**Major Push to Connect Rural Broadband Users is Sputtering**

 The federal Rural Utilities Service has failed to live up to its pledge to create broadband connections for 7 million people living outside of major metropolitan areas, this report states. About half of almost 300 projects that were put forth as part of the 2009 Recovery Act have not used all of their funding and risk losing some $277 million if requests aren't made by the end of September. "We are left with a program that spent $3 billion, and we really don't know what became of it," said Mark Goldstein, an investigator at the Government Accountability Office.

***Politico 7/28/15***

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/broadband-coverage-rural-area-fund-mishandled-120601.html>