

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. NUSF-2
on its own motion, seeking to)
establish guidelines for) PROGRESSION ORDER #2
administration of the Nebraska)
Universal Service Fund.) Entered: April 20, 1999

BY THE COMMISSION:

In the Order entered on December 2, 1999, in Docket No. C-1645, the Commission approved the creation of the Nebraska Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Plan. At that time, the Commission adopted the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines for supported services. The FCC administered Federal Lifeline Program only supports a single line of service per qualifying subscriber. At that time, the Commission did not have the means to support services beyond the FCC guidelines.

The Commission, in conjunction with the Nebraska Legislature, created the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). Collection of the NUSF surcharge will begin on July 1, 1999, with the first payments due to the NUSF on August 15, 1999. Therefore, after August 15, 1999, the Commission will have the ability to support services that do not receive support under the Federal Lifeline program.

Neb. Rev. Stat. sect. 86-1410 authorizes the Commission to establish the Nebraska Lifeline Program. Further, this section requires the Commission to adopt means-tested guidelines which are consistent with the rules adopted by the FCC. Therefore, the Commission continues to utilize the means test set forth in the FCC guidelines and enumerated in the Commission's Docket No. C-1645.

However, as discussed above, the Federal Lifeline Program only supports a single line of service per qualifying subscriber. The Commission believes that there may be limited cases where support of additional lines of services for qualified lifeline recipients may be warranted, such as in case of medical alert services.

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Therefore, the Commission seeks comment on the following issues:

- 1) Should the Nebraska Universal Service Fund support additional lines of service for qualified Lifeline recipients?
- 2) If so, what type of services should be supported?
- 3) What level of support should these additional lines of service receive?
- 4) Should additional supported lines of service be exempt from the NUSF surcharge?

Comments on these issues are due on or before June 15, 1999.
Reply comments are due on or before July 13, 1999.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that interested parties file comments on or before June 15, 1999, and reply comments on or before July 13, 1999. Parties filing comments and/or reply comments should file three paper copies and one electronic copy in WordPerfect 5.0 (or newer) format.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 20th day of April, 1999.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING


Chairman


ATTEST:


Executive Director

//s//Lowell C. Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller