

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the	)	Application No. NUSF-108
Nebraska Public Service	)	
Commission, on its own	)	
Motion, to make adjustments	)	ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS
to its high-cost distribu-	)	AND COMMENCING CHALLENGE
tion mechanism and make	)	PROCESS
revisions to its reporting	)	
requirements.	)	
	)	Entered: November 4, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

The Commission, on an annual basis, has given the staff authorization to disburse Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) support to qualifying Nebraska eligible telecommunications carriers (NETCs) pursuant to methodology set in place by the Commission. On October 29, 2019 in the above-captioned docket, the Commission gave authorization to the staff to make disbursements in an amount up to \$38,161,992.00 in high-cost wireline support for the calendar year of 2020.

For the calendar year of 2021, 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 NUSF-108. The tentative 2021 high-cost support distribution is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.psc.nebraska.gov>. The proposed distributions shown are tentative, and subject to change pending results of the challenge process, as well as any subsequent project notices that are filed prior to the end of the calendar year. Distributions for 2021 will be released in January 2021, pending resolution of any outstanding issues.

### ***Challenge Process for Calendar Year 2021 Determination***

Consistent with the findings in NUSF-108, Progression Order No. 3, the Commission directs the staff to release the initial list of census blocks to commence the challenge process for the determination of 2021 high-cost support. The staff shall post the list of census blocks on the Commission website. All challenges

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must be filed with the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m. central time on December 1, 2020.

Challenges must include the specific list of blocks being challenged and the basis for which the challenge is being offered. We encourage carriers to submit most recent HUBB data to us along with their challenges. Challenges should be submitted only for blocks listed in the Commission's published list of blocks. Challenges should only address whether a block is served to 25/3 and whether it is competitive. Examples of such grounds may include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) blocks that are served at 25/3 by the incumbent provider; 2) blocks that are served by a competitive wireline provider at 25/3 or greater which offers voice service; 3) blocks that are incorrectly identified as being served at 25/3, and should be eligible for buildout support; or 4) A-CAM eligible locations that have been built to 25/3 during the calendar year 2020, but not yet reported to the HUBB. Interested parties filing challenges to the staff's initial list of census blocks must file an electronic copy with the Commission on or before the deadline set forth above. Electronic copies may be sent to [Cullen.Robbins@nebraska.gov](mailto:Cullen.Robbins@nebraska.gov) and [Brandy.Zierott@nebraska.gov](mailto:Brandy.Zierott@nebraska.gov). In addition, notifications of challenges and documentation filed in support must also be served on any other carrier(s) whose census blocks may be affected by the challenge.

Unless otherwise subsequently determined, the Commission plans to release the vetted list of census blocks on or around January 13, 2021, along with an updated high-cost support distribution for calendar year 2021.

### O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the staff be authorized to make revised high-cost program disbursements for calendar year 2021 as described above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that interested parties filing challenges to the staff's list of census blocks must file an electronic copy with the Commission on or before December 1, 2020.

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 4th day of November, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Rock Johnson*  
*Crystal Hender*  
*Tim Schram*  
*Dee Watson*

*Mary Kadden*  
Chair

ATTEST:

*Michael S. Hyatt*  
Executive Director