

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-92
Public Service Commission, on) Progression Order No. 8
its Own Motion, to Administer)
the Nebraska Universal Service) ORDER SEEKING COMMENT AND
Fund Broadband Program.) SCHEDULING WORKSHOP
)
) Entered: May 7, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission initiates the above-captioned progression order to consider modifications to its wireless infrastructure grant program. It has been several years since the Commission last proposed changes to the manner in which wireless infrastructure support is determined. Accordingly, the Commission seeks comment on a number of issues designed to update the program criteria and to recognize changes being made by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) relative to universal service support.

Issues for Comment

First, the Commission seeks comment on whether the rural threshold should be adjusted. Currently, as a threshold to support eligibility, the carrier's tower must be located in an area that has a population density of less than 4.9 households per square mile as determined by the Commission according to U.S. Census data. Should the Commission continue to use this threshold? Why or Why not? Should the Commission increase the household density threshold? If so, what is the appropriate number? Please explain.

With Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology being deployed, does tower proximity according to specific technology (i.e. GSM, CDMA) matter any longer? If so, why?

Should the Commission re-examine how coverage areas are determined? Should the Commission standardize how the coverage footprint of a tower is determined? For example, should the Commission include blocks that would be covered by a certain percentage of the population or area?

How should the Commission deal with equipment that may pose a security threat? How should the Commission determine this? Should the Commission follow the lead of the FCC? Why or why not?

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Does it still make sense to use vehicle traffic as a metric? Why or why not? What about recreational areas or areas that have seasonal capacity or coverage issues?

Are there other sources of information that you think the Commission should use in ranking project worthiness? If so, what information should the Commission use and why?

Should the Commission re-impose a matching requirement? If so, should the Commission consider a 25 percent match appropriate? Why or why not? Are there other considerations in applying a match?

Comment Deadline and Procedure

Comments responsive to the questions and proposals set forth herein and any other germane issue should be filed by interested parties on or before **June 20, 2019**. Interested parties should file one (1) original paper copy and one (1) electronic copy in Word or PDF format to Brandy.Zierott@nebraska.gov and Cullen.Robbins@nebraska.gov. Commenters may propose alternative recommendations and/or methods for distribution of support as well.

Public Workshop

The Commission will hold a workshop to discuss the issues described above. A workshop will be held on **July 30, 2019** at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium Building, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the proposals set forth herein be, and they are hereby, open for public comment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that comments responsive to the Commission's order shall be filed in the manner and timeframe provided above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a workshop be scheduled for **July 30, 2019** at 1:30 p.m., central time, in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium Building, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 7th
day of May, 2019.


NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

//s//Rod Johnson
//s//Crystal Rhoades
//s//Tim Schram
//s//Dan Watermeier


Chair

ATTEST:


Executive Director