

CONNECTMAINE

Public Forum

13 May 2021

Zoom Link: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/84917474929>

Authority Members

Nick Battista, Chair
Jasmine Bishop
Fred Brittain
Susan Corbett
Heather Johnson
Jeff Letourneau
Liz Wyman

Designation of Broadband Service

The statute and ruleⁱ require the ConnectMaine Authority to consider market conditions and minimum performance criteria needed for common applications and network services. Based on common applications and network services as defined in the ConnectMaine rule, staff recommended a designation of broadband service that is at least 100/100mbps with a latency no more than 20ms, made possible by a XGS-PON at a minimum; and recommended a separate designation of unserved based on slower speeds than 50/10mbps.

The construct between broadband service and unserved is a critical element. At least annually, ConnectMaine is required to determine the minimum performance criteria for broadband service in accordance with its statute. Designation of unserved areas includes but isn't limited to consideration of the designation of broadband service. Importantly, the designation of unserved areas is separate from the designation of broadband service.

In order to initiate the required 30-day public comment period, the ConnectMaine Authority voted to approve the designation of broadband service as at least 100/100mbps, and the use of 50/10mbps for the designation of unserved areas.

Conference Call Information

10:30 A.M. on May 13: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/84917474929>

Or dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/u/kd1mlkBCi8>

Meeting ID: 849 1747 4929

Agenda

Context

- Debrief the memo on the designation of broadband serviceⁱⁱ and action taken at the April meeting
- Flow of the public forum will follow the considerations required by the rule
 - Introduction of each consideration by staff
 - Public comments respective to each consideration
 - Ending with additional questions or comments

Considerations

The state of the market

- Industry standard of XGS-PON—10 Gigabit Symmetrical Passive Optical Network
- Public comments on the state of the market consideration

Service level required for Common Applications and Network Service

- More commonly faster than 10/10mpbs service
- Public comments on the service level required

CONNECTMAINE

Maximum monthly throughput for Common Applications and Network Service

- The average household has 12 connected devices now, and that is expected to grow to 20 by 2025.
- Public comments on the data levels required

Other performance criteria for common applications and network services

- Besides capacity, speeds and bandwidth, these include latency—the lower the better—and affordability—price of service offerings.
- Public comments on other performance criteria for broadband

Consideration of broadband service in the designation of unserved areas

- For transparency on the priority for grants: 50/10mbps
- Public comments on broadband service for designation of unserved areas

Other considerations for the designation of unserved areas

- Designation of unserved areas includes but isn't limited to consideration of the designation of broadband service.
- Public comment on the designation of unserved areas

Forum

- Questions about the process for the designation of broadband service and unserved areas
- Additional public comments not yet raised

What's Next

The timelines of designating broadband service and then unserved areas, the following opportunity to review unserved areas, and then infrastructure grants, are all intertwined:

1. Continue to solicit public input on the designation of broadband service during the 30-day comment period required by statute
2. Vote to confirm the designation of broadband service at the May meeting
3. Further engage the board and public in identifying unserved areas in June & July
4. Vote on the designation of unserved areas at the July meeting
5. Solicit public input on the designation of unserved areas during the 30-day comment period required by statute
6. Also announce an Opportunity to Review Unserved Areas at the July meeting, using the same process approved in January
7. Determine performance criteria for projects using grant funds, June-August
8. Comment periods close before the September meeting
9. Open application window for broadband infrastructure grants at the September meeting

Stay informed by visiting the ConnectMaine website:

www.maine.gov/connectme/about/statutes-rulemaking

- Method for submitting written comments: Within the 30-day comment period, submit comments in an email or attached to an email to Connect.ME@maine.gov with the subject Public Comment.
- Any remaining questions?

ⁱ35-A M.R.S.A. Ch. 93, §9204-A.1., and ConnectMaine Authority Rule, 99-639 Ch. 101, §5.A., which are made available on the ConnectMaine website: <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/about/statutes-rulemaking>

ⁱⁱ This memo contains additional background: <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/about/statutes-rulemaking>