

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	Application No. NUSF-99.07
Nebraska Public Service)	
Commission, on its own)	
Motion, to administer the)	REQUEST FOR SUPPORT
Universal Service Fund High-)	MODIFICATION GRANTED
Cost Program: CenturyLink)	
Broadband Grant Requests)	
2018.)	Entered: January 26, 2021

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On May 1, 2018, the Commission granted the above-captioned application in part relative to ten broadband projects proposed by Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and by United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink (collectively referred to as "CenturyLink"). In that Order, the Commission granted funding in the amount of \$1,939,156.32 in total for the ten broadband projects.

On December 31, 2020 CenturyLink filed a request seeking support modifications for the Scottsbluff and Bayard projects. Specifically, CenturyLink stated that it has not submitted any interim reimbursement requests on these projects. Rather, it was waiting until all the associated invoices had been received and paid. CenturyLink stated that the Loup City and Valley projects have been completed and reimbursements received. In addition, the Minatare project has been changed from a fiber-to-the-node project in NUSF-99.07 to a fiber-to-the-premise project that was included with the recently approved NUSF-99.128 grant.

In support of its request, CenturyLink stated that the Bayard projects cost less than the approved grant amount, the Scottsbluff CR J & 19 project came in over budget. CenturyLink further stated that even with reimbursement of the full grant amount, CenturyLink will be funding more than 35% of the project costs from its internal capital budget due to total project spending for the Hunts Dairy Road and Gering projects.

CenturyLink is requesting that the Commission reallocate the portion of the projects that were under budget and apply that to the Scottsbluff CR J & 19 project that was over budget. In total, CenturyLink requests reimbursement for the grant amounts previously approved but not yet reimbursed in the amount of \$744,100.

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CenturyLink stated the Scottsbluff CR J & 19 project cost overage was primarily due to the railroad changing its requirements over many months of discussion regarding CenturyLink's request to place conduit and fiber under the railroad's tracks. The Gering Wildcat Estates project costs increased when the Nebraska Department of Transportation and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission refused CenturyLink's request for placing conduit along a state highway, forcing CenturyLink to use a different route to reach its customers.

Upon consideration of CenturyLink's request for additional support, we find it to be reasonable. Accordingly, it shall be approved. The Commission authorizes the shift of support from projects that were under budget to projects that were over budget for CenturyLink as requested. The Commission's May 1, 2018 Order shall be modified so that the total reimbursement authorized for the grant amounts approved in the amount \$744,100 as requested.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, by the Nebraska Public Service Commission, that the modification request submitted by United Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink be, and it is hereby, granted.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 26th day of January, 2021.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson
Crystal Hoadley
Mary Kidden
Tim Schram

Don Watson
Chair

ATTEST:

Michael S. Hyatt
Executive Director