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: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Requests: Crete FW Northeast RL05, Crete FW East RL06, Crete FW Extreme East RL07, Crete FW South RL09, Crete FW West RL11, Southwest Denton FW RL02, Southeast Denton FW RL04, Dorchester FW CO, Dorchester FW Southeast RL05, Milford FW Northwest RL01, Milford FW West RL02, Milford FW Southwest RL04, Milford FW Southeast RL06, Milford FW Northeast RL09, Palmyra FW CO, South Palmyra FW RL02, North Palmyra FW RL03, South Pleasant Dale FW RL03, North Pleasant Dale FW RL05, West Seward FW RL01, South Seward FW RL03, East Seward FW RL05, North Seward FW RL08, Northeast Seward FW RL09, East Waco FW RL01, South Waco FW RL02, Waverly FW Southeast RL04, Waverly FW Northwest RL06, North Waverly FW RL07, Wilber FW North RL01, Wilber FW West RL03, Wilber FW West RL06, York FW Northeast RL02, York FW South RL03, York FW Northeast RL04, York FW North RL05, and York FW West RL06.	)	Application Nos. NUSF-99.81, 99.82, 99.83, 99.84, 99.85, 99.86, 99.87, 99.88, 99.89, 99.90, 99.91, 99.92, 99.93, 99.94, 99.95, 99.96, 99.97, 99.98, 99.99, 99.100, 99. 101, 99.102, 99.103, 99.104, 99.105, 99.106, 99.107, 99.108, 99.109, 99.110, 99.111, 99.112, 99.113, 99.114, 99.115, 99.116, and 99.117 PROCEDURAL ORDER Entered: April 13, 2020

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

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

By Applications filed December 4, 2019, Windstream Nebraska, Inc. ("Windstream") seeks Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) support for a number of broadband projects in the areas identified above. Notice of these Applications appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, on December 11, 2019.

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By Petition filed January 10, 2020, Arapahoe Telephone Company, Benkelman Telephone Company, Inc., Cambridge Telephone Company, Cozad Telephone Company, Diller Telephone Company, Glenwood Network Services, Inc., The Glenwood Telephone Membership Corporation, Hartman Telephone Exchanges, Inc., Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Co., Mainstay Communications, Pierce Telephone Company, Plainview Telephone Company, Southeast Nebraska Communications, Inc., Stanton Telecom, Inc., Wauneta Telephone Company, and WesTel Systems (collectively, "Rural Telecommunications Coalition of Nebraska" or "Petitioners") sought formal intervention status in the above-captioned applications. Protests to the applications were filed by Diode Communications ("Diode"), Affordable Internet Solutions, Inc. ("AIS"), Big Red Communications, LLC ("Big Red"), Future Wireless Technologies of Nebraska , Inc. ("Future Tech"), and PointeNet Internet Service ("PointeNet")(collectively, "Protestants"). On January 15, 2020, Windstream Nebraska, Inc. ("Windstream") submitted a response in opposition to the Petition for Formal Intervention and Protest. On March 5, 2020, as Hearing Officer, I granted the Petition for Intervention.

In order to efficiently process these applications, a planning conference in this matter was held by telephone on April 7, 2020. Blake Johnson and Mary Jacobson appeared for the Applicant, Windstream. Andy Pollock appeared for the Protestants and Formal Intervenors. Shana Knutson appeared for the Commission staff. Other attendees included Brad Hedrick and Trent Fellers for Windstream, and Cullen Robbins and Carrie Gans for the Commission.

The parties consented to the following procedural schedule:

Date:	**Event**:
April 17, 2020	Discovery Served
May 8, 2020	Discovery Responses Due
May 15, 2020	Deposition Deadline
May 22, 2020	Direct Testimony and Exhibit Lists filed and exchanged.

Service of the documents referenced herein shall be sent electronically. Any changes to the electronic service list shall be provided to the Commission and all other parties in this proceeding.

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A consolidated hearing on these applications will be held on **June 3, 2020** at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium Building, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 and via videoconference. The link to the videoconference is as follows http://tiny.cc/PSCWebex. The telephone bridge for the audio connection is: 415-655-0003 Access Code 926 343 190. Windstream reserved the ability to hear some applications on an individualized basis rather than on a consolidated basis. If Windstream elects to do so, it should provide notice to the Commission at least ten (10) days in advance of the **June 3, 2020** hearing date.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer the procedural schedule set forth herein shall be, and it is hereby, adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing on these applications shall be held on **June 3, 2020**, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium Building, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 and via videoconference as provided herein.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 13th day of April, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

By: Crystal Rhoades

Crystal Rhoades
Hearing Officer

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