

NEK Community Broadband



Open Access

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The Definition

An arrangement in which one network is open to independent service providers to offer services. In many cases, the network owner only sells wholesale access to the service providers who offer all retail services (ie: triple-play of Internet, phone, TV, as well as home alarm systems, and other types of services).

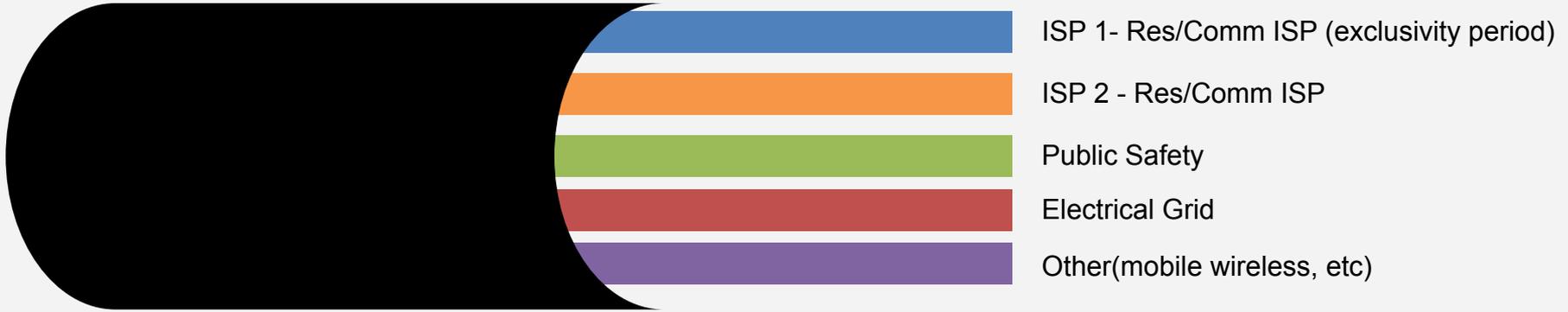
- Institute for local self-reliance

By Definition

- Only a CUD can offer open-access
- While rural network business plans may only support one end provider, the CUD, as owner of the network, can assure contracted partners (lessees) meet the performance criteria, which includes;
 - Reliability (availability, latency, redundancy of power supply and labor)
 - Customer service (responsiveness, satisfaction)
 - End customer design choices
- If a partner does not perform, the CUD is able to pull in other providers even pulling in another provider when performance lags.
- Open access includes design for public safety
- 100% coverage cannot be mandated with private providers (details on last slide)

Our Vision of Open Access

Fiber Line with 12 - 288 Available Strands



1996 Telecom act

In the 1996 Telecom Act, Congress made a distinction between two types of services: “telecommunications services” and “information services.” Telecommunications services, such as traditional phone service, were subject to common carrier rules. Information services were not. Based on the definitions in the 1996 Telecom Act, the FCC classified cable and fiber broadband as an “information service” and as a result it is not treated as a common carrier service and is largely exempt from regulation.

The only way Vermont can get universal service and/or open access is via the CUD.