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May 8, 2026

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Hon. David Jones, Chairman  
c/o Ectory Lawless, Docket Room Manager  
Tennessee Public Utility Commission  
502 Deaderick Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
[TPUC.DocketRoom@tn.gov](mailto:TPUC.DocketRoom@tn.gov)

**Docket No. 26-00038**

**Re: *Application of Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber, for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority***

Dear Chairman Jones:

Please accept for filing the attached Application of Socket Telecom, LLC for a franchise certificate. Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Henry Walker (B.P.R. 000272)  
Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP  
1221 Broadway, Suite 2400  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
Tel: (615) 252-2363  
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BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE: )  
)  
APPLICATION OF SOCKET TELECOM, LLC )  
D/B/A SOCKET FIBER, FOR A STATE- ) DOCKET NO. 26-00038  
ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF FRANCHISE )  
AUTHORITY )

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AFFIDAVIT OF CARSON COFFMAN

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STATE OF MISSOURI

COUNTY OF BOONE

**1. Name of Applicant**

I, Carson Coffman, do hereby attest to being an officer of Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber. I am authorized to make this Affidavit on behalf of the Applicant.

**Legal Name of Applicant:** Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber

**Business Address:** 912 S. Main St., Ste. 106, Sikeston, MO 63801

**Telephone:** 573-481-2763

**Website:** [www.socket.net](http://www.socket.net)

**Compliance Officer:**

Robin Davidson

Compliance Officer

912 S. Main St.

Ste. 106

Sikeston, MO 63801

Email: [robin.davidson@corp.socket.net](mailto:robin.davidson@corp.socket.net)

Phone: 573-481-2763

**Primary Contact:**

R. Matthew Kohly  
Director – Business Development  
2703 Clark Lane  
Columbia, MO 65202  
Email: mkohly@corp.socket.net  
Phone: 573-289-8633

**Type of Business Entity:**

Limited Liability Company  
State of Formation: Missouri  
Date of Formation: November 10, 2010

**Company Officers:**

Executive Chairman – James M. Gleason  
President – Carson Coffman  
Chief Financial Officer – J. Keith Davidson  
Chief Operations Officer – Larry Eby

The above Contacts and Officers are authorized to represent Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber, before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission.

**1. Statement of Intent to Provide Service**

Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber (“Applicant”) hereby notifies the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(3) of its intent to provide video service or cable service for purchase or provide new broadband service within each of the areas described herein within twenty-four months of the date of the issuance of a state-issued certificate of franchise authority. With this Application, Applicant submits the application fee of \$500 based on a service area population of less than 50,000 as reflected by the most recent decennial census.

**Designated Service Area(s):**

The Applicant intends at this time to service in portions of the following Tennessee jurisdictions:

- City of Germantown – 11,000 passings
- Town of Collierville – 4,000 passings
- City of Bartlett – 4,600 passings
- Shelby County – 3,000 passings

See pages 18-21 for highly confidential maps of the proposed service areas.

**2. Indemnification**

The Applicant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless in accordance with T.C.A. 7-59-318 the State of Tennessee, any municipality, county, or other political subdivision of the state, any employee or representative of the state, municipality, county, or other political subdivision of the state, individually and collectively referred to in T.C.A. 7-59-318 as an “indemnitee.”

**3. Notice of Franchise Fee Rights**

The Applicant affirms that notice has been provided to each affected local governing authority of its right to receive a franchise fee consistent with the applicable provisions of the Competitive Cable and Video Services Act. See **Attachment A** for list and addresses of the notified governing authorities.

**4. Compliance with Applicable Laws**

The Applicant will comply with all applicable federal and state laws and will timely file with the FCC all forms required by the FCC in advance of offering video services or cable services.

**5. Compliance with Nondiscrimination, Deployment, and Enforcement Provisions**

The Applicant agrees to comply with all requirements of the Competitive Cable and Video Services Act, expressly including the non-discrimination and service-deployment requirements of

T.C.A. 7-59-311 and further acknowledges the provisions of T.C.A. 7-59-312 which govern the enforcement of non-discrimination and deployment requirements.

#### **6. Notice Prior to Providing Service**

The Applicant agrees to provide notice to each affected local governing authority at least ten (10) days prior to providing service in that jurisdiction.

#### **7. Applicant's Complaint Handling Procedures**

In the event that a service or billing issue occurs, the customer can call the telephone number listed below. A fully trained Customer Service Representative can often resolve the issue over the telephone. If the issue cannot be resolved over the telephone, Applicant's Customer Service Representative will set up an appointment for a skilled technician to visit the affected location and remedy the issue. Should the issue not be resolved to the customer's satisfaction, Applicant's representative will explain the reasons why it cannot be resolved and offer alternative options.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELP CENTER LINKS**

- o • Billing and Customer Support Phone: 1-800-762-5383 (1-800-SOCKET-3)
- o • Billing and Customer Support Email: support@corp.socket.net
- o • Contact and Customer Service: <https://www.socket.net/contact-customerservice/>
- o • General FAQs: <https://www.socket.net/general-faqs/>
- o • Billing and Pricing: <https://www.socket.net/billing-pricing/>
- o • Outage and Service Issues: <https://www.socket.net/outages-serviceissues/>
- o • Terms and Conditions: <https://www.socket.net/terms-and-conditions/>
- o • Regulatory Questions: regulatory@corp.socket.net

In the event Applicant receives a complaint from a Governmental or Regulatory authority, that complaint is forwarded to Applicant's legal department for review and resolution.

#### **8. Financial, Technical, and Managerial Capability**

Founded in 1994, Applicant celebrated its 31st year in business with a long tradition of providing Internet access in rural communities throughout the state of Missouri. Applicant began

as a dial-up Internet Service Provider. In many communities, Applicant was the first company to provide Internet service. Today, Applicant offers services ranging from residential Internet and phone service to advanced data and telecommunications services, which are provided to large, enterprise businesses and critical community institutions.

Applicant is a well-established Competitive Local Exchange and Interexchange Carrier in Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas regulated by those respective regulatory authorities and the Federal Communications Commission. Applicant is also an authorized Video Service Provider in portions of Missouri.

Applicant started providing Fiber to the Premise (“FTTP”) connections to customers in 2011 and currently provides fiber connections to over 45,000 customers in Missouri and Illinois. In the residential and small business market, Applicant delivers up to 10Gbps symmetric broadband Internet, voice, and video service. Applicant’s privately-owned fiber network is now comprised of over 3,750 miles of fiber, providing fiber-based Internet and telecommunications services across Missouri and Illinois.

Applicant has the financial ability to render the services for which this Applications is being submitted. In 2025, Applicant was acquired by private-equity partners Oak Hill Capital and Pamlico Capital. Collectively, these investment firms manage over twenty-three billion in assets. Audited financial statements can be provided upon request.

Applicant has Managerial and Technical Qualifications to successfully operate the network and provide the services applied for with this Application. See **Attachment B** for the biographies of Applicant’s Management Team.

**9. Minority-Owned Business Participation Plan**

The Application agrees to comply with its Minority-Owned Business Participation Plan, which is attached as **Attachment C**.

**10. Signature and Verification**

I, the undersigned, affirm that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber, and that all statements contained herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

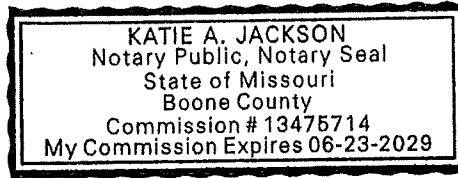
This 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carson Coffman

STATE OF MISSOURI     )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF BOONE     )

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared Carson Coffman, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained. In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public



**ATTACHMENT A**

Jurisdictions to Receive Notice of Franchise Fee Rights

## **Jurisdictions and Addresses**

Mike Palazzolo  
Mayor of Germantown  
1930 S. Germantown Road  
Germantown, TN 38138

Halle Park  
Mayor of Collierville  
500 Poplar View Parkway  
Collierville, TN 38017

David Parson  
Mayor of Bartlett  
6400 Stage Road  
Bartlett, TN 38134

Lee Harish  
Mayor of Shelby County  
Shelby County Government  
160 N. Main Street  
Memphis, TN 38103

**ATTACHMENT B**

Biographies of Management Team

### **James M. Gleason, Executive Chairman**

James M. Gleason is the current Executive Chairman of Socket Fiber. Mr. Gleason previously co-founded Vexus Fiber, Vast Broadband, and NewWave Communications where he served as the Chief Executive Officer. Prior to that, Mr. Gleason served as President and COO of various Galaxy Cablevision groups of companies from 1986 until 2002. In 1992, Mr. Gleason served as Chairman of the Board of the National Cable Television Cooperative. He now serves on the Board of the American Cable Association and was formerly the Chairman of the Association from 2002 until 2006. He is also a member of the Cable TV Pioneers and was inducted into the Mid-America Cable Television Pathfinders. Mr. Gleason holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University. He has over 39 years of experience in the cable and telecommunications industries and is excited and proud to build on this through his work with Socket.

### **Carson Coffman, President**

Carson Coffman brings more than 20 years of experience in telecommunications, sales, marketing, business development, and operations. He joined Socket in 1999 and led the development of Socket's CLEC division. Coffman launched Socket's voice services by negotiating interconnection agreements with three ILECs, developing traffic system design, implementing Class 5 voice switch and supporting hardware, and developing packages for local phone, long-distance, and enhanced services. In 2009, he was named Socket's President and Chief Operating Officer and is also co-owner of the company. For the past decade, Coffman has guided Socket through the construction of a fiber-to-the-home network, continuously expanding coverage to over 100,000 homes and businesses throughout Missouri, and built over 3,800 miles of fiber. Coffman holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is actively involved in the local community, serving organizations such as Love Columbia and For Columbia. He is also active in the national telecommunications sector, having served on the board for Incompas, and Treasurer for FISPA. Prior to telecommunications, Coffman worked as a sales and management consultant with the Missouri Business Group, and served as a project engineer in the heavy earth construction field with List & Clark Construction/Central Plains Contracting.

### **Larry Eby, Chief Operating Officer**

Larry Eby comes to Socket from Vexus Fiber, which he helped co-found with Jim Gleason and Keith Davidson. Prior to the inception of Socket in April 2025, Mr. Eby was Chief Operating Officer of Vexus Fiber, Vast Broadband, and NewWave Communications. NewWave Communications was awarded the Independent Operator of the Year in 2010. Vast Broadband was awarded the Independent Operator of the Year in 2019. Mr. Eby came to NewWave after leaving Galaxy Cablevision in April of 2006, where he served as President. Mr. Eby has over 32 years of experience in the telecom industry. Mr. Eby graduated with a B.S. degree from Southeast Missouri State University and has been recognized as Southeast Missouri State University's Outstanding Young Alumni. He served nine years on the Board of Directors for the National Cable Television Cooperative and currently serves on the executive board of the Sikeston Regional Chamber of Commerce.

**Keith Davidson, Chief Financial Officer**

Keith Davidson has over 44 years of experience in the cable/telecommunications industry. He is the current Chief Financial Officer of Socket Fiber and before Socket, CFO of Vexus Fiber. Mr. Davidson previously helped co-found Clarity Telecom, which eventually went on to become the Vast Broadband telecommunications network. Vast Broadband was awarded the Independent Operator of the Year in 2019. In the past, Mr. Davidson served as Executive Vice President, Co-Director, and CFO of NewWave Communications. He also served as CFO for several different entities doing business as Galaxy Cablevision from 1981 through 2003. He has been responsible for raising and managing considerable senior and subordinated debt, and acquired properties in over twenty states encompassing several dozen transactions throughout his career.

Mr. Davidson holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University and was inducted into Mid-American CATV “Pathfinders” and the Cable TV Pioneers. He currently serves on the Board of the Greater St. Louis Council – Boy Scouts of America.

**ATTACHMENT C**

Minority-Owned Business Participation Plan

Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber

**SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
BUSINESS PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated ("TCA") § 65-5-112, as amended, Socket Telecom, LLC d/b/a Socket Fiber ("Socket" or "Applicant") submits this Small and Minority-Owned Telecommunications Business Participation Plan (the "Plan").

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of TCA § 65-5-112 is to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses to provide goods and services to telecommunications service providers. Applicant is committed to the goals of TCA § 65-5-112 and to taking steps to support the participation of small and minority-owned telecommunications businesses in the telecommunications industry. Socket will endeavor to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned telecommunications businesses to compete for contracts and subcontracts for goods and services. As part of its procurement process, Socket will make efforts to identify and inform minority-owned and small businesses that are qualified and capable of providing goods and services to Socket of such opportunities. Socket's representatives intend to contact the Department of Economic and Community Development, the administrator of the small and minority-owned telecommunications assistance program, to obtain a list of qualified vendors. Moreover, Socket will seek to increase awareness of such opportunities so that companies not otherwise identified will have sufficient information to participate in the procurement process.

## II. DEFINITIONS

As defined in TCA § 65-5-112:

*Minority Owned Business.* Minority-owned business shall mean a business which is solely owned, or at least fifty-one percent (51 %) of the assets or outstanding stock of which is owned, by an individual who personally manages and controls daily operations of such business, and who is impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of race, religion, sex or national origin and such business has annual gross receipts of less than four million dollars (\$4,000,000).

*Small Business.* Small Business shall mean a business with annual gross receipts of less than four million dollars (\$4,000,000).

## III. ADMINISTRATION

Socket's Plan will be overseen and administered by the individual named below, hereinafter referred to as the Administrator, who will be responsible for conducting and promoting Socket's full efforts to provide equal opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses. The Administrator of the Plan will be:

Robin Davidson  
Compliance Officer  
912 S. Main St.  
Ste. 106  
Sikeston, MO 63801  
Email: Robin.davidson@corp.socket.net  
Phone: 573-481-2763

Applicant intends the Administrator's responsibilities to include:

- (1) Maintaining an updated Plan in full compliance with TCA § 65-5-112 and the rules and orders of the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission.
- (2) Establishing and developing policies and procedures necessary for the successful implementation of the Plan.

- (3) Preparing and submitting such forms as may be required by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, including the filing of required annual updates.
- (4) Serving as the primary liaison to and cooperate with the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, other agencies of the State of Tennessee, and small and minority-owned businesses to locate and use qualified small and minority-owned businesses as defined in § 65-5-112.
- (5) Searching for and developing opportunities to use small and minority-owned businesses and encouraging such businesses to participate in and bid on contracts and subcontracts.
- (6) Providing records and reports and cooperating in any authorized surveys as required by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission.
- (7) Establish a record-keeping system to track qualified small and minority-owned businesses and efforts to use such businesses.
- (8) Providing information and educational activities to persons within Applicant and training such persons to seek out, encourage, and promote the use of small and minority-owned businesses.

In performance of these duties, the Administrator will utilize a number of resources, including:

- Chambers of Commerce
- The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- The United States Department of Commerce
- Small Business Administration Office of Minority Business
- The National Minority Supplier Development Counsel
- The National Association of Women Business Owners
- The National Association of Minority Contractors
- Historically Black Colleges, Universities, and Minority Institutions

The efforts through which Applicant intends to promote and ensure equal opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses are primarily spelled out in the Administrator's duties above. Additional efforts to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses will include offering, where appropriate and feasible, small and minority-owned businesses assistance with technical, insurance, bonding, licensing, production, and deadline requirements.

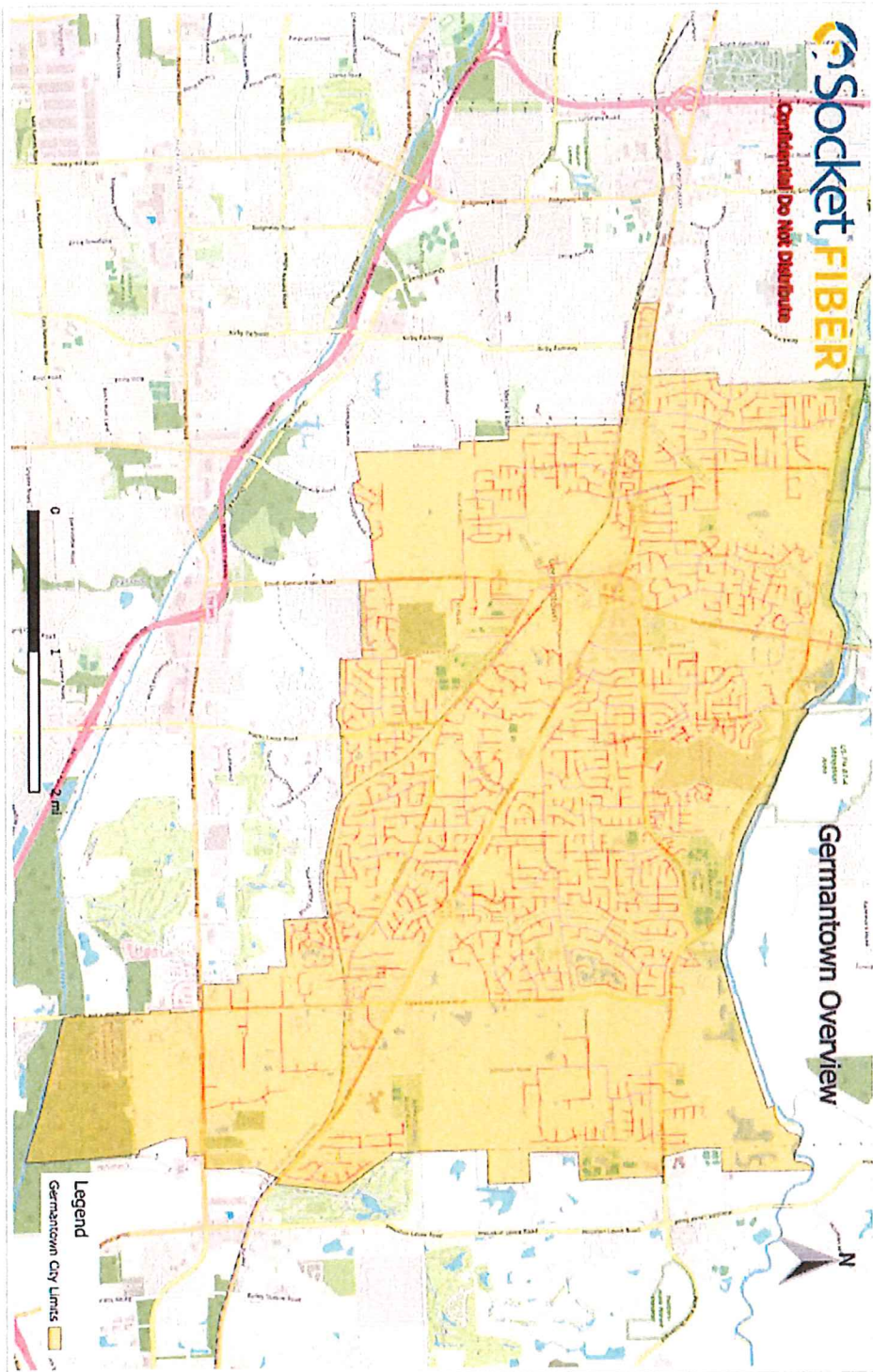
#### **IV. RECORDS AND COMPLIANCE REPORTS**

Socket will maintain records of qualified small- and minority-owned businesses and make efforts to use the goods and services of such businesses. In addition, Socket will maintain records

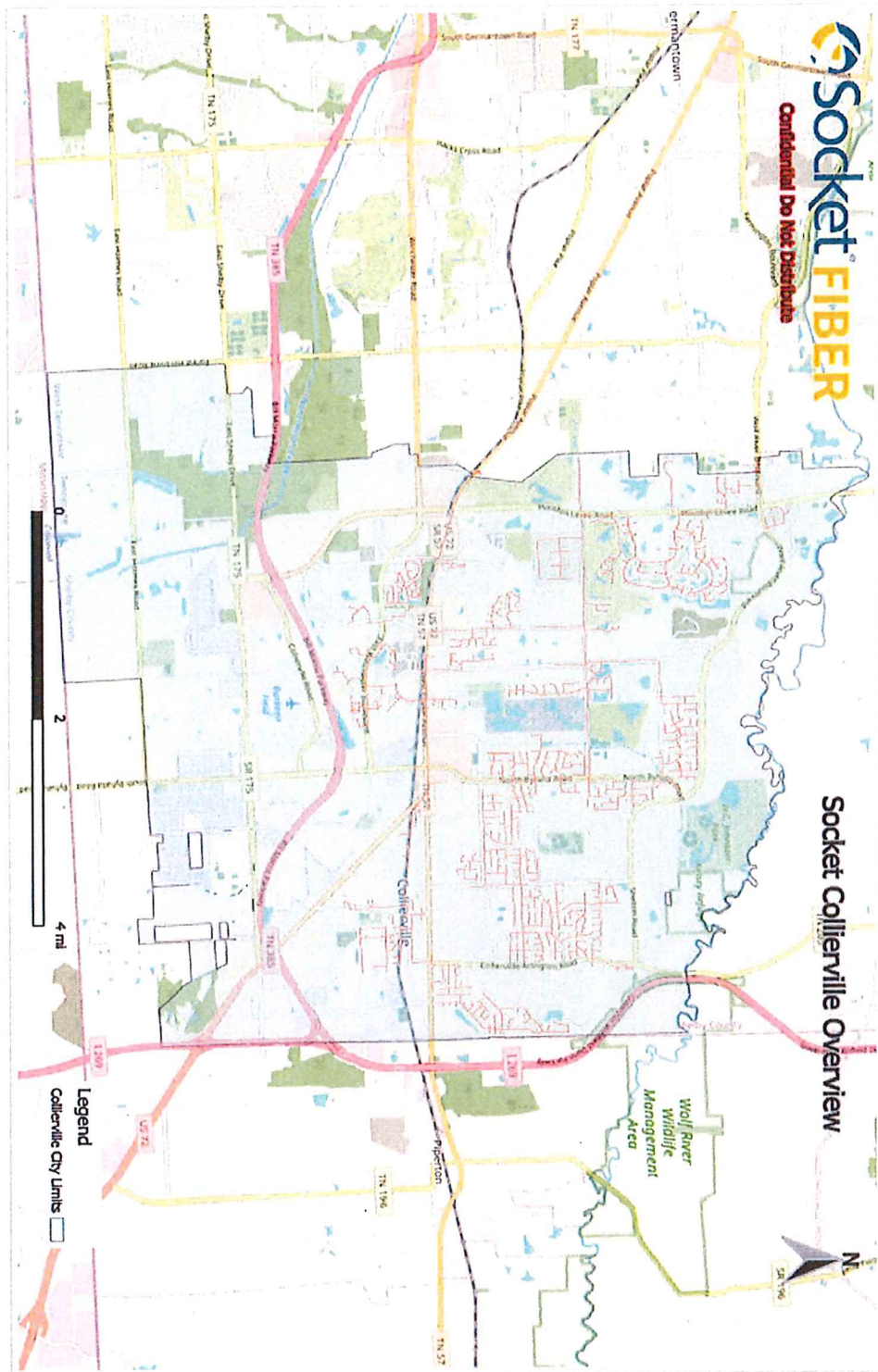
of educational and training activities conducted or attended and of the internal procurement procedures adopted to support this Plan.

Socket will submit records and reports required by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission concerning the Plan. Moreover, Socket will cooperate fully with any surveys and studies required by the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission.

City of Germantown Serving Area



City of Collierville Serving Area



# City of Bartlett Serving Area

