

**From:** Dick Pecor <cl350guy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2021 5:44 PM  
**To:** Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Subject:** [External] Fwd: Broadband

[External]

Ms. Brown,

I forward to your committee this email describing the unintended consequences of the approval of Starlink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Vermont. I am in hope this is an appropriate channel to submit public comment and that as they deliberate H.360 the committee would consider dealing with the issues outlined.

This email was sent today to our Colchester legislative group.

Respectfully,  
Richard Pecor

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Dick Pecor <cl350guy@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 1:56 PM  
**Subject:** Broadband  
**To:** Seth Chase <schase@leg.state.vt.us>, Curt Taylor <ctaylor@leg.state.vt.us>, Richard Mazza <rmazza@leg.state.vt.us>, Pat Brennan <pbrennan@leg.state.vt.us>, Sarita Austin <saustin@leg.state.vt.us>  
**CC:** Shawn Enterline <shawn.enterline@gmail.com>

Legislators,

As you may know, our neighborhood of 37 properties in Northeast Colchester has been actively seeking modern broadband for the last year now. Our efforts have been fruitless so far due to many factors but we are still reaching out for assistance as overlapping programs and regulations continue to stymie our progress.

The latest news is around the GMP and VEC Temporary Broadband Riders that have been recently made available to offset up to \$2,000 of broadband make ready costs for qualifying locations. That had us excited up here until we learned that the FCC had awarded Starlink \$3.9M to ostensibly serve what appears to be 98 census blocks across our state affecting 2247 customer locations. This Rural Digital Opportunity Fund award is separate from and not controlled by the Vermont PSD. What the award does though is make all these locations appear as if they have 25/3 broadband. The GMP and VEC programs also are nullified by the RDOF award so those 2247 locations will not qualify for any State, Federal or private funding as a result. So these locations in the 98 census blocks will soon realize that they are frozen out of modern broadband.

Please keep in mind that other broadband providers have or will have received RDOF monies to build fiber to the home FTTH systems thereby providing their census block customers future proof and modern broadband. We wholeheartedly support those Vermont based broadband companies. Those of us in the Starlink census blocks however will be relegated to an ostensibly 25/3 system that given the nature of skyline visibility through trees will prove to be a stretch at best. The irony is that anyone in Vermont can apply for Starlink service but that company was given \$3.9M to cover 98 census blocks that they could cover anyway. So FTTH providers will build a Vermont based modern broadband system while Starlink will build nothing, their customers will have to build and maintain their own ground stations.

Starlink's petition, like the other broadband providers, is before the Vermont PUC presently as 21-0018-PET Request For ETC Designation. Starlink seeks to be an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Vermont and as such will have to meet all the service and reliability standards like our incumbent landline carriers must. Their ability to perform at that level remains to be seen and performance standards as well as data are non-existent. Granting ETC status will allow Starlink to begin drawing down the RDOF \$3.9M and confer upon the system the approval of the State of Vermont as a bonafide and reliable carrier of voice and data carrier. That will be based on no reliable data.

What we are asking you as a group to do is to reach out in your respective committees and to your legislative peers that may have affected census blocks in the represented towns to intervene with the PUC to deny approval of ETC status in Vermont. We believe that granting ETC status to Starlink will automatically inhibit 2247 locations across the state from ever having modern broadband. We solicit your assistance as we know that broadband legislation is now moving through both the House and Senate chambers of the legislature and Starlink is seeking expedited consideration from the PUC.

We as a group remain available to discuss and provide more information as necessary. We have reached out to the VLCT and to the Governor previously with no results.

Respectfully,  
Richard Pecor  
On behalf of 36 neighbors