

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-99.01
Public Service Commission, on)
its own Motion to Administer the)
Universal Service Fund High-Cost) MOTION FOR REHEARING DENIED
Program; CenturyLink Broadband)
Grant Requests 2016.)
Entered: September 19, 2017

APPEARANCES:

For CenturyLink:

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Phoenix, Arizona 85012

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Gettman & Mills, LLP
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Omaha, Nebraska 68114

For Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC d/b/a Vistabeam:

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For the Commission:

Shana Knutson
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On September 22, 2016, United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink") filed a request for support of several broadband projects. Notice of the Application was published in The North Platte Telegraph on October 11, 2016, The Daily Record, Omaha, on October 12, 2016, and in The Business Farmer on October 14, 2016. On November 3 and November 14, 2016, CenturyLink filed motions to amend and withdraw certain projects from its application. On January 10, 2017, those motions were granted.

The resulting application before the Commission requested high-cost universal service fund support for one project whereby CenturyLink proposed to leverage fiber placed for a Connect

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America Fund Phase II¹ project to expand broadband service in the area of Highway 71 and Lake Minatare Road in Scottsbluff (Scottsbluff Project). Support requested by CenturyLink for the Scottsbluff Project would be used for the installation of 1/8th of a mile of fiber as well as electronics to provide the upgraded broadband service. The Commission held a hearing on April 19, 2017. Appearances were entered as indicated above. On August 15, 2017, the Commission denied CenturyLink's request for high-cost universal fund support for the Scottsbluff Project.

On August 25, 2017, CenturyLink filed a Verified Motion for Rehearing. On September 15, 2017, Inventive Wireless of Nebraska d/b/a Vistabeam filed an Objection to the Verified Motion for Rehearing. Upon review of CenturyLink's Motion, the Commission is of the opinion and finds the Motion should be denied. As previously indicated, CenturyLink may modify its project to remove any contaminated census blocks and renew its request for support at a later date.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Verified Motion for Rehearing shall be and it is hereby, denied.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 19th day of September, 2017.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Mary Biddle

Crystal Knoder

Paul Johnson

//s//Tim Schram

COMMISSIONERS DISSENTING:

//s//Frank E. Landis

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Tim Schram

Chairman

ATTEST:

Phil S. Lipp

Executive Director

¹ The Connect America Fund (CAF) is the federal high-cost universal service fund mechanism adopted by the FCC. See *In the Matter of Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-92, et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (November 18, 2011) ("Transformation Order").