VPS Memo

Broadband Data Collection Fabric Bulk Challenge Process

PUBLIC NOTICE RELEASED SEPTEMBER 1, 2022.

All Internet Service Providers (ISPs) were required to complete the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) by September 1, 2022. The filing required ISPs to identify Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) from the Fabric, a common dataset of all locations developed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) vendor CostQuest. The Fabric was developed utilizing multiple data sources but may have instances where there were missing or incorrect locations.

Bulk BSL Fabric Challenge Process
Starting September 12, 2022

On September 1, the FCC issued a Public Notice outlining the bulk BSL Fabric Challenge Process. Beginning September 12, 2022, State, local, Tribal governments, service providers and other entities can file bulk challenges via the BDC Portal. The FCC previously released the Bulk Fabric Challenge Specs Public Notice detailing filing requirements and BSL identification information. A careful review of your service territory and BDC submission will help identify those locations to be challenged. Examples of the types of challenges being accepted include:

1. Missing Locations – Broadband serviceable mass-market locations known to exist but not reflected in the Fabric
2. Misidentified Locations – Fabric locations that are misidentified as BSLs or non-BSLs
3. Extra Locations – Locations that are not known to be serviceable or in existence that are reflected as BSLs in the Fabric
4. Incorrect Locations – Fabric locations that have incorrect address or lat/long coordinates

If a location originally deemed a non-BSL is challenged and determined to be a location that would obtain mass-market broadband service or is currently receiving mass-market broadband service, the location will be added to the Fabric as a BSL.

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Note: The FCC encourages entities to submit bulk challenges early to increase the likelihood of inclusion in the next version of the Fabric that is expected to be released prior to December 31, 2022. The FCC has indicated there is no end to the Challenge window as it is a dataset that will require ongoing updates as locations are added, removed, updated etc. There will however be cutoff dates in place in order to publish the Fabric before each BDC filing window opens.

Fixed Availability Challenge Process
Starting after the updated Fabric is released

The FCC will publish the BDC broadband maps later this year at which point, State, local, Tribal governments, service providers, other entities as well as members of the public will have the ability to view the maps and submit online challenges to the Fabric data associated with an individual location including technology and maximum available speed.

Future BDC Filings
Data as of December 31, 2022

Each accepted Challenge will be included in the following Fabric release. As a result, new Fabric data will be provided to ISPs prior to the opening of all future BDC filing windows. It is important to start planning now what your business practices and processes will be for future filings as the data for your service territory may change and require periodic review.

Keep in mind, BDC filing revisions can be made at any time to ensure your reported data is as accurate as possible.

Additional Information

Many future funding opportunities will be based off the broadband availability maps. Vantage Point encourages you to review your Fabric data and challenge any and all locations thought to be missing or misidentified. Please contact our BDC Fabric Challenge Team (Troy Eilts, Tammie Herrlein, Dereck DeVries, MBA, and Courtney Spears) at BDC@vantagepnt.com with any questions or if you would like assistance with the Fabric Bulk Challenge process.