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Users can also view maps that compare advertised speeds to actual speeds recorded for users that have taken the "speedtest" at the FCC's website. The site (www.broadbandmap.gov) includes "popular reports" on subjects such as areas that have no broadband availability...
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The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has unveiled the national broadband map that was mandated by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which includes both interactive...
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Subjects: Regulatory agencies, Maps, Broadband; United States--US

Locations: United States

Company/Org: Federal Communications Commission

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National Broadband Map Unveiled to Mixed Reaction

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has unveiled the national broadband map that was mandated by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which includes both interactive maps and a tool to allow users to search the database of about 25 million records for broadband availability at their own addresses.

Users can also view maps that compare advertised speeds to actual speeds recorded for users that have taken the "speedtest" at the FCC's website. The site (www.broadbandmap.gov) includes "popular reports" on subjects such as areas that have no broadband availability (13 census blocks in Alaska, 2 in Idaho, and 1 each in Texas and Nevada).

The map will be "constantly improving," said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski during a conference call briefing reporters. Under a \$20 million memorandum of understanding with NTIA, the FCC, in conjunction with information technology firm Computech, developed the map, website, and database, while NTIA worked with states and state-designated agents that received \$293 million in Recovery Act grants to gather the data that fuels the map.

Under the grants, that data will be updated every six months for five years, NTIA Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling said during the briefing. The president's 2012

data collection methodologies that could compromise some of the utility of this information.

"Unfortunately, the map also lacks the most important data for broadband market analysis — the price of service," Mr. Turner added. "This glaring omission is due solely to fierce opposition from the phone and cable industry, which threatened to hold the mapping effort hostage if NTIA required the collection of pricing data."

"We urge the FCC to pick up where the NTIA left off, to stand up to the phone and cable industry, and to use its authority under the law to compel ISPs to report basic, granular pricing and availability data. And all of this information should be publicly available, so that Americans can finally have a clear picture of the higher prices they are paying as a direct result of the dire state of competition in our broadband market," he said.

In a blog post, Rick Chesson, senior vice president-law and regulatory affairs at the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, said, "We've been impressed by the work of the state entities and by NTIA's leadership in bringing this first phase of the project to completion by the statutory deadline. But as impressive as this effort has been, it is important to recognize its limitations."

He said that it's "likely that many of the thousands of broadband providers operating in the U.S. will not be counted — some because they were unaware of the

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