

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska)	Application No. NUSF-102/
Public Service Commission, on)	PI-194
its own motion, to investigate)	
and consider the cost model used)	ORDER OPENING DOCKET AND
by the Federal Communications)	SEEKING COMMENTS
Commission for Connect America)	
Fund Support, and its)	
corresponding state counterpart.)	Entered: March 24, 2015

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N S A N D F I N D I N G S

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (the "Commission") hereby opens the above-captioned proceeding to investigate the cost model used by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for Connect America Fund ("CAF") support. In this Order, the Commission considers a threshold question of whether it should utilize Nebraska universal service fund monies to obtain access to the CostQuest Associates, Inc. ("CostQuest") State Broadband Cost Model ("SBCM") which, according to CostQuest, replicates the processing logic, inputs and reporting formats of the adopted FCC price cap model ("CACM"). The Commission has not yet analyzed the SBCM, nor the CACM; and, therefore is not endorsing, at this time, the use of either model or its inputs for calculating broadband network costs. However, the Commission believes it may be helpful to obtain a better understanding of the SBCM/CACM and its processes.

Based on information provided to the Commission, a \$30,000 annual license fee provides access to the CostQuest SBCM, with the ability to interact with various methods of the model and generate results as needed. If it were to move forward, and depending on the level of granularity of the investigation, the Commission anticipates this may be a multi-year proceeding.

If the Commission executes a licensing agreement, all interested parties would then be able to obtain access through the Commission's investigation and conduct an analysis of the model by signing the appropriate agreements with CostQuest.

We ask interested parties to comment on whether they believe the Commission should pursue a licensing agreement with CostQuest for the purpose of investigating the SBCM/CACM? Why or why not?

Do you believe this would be a worthwhile use of Nebraska universal service fund monies? If not, why not? Have any parties already obtained this level of access to the SBCM/CACM? If so, do you believe it would be helpful for the Commission to study the SBCM/CACM more closely as it relates to state broadband network costs?

The Commission requests that interested parties provide comments responsive to the issues raised above on or before **April 30, 2015**. Commenters should file one (1) paper copy and one (1) electronic copy of their comments with the Commission. Electronic copies should be sent to Sue.Vanicek@nebraska.gov and Brandy.Zierott@nebraska.gov.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned investigation be, and it is hereby, opened for public comment.

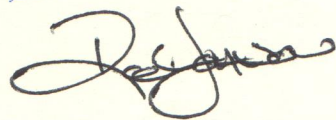
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that interested parties provide comments responsive to the issues discussed above on or before **April 30, 2015** in the manner prescribed above.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 24th day of March, 2015.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:





//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Gerald L. Vap

Chairman



ATTEST:


Executive Director