

# STATE OF COLORADO

## EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792  
Phone (303) 866-2471



Bill Owens  
Governor

September 13, 2006:  
Mr. Ernest F. Kuhlman, Chairman  
San Juan County  
P.O. Box 466  
Silverton, CO. 81433

Dear Mr. Kuhlman:

Thank you for writing regarding the MNT concern in Silverton. As governor I greatly value the thoughts of community leaders in Colorado.

After reviewing the issue through correspondence with both Qwest and officials at the Colorado Department of Personnel & Administration, it appears that Qwest has fulfilled its MNT contractual obligations through the installation and utilization of microwave transmission technology.

Qwest, as well as state MNT specialists say that the Internet capabilities that you have demanded are available through the current technology. According to these parties, higher speed connectivity is obtainable through a series of connections called DS3s, which provide a connection speed of 45mbps. In addition to the DS3 connection service, Qwest can offer an inversed Mux ATM, which provides speeds in increments of 1.544 mbps.

Since the infrastructure technology grants Silverton and San Juan County the same capabilities as the other counties, there is little reason to force Qwest to complete a fiber optic line. Moreover, Qwest has attempted in the past to complete such a line, but ran into trouble with property owners when they wanted to build the line using the power lines infrastructure. Silverton and San Juan County will need to facilitate a compromise between these landowners and Qwest in order for them to complete the fiber optic line.

In the meantime, while high speeds remain available for purchase, the State of Colorado will not further pursue this matter.

# STATE OF COLORADO

---

**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**

136 State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792  
Phone (303) 866-2471



Bill Owens  
Governor

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Paul Nelson at the Department of Personnel and Administration at 303-866-2341.

Sincerely,

*Bill Owens.*  
Bill Owens