

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,     ) Application No. 911-057/  
on its own motion, seeking to        ) PI-187  
investigate funding for costs         )  
for the development of certain        )  
Geographical Information Systems     ) ORDER  
Data relating to the provision        )  
of Enhanced Wireless 911             )  
Service.                                ) Entered: March 18, 2014

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Nebraska Public Service Commission opened the present docket on its own motion, seeking to investigate funding for costs for the development of certain Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Data relating to the provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 Service.

The docket was opened due to the filing of funding requests by Douglas and Washington Counties for the development of an address point layer. The Commission initially received comment on whether funding beyond the allocations provided to the PSAPs through the 911-SAM should be made available for the costs to develop a statewide address point layer for GIS data. Comments were filed on behalf of Dodge County, GeoComm, Harlan and Phelps Counties, City of North Platte and Lincoln County, and the State of Nebraska, CIO Office.

A hearing was held on the matter on March 20, 2013. Attorney, Angela Melton appeared on behalf of the Commission staff. On January 7, 2014, the Commission entered an order finding that it did not have sufficient information to reach a decision regarding whether additional funds from the Enhanced Wireless 911 fund should be made available for the development of an address point data layer. In particular, additional information is needed regarding the costs associated with the development of the data layer and the scope of the project.

On February 14, 2014, additional comments were received from CTIA - The Wireless Association; GeoComm; Office of the CIO/GIS Council; and the McCook Police Department.

The Commission has reviewed the comments submitted. Of particular note are the comments of the NITC/GIS Council which state in relevant part,

A statewide street centerline and address point database was identified in 2013 as a statewide

strategic initiative by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC). The NITC and GIS Council have statutory responsibilities. The GIS Council is currently planning for an address point layer that will support both E-911 and NG911. An address point layer for enhanced wireless 9-1-1 and Next Generation 9-1-1 is considered a geographic framework layer and falls under the jurisdiction of the GIS Council for determining the standards and management recommendations.<sup>1</sup>

The comments further cite to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-572 stating that the GIS Council shall:

(2) Establish guidelines and policies for statewide Geographic Information Systems operations and management to include:

(a) The acquisition, development, maintenance, quality assurance such as standards, access, ownership, cost recovery, and priorities of data bases;

(b) The compatibility, acquisition, and communications of hardware and software;

(c) The assessment of needs, identification of scope, setting of standards, and determination of an appropriate enforcement mechanism;

(d) The fostering of training programs and promoting education and information about Geographic Information Systems; and

(e) The promoting of Geographic Information Systems development in the State of Nebraska and providing or coordinating additional support to address Geographic Information Systems issues as such issues arise;

Based upon the comments filed, it is the Commission's understanding that the GIS Council has not yet established guidelines or policies related to an address point layer with respect to issues set forth in § 86-572(2) and the timeline for doing so is unclear.

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<sup>1</sup> Comments on behalf of the GIS Council of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission, pg. 1 (Feb. 14, 2014).

Although comments filed by other interested parties provided estimates regarding costs, the standards and processes to be established by the GIS Council would directly impact the scope of the project and costs related to the development and maintenance of the data at issue.

Therefore, the Commission finds that it is premature to determine whether the Fund should provide additional funding. The Commission will re-examine the issue in July 2014 to determine whether standards have been established so that the issue can be addressed.

The above-captioned docket will remain open. The Department is directed to monitor the status of the development of the relevant GIS standards and notify the Commission of any change in circumstances.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that it is premature to determine whether the Fund should provide additional funding. The Commission will re-examine the issue in July, 2014 to determine whether standards have been established so that the issue can be addressed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the present docket will remain open and the Department is directed to monitor the status of the development of the relevant GIS standards and notify the Commission of any change in circumstances.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 18th day of March, 2014.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Ann Boyle*  
*Tim Schram*  
*Red Johnson*  
*David L. Voss*

*Frank E. Landis*  
Chairman

ATTEST:

*Steve Mersadish*  
Executive Director

//s//Frank E. Landis