



NOVEMBER 2010

## Your Internet is at Risk! - The National Broadband Plan

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) last spring released the report that Congress had instructed them to develop. This plan was named the National Broadband Plan and the intention of Congress was to have the FCC set goals for having broadband (high-speed Internet) to all homes and businesses in the U.S.

**But what happened instead was this: The FCC forgot about rural America.** Instead, their plan as currently proposed would be devastating for nearly all of Middle America. You see, the FCC considers even cities like Omaha and Lincoln and even Kansas City to be "rural".

### **The National Broadband Plan proposes the following:**

1. A minimum standard of 4Mg per second download speeds for rural America, while urban areas have a much higher standard of 100Mg per second speeds.
2. The plan eliminates incentives to providing faster broadband speeds.
3. Universal Service Funding formulas to change. This could increase local phone rates by as much as \$50 per month!
4. It will abandon the current universal service system which brought phone service with reasonable pricing to all rural areas of the U.S.

### **The plan may:**

- Sharply increase rates for rural consumers all across the U.S.
- Place rural communities at an economic disadvantage for attracting families and businesses to their communities.
- Reduce educational opportunities.
- Inhibit rural health care opportunities.
- Limit rural consumer's use for many current and future web-based services and applications.
- Will **not** create services comparable to urban areas with comparable rates mandated by the Telecom Act of 1996.
- It will **not** treat customers living in rural areas the same as urban areas.

#### **Contact the FCC Commissioners**

Chairman Julius Genachowski: [Julius.Genachowski@fcc.gov](mailto:Julius.Genachowski@fcc.gov)  
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#### **Contact Our Legislators**

Senator Mike Johanns: <http://johanns.senate.gov>  
 Senator Ben Nelson: <http://bennelson.senate.gov>  
 Congressman Adrian Smith: <http://adriansmith.house.gov>

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**ATC COMMUNICATIONS**  
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## Beware of the Cyber Bully

The i-SAFE America research team has discovered a disturbing trend-cyber bullying has affected more than half the students surveyed, on both sides of the issue. Their latest assessments surveyed more than 1500 students ranging from fourth to eighth grade across the country. They found out:

- 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online
- 53% of kids admit having said something mean or hurtful things to another online
- 42% of kids have been bullied while online

The tradition of home as a refuge from bullies on the school playground is over. The internet is the new playground, and there are no off hours. The popularity of instant messaging, e-mail, webpage's, and blogging mean kids are a target 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Even worse, i-SAFE found out 58 percent of kids have not told their parents or any adult about something mean or hurtful that had happened to them online.

### Cyber Bullying: Break It Down

Cyber Bullying is verbal harassment that occurs during online activities.  
Cyber Bullying can take many forms. These are a few:

- A threatening e-mail
  - Nasty instant messaging session
  - Repeated notes sent to the cell phone
  - A website setup to mock others
- "Borrowing" someone's screen name and pretending to be them
  - Forwarding supposedly private message, pictures, or video

Info from [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org)



### December Deadline For Directory Updates

December 1st is the deadline for updates for the new McLeod USA Yellow Book telephone directory to be published in April of 2010. If you've had any changes at all in the listing that is currently appearing in the phone directory, please call the ATC Communications business office and notify us.

Changes could include going from a non-published number to a published number. If you've moved in the past year, please make sure we have your current address. If you would like to have both the husband's and wife's names listed, we need you to inform us of that. Call toll free, 888-565-5422 or locally 962-7298.

### Unlisted Numbers = Unlisted Addresses

If you have an unlisted or unpublished phone number and you live in a county that has enhanced 911 capabilities, you are responsible for notifying the county of what your address is.

While ATC Communications has been happy to work with the 911 systems in the areas where we have telephone customers, our tariff does not allow us to pass along the addresses of customers who have unpublished numbers. If this is your situation, you may want to contact your county sheriff's department to make sure they are able to get to your home in case of emergency.