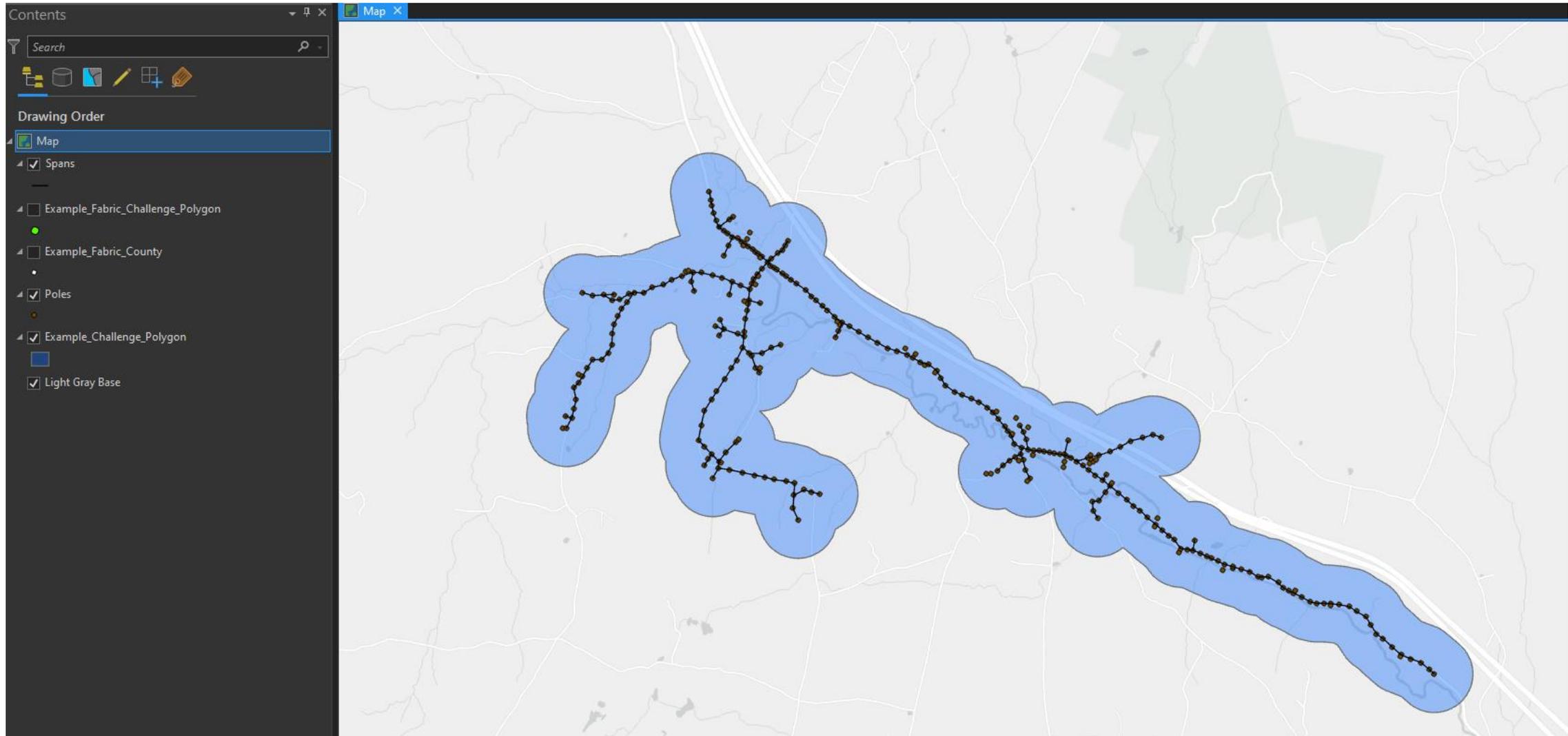# Recommended High Level Steps if You Wish to Participate

1. Spend time reviewing the map (https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home) in your area and see if there are any discrepancies based on your knowledge of infrastructure. Zoom in and out to see how the map works and what you can conclude.

   - Look at the providers for addresses you know
   - Look at service areas by provider

2. If you have a knowledge of infrastructure basis to challenge and want assistance, let us know your intention for assistance by emailing bdc@nrtc.coop

3. Make one or more map polygons to identify these areas. These polygons will be key for NRTC to identify the locations you wish to challenge and create the CSV file needed.

More Detail on the Process

1. Create polygons you want to challenge based on lack of pole attachments or power for communications companies
   › Identify and select poles that do not have communication attachments, Select spans within 50' of those poles, and Create 1000' buffer polygon around those spans or the distance you think suitable (use any of the aforementioned methods)
   › Create polygons using another methodology based on lack of attachments or communications power or other local knowledge such as franchise agreements
   › Use your GIS / mapping software or Google Earth or geojson.crowdfiber.io or other mapping tool to make shapefiles or KML / KMZ files
   › Another option is to request broadband service in areas of doubt and log request and response but that is not an infrastructure challenge per se. It can be submitted with a slightly different set of data.

2. Once you've determined the area you would like to challenge, send polygons to NRECA and NRTC contact with an explanation of the work, noting any differences in the work method per polygon and what technology types and providers you would like to challenge
   › Members are encouraged to perform field validation of polygons prior to sending

3. NRTC will process the fabric data to provide the location_id and necessary provider detail necessary for bulk challenge

4. Submit data to NRTC through this dedicated email address: **bdc@nrtc.coop**
   › **Subject Line:** "Coop Name" - FCC Challenge Polygon(s)
   › **Attachments:** Challenge polygon(s) in either of the following GIS formats: *SHP, GDB, KMZ*
      Please use Coordinate Reference System EPSG:4326 (GCS_WGS_1984)
   › **December 23rd, 2022, deadline for polygon submission to NRTC will be strictly enforced**

GIS Example

After the Files are Made: Challenge Submission

- A challenge filed directly with the FCC by a broadband provider or electric co-op is likely to hold the most weight. One advantage is that it can be directly shared with the provider being challenged

- Filing directly with the FCC requires an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and can be complicated. Therefore, NRECA and NRTC will collect and file the data on behalf of any co-op not in the broadband business

- If co-ops have an existing relationship with another contractor or consultant, they would like to use to submit their challenge we just ask that you inform us you plan to file a challenge

- If co-ops, even those in the broadband business, would prefer to have NRECA/NRTC submit their challenge data we are happy to do so but would like to know sooner rather than later so we can manage workflows

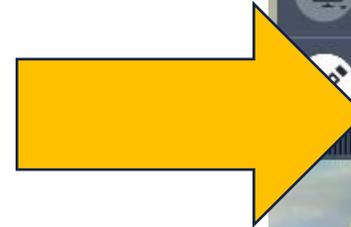# Dates for NRECA & NRTC to Prepare your Challenge

▪**By Thursday, December 15, we kindly ask that you:**

› Let NRECA/NRTC know if you plan to join the bulk challenge

› Let NRECA know if you plan to work with your own contractor to submit your own bulk challenge. Please e-mail brian.ohara@nreca.coop

› Let NRECA know if you plan to share the individual challenge link with your membership

▪**By Friday, December 23, submit data to NRTC through this dedicated email address: bdc@nrtc.coop**

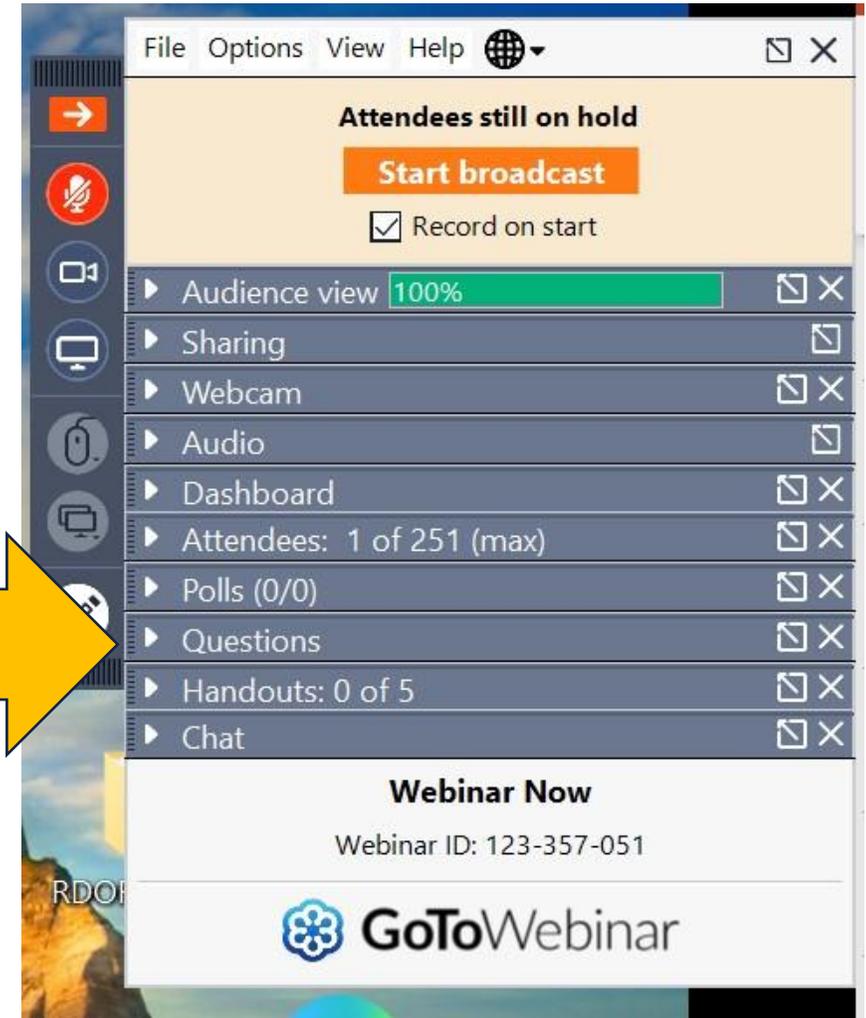› December 23rd, 2022, deadline for polygon submission to NRTC will be strictly enforced

▪**By Friday, January 13, submit challenge files to FCC**

Questions & Answers

NRTC
funding@nrtc.coop

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THANK YOU

BDC@NRTC.COOP

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