

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska        ) Application No. NUSF-50  
Public Service Commission, on        )  
its own motion, seeking to make     )  
adjustments to the universal         ) ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS  
service fund mechanism               ) AND ORDER SEEKING COMMENTS  
established in NUSF-26.               )  
  )  
  ) Entered: October 20, 2015

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission, on an annual basis, has given the staff authorization to disburse Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) support to qualifying Nebraska eligible telecommunications carriers (NETCs) pursuant to the methodology set in place by the Commission. Last year, the Commission gave authorization to the staff to make disbursements in an Order entered in the above-captioned docket on September 9, 2014. That cap was modified in the Commission's Order entered on July 7, 2015.

For the 2016 calendar year, the Commission hereby authorizes its staff to pay up to \$16,727,400 in high-cost wireline support to rate-of-return carriers, which includes support authorized for carriers in the Commission's NUSF-7 waiver orders, pursuant to the model adopted by the Commission NUSF-26, as modified by Commission Order issued in NUSF-50 on December 19, 2006.

***Comment on Proposed Supplemental Information***

Consistent with the Commission's support methodology and the requirement of the NUSF Act to preserve and advance universal service, high-cost support has been used to support and maintain the provision of an evolving level of telecommunications services. We recognize that in today's environment universal service support is being used to deploy and maintain broadband capable networks. In order to build upon the Commission's incentive-based policies encouraging the deployment of broadband capable networks, the Commission believes it may be appropriate to supplement the data provided by carriers relative to the use of high-cost support. Accordingly, the Commission seeks comment on whether to require carriers receiving high-cost support to file the following information on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> each year:

1. An affidavit by an officer or authorized representative of the company certifying that high-cost support is being used to deploy and maintain networks capable of providing broadband services in Nebraska.
2. A list of broadband infrastructure projects being deployed with the use of NUSF high-cost support which includes the following:
  - a. A list of census blocks in which broadband is being deployed. The Commission proposes carriers utilize 2010 census block data.
  - b. The upload/download speeds being advertised;
  - c. The price of the broadband service at the advertised speeds; and,
  - d. An estimate of Nebraska households benefiting from new broadband infrastructure deployed by the carrier in the previous calendar year.
3. Carriers would be able to request and receive confidential treatment of proprietary information supplied through the proposed supplemental reporting requirements.

Comments responsive to the Commission's inquiry relative to the proposed supplemental reporting requirements may be filed on or before **December 10, 2015**. Commenters must file one (1) original and five (5) paper copies of their comments along with one (1) electronic copy of the application sent to [Sue.Vanicek@nebraska.gov](mailto:Sue.Vanicek@nebraska.gov) and [Brandy.Zierott@nebraska.gov](mailto:Brandy.Zierott@nebraska.gov).

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the staff be authorized to make revised high-cost program disbursements for calendar year 2016, as described above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that comments responsive to the Commission's inquiry relative to the proposed supplemental reporting requirements may be filed on or before **December 20, 2015**, in the manner prescribed above.

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 20th  
day of October, 2015.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Tim Schram*

Chairman

*Gerald Vap*

*Crystal Guadalupe*

ATTEST:

*Jeffrey L. Puley*

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Gerald L. Vap

Executive Director