BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its Own Motion, to Administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program.	)	Application No. NUSF-99
In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to make adjustments to the universal service fund mechanism established in NUSF-26.	)	Application No. NUSF-50
	)	ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION AND ORDER RELEASING PROJECT CHECKLIST
	)	Entered: July 12, 2016

BY THE COMMISSION:

On November 17, 2015, the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") entered an Order to reconsider its October 20, 2015, Order Authorizing Payments in NUSF-99 and NUSF-50. In those Orders, the Commission budgeted and released Nebraska universal service fund support amounts for price cap and rate-of-return carriers for calendar year 2016. The Commission's November 17, 2015 Order established a procedural schedule and detailed a list of issues for reconsideration.

On December 2, 2015, Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC and United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink") filed data requests on the Commission. CenturyLink also filed a Motion for Protective Order.

On December 8, 2015, Windstream Nebraska Inc. ("Windstream") and Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska d/b/a Frontier Communications of Nebraska ("Frontier") filed an Expedited Joint Motion to (1) Sever CenturyLink's Disbursement Dispute, (2) Hold other Issues from the November 17 Order in Abeyance, and (3) Lift the "Interim" Designation from 2016 Disbursements.

On December 9, 2015, CenturyLink filed a Motion in Limine to Exclude Extraneous Issue, requesting the Commission exclude a question posed by the Commission in its November 17, 2015 Order.

On December 10, 2015, CenturyLink filed a Response to the Expedited Motion of Windstream and Frontier requesting, among other things, the Commission vacate the current comment,

testimony, and hearing schedule as the Commission may deem appropriate and advisable.

On December 15, 2015, the Hearing Officer in this matter entered an Order vacating the procedural schedule in order to provide the staff and interested parties an opportunity to discuss resolution and in order for the Commission to release a revised high-cost support amount.

Upon further consideration, the Commission finds the revised support amounts for the 2016 calendar year should be as follows:

Carrier	Ongoing expenses	BB Investment	NUSF-7	Total
Citizens Communications	$1,527,374	$1,527,374	$ -	$3,054,749
CenturyLink QC	$4,456,378	$4,456,378	$362,434.30	$9,275,190
United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink Comm.	$1,011,094	$1,011,094	$ -	$2,022,187
Windstream Communications	$2,473,502	$2,473,502	$ -	$4,947,003
Total	**$9,468,348**	**$9,468,348**	**$362,434**	**$19,299,130**

With these adjustments, the Commission no longer considers the NUSF high-cost support amounts relative to the above-captioned dockets as interim.

In addition, the Commission staff has developed a checklist for proposed broadband projects. The checklist is attached to this Order and incorporated herein as Appendix "A." Price cap carriers must provide the information described in the checklist for each proposed broadband project. Broadband projects may be filed at any time for consideration.

Finally, in light of continued changes to the federal universal service high-cost support mechanism, the Commission plans to issue further progression orders seeking comment

relative to changes to support and reporting for all NUSF high-cost recipients in the upcoming months.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the support amounts be revised as described herein for the 2016 calendar year.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that price cap carriers utilize Appendix "A" when filing proposed broadband projects.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 12th day of July, 2016.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Tim Schram

APPENDIX "A"

NUSF-99 Price Cap Carrier Filing of Broadband Project Information	
1. A description of the proposed broadband project including download/upload speed capabilities which can be provided and a description of the proposed network infrastructure to be deployed. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.	
2. A list in Excel Format of all the census blocks where broadband facilities would be deployed for the proposed project, which shall include 2010 Census Block identification numbers of service area, by project.	
3. An estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers for each project.	
4. An estimated schedule for broadband deployment.	
5. A proposed budget, showing total project costs, in electronic format,[1] with a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment.	
6. Proposed retail pricing, including both monthly recurring costs and nonrecurring costs for the new broadband service(s) to be offered. At a minimum the pricing should reflect the stand alone price for the speeds to be offered to the customer.	
7. The company's commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.	
8. An affidavit from the company attesting 1) (a) that the area of the proposed project is a CAF II eligible area and have not refused CAF II funding, or (b) that the area of the proposed project is ineligible for CAF II funding. 2) That the company has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the area of the proposed project 3) The truth and accuracy of all information included in the project filing.	

[1] A proposed budget shall be submitted in an editable, Microsoft Excel format with all underlying data included and available.