

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BY THE COMMISSION:

Great Plains Communications, Nebraska Central Telephone Company, Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, Consolidated Companies, Hamilton Telecommunications, Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc., Glenwood Telephone Membership Corporation, Diller Telephone Company, Three River Telephone Company, Mainstay Communications, Benkelman Telephone Company, Hartman Telephone Company, Wauneta Telephone Company, Stanton Telecom, Inc., Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company, Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Company, and Hooper Telephone Company d/b/a Westel Systems. The challenges submitted were generally categorized as 1) incumbent provider corrections to their own service coverage; 2) carrier challenges to the certified Form 477 data filed by another provider; 3) carriers claiming to serve an area with 25/3 where it had not been previously reported; and 4) Carriers that elected A-CAM support reporting locations that were built to through the end of 2019.

In total, the Commission staff reviewed 1,960 challenges to 1,819 census blocks. The Commission staff recommends approval of 1,755 requests and denial of 35 requests. The staff's recommended disposition of the census block challenges is posted on the Commission's website at [www.psc.nebraska.gov](http://www.psc.nebraska.gov). We adopt the Commission staff's recommendations. In accordance therewith, the Commission hereby modifies its census block data for the purpose of determining ongoing and broadband deployment support in the model consistent with the findings made herein. We further find for approved challenges that involved updating information relative to FCC Form 477 deployment data, that we would expect this to be reflected in the next FCC Form 477 submission made by the carrier.

In addition, we find the amount of support made available for high-cost distribution should be increased to \$40 million. The allocation between grant-based support and ongoing maintenance support will remain the same for price cap carriers, which is 80 percent grant-based support and 20 percent ongoing maintenance support.

The Commission further finds that the 2020 broadband deployment support allocation for price cap carriers in the amount of \$16,403,282 should be held in abeyance pending the resolution of the ongoing proceeding in NUSF-99, Progression Order No. 2, where the Commission is considering raising the

changes relative to the timeframe and use of support.<sup>1</sup> The Commission expects this proceeding to reach its conclusion in the current calendar year, at which time, the support would be made available for broadband deployment projects in price cap areas.

For the calendar year of 2020, the Commission hereby authorizes its staff to pay up to \$40,000,000.00 in high-cost wireline support pursuant to the model adopted by the Commission in NUSF-26 as modified by subsequent orders issued in NUSF-50 on December 19, 2006, and in NUSF-108. The 2020 high-cost support distribution mechanism is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.psc.nebraska.gov>.

O R D E R

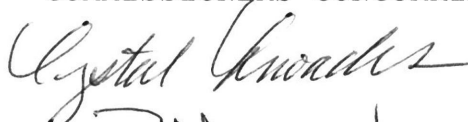


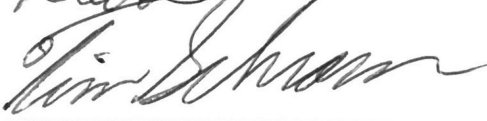
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the challenges received by the Commission by on or before December 11, 2019 in this matter be, and they are hereby, determined as reflected in the census block challenge results posted on the Commission's website.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission staff be authorized to make revised high-cost program disbursements for calendar year 2020 as described above.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

  
 Chair

ATTEST:

  
 Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> We note that price cap carriers have not used all of 2019 broadband deployment support and that support, as well as any prior unused support, remains available for current project applications.