

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application)	Application No. NUSF-7.03
of Hershey Cooperative Telephone)	
Company, seeking a waiver for)	ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION
additional Nebraska Universal)	
Service Funding.)	Entered: April 23, 2002

BY THE COMMISSION:

By application filed February 15, 2002, Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company (Hershey), seeks a waiver for additional Nebraska Universal Service funding pursuant to the Nebraska Public Service Commission's (Commission) previous findings in NUSF-7. Notice of the application appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, on February 20, 2002. No protests or comments on the application were filed. Therefore, this application is processed by the Commission Rule of Modified Procedure.

In support of its application, Applicant states as follows:

Hershey is a Nebraska corporation which holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity to furnish telecommunications services for hire in this state. The applicant is a rural common carrier and has been granted eligible telecommunications carrier status by the Commission. Hershey has not requested or received NUSF support in the past. Therefore, it attached the NUSF-EARN form based on data for the year 2000. Hershey made plant additions during 1999, 2000 and 2001. Applicant also has projected additions for 2002.

Hershey has made significant outside plant investment and other investments for the purpose of increasing the overall quality of service to subscribers. Hershey further states that granting its request would be consistent with the purpose of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act.

Upon consideration of the application and its supporting documentation, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application for additional Nebraska Universal Service Funding should be approved as follows:

1. Applicant's request for additional funds for investments made 1999 through 2002 should be approved in part. Applicant should be granted support in the additional amount of \$24,753 effective September 1999 going-forward. Applicant should be granted an additional amount of \$48,271 effective September 2000 going-forward. Hershey should be approved for an additional amount of \$19,819 effective September 2001 going-forward. Hershey should be approved for an additional amount of \$5,416 going-forward subject to a future effective date and subsequent affidavit.

2. In order to receive the approved additional funding, Hershey must file affidavit(s) that specify the amount of additional support being requested and certifying the following:
 - A. The additional Nebraska Universal Service Fund monies will be used only for the purposes described by Hershey in Application Exhibit A received by the Commission pertaining to investments already made.
 - B. On an ongoing basis, the additional Nebraska Universal Service monies will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of services that qualify for NUSF support.
 - C. The use of the funds received by Hershey from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund will be subject to a departmental audit at the Commission's discretion.
4. Hershey will have 60 days after this order has been entered in which to request additional funding for investments contained in the first part of this approval.
5. Hershey will have a period of three (3) years after this order has been entered in which to request additional funding for future investments contained in the second part of this approval. Such request(s) shall only be made after said investments have been made.
6. The grants of additional funding shall be limited to the amount described above or the amount(s) actually requested by affidavit, whichever is less.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the application of Hershey in NUSF-7.03 be and it is hereby granted as provided herein.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 23rd day of April, 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director