

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-108
Public Service Commission, on)
its own Motion, to make) ORDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS
adjustments to its high-cost) AND COMMENCING CHALLENGE
distribu-tion mechanism and make) PROCESS
revisions to its reporting)
requirements. Entered: November 16, 2021

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 November 4, 2020 in the above-captioned docket, the Commission gave authorization to the staff to make disbursements in an amount up to \$40,000,000.00 in high-cost wireline support for the calendar year of 2021.

For the calendar year of 2022, the Commission hereby authorizes its staff to pay up to \$46,000,000.00 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. This amount includes \$2,000,000.00 in support recently allocated to carriers for broadband buildout to capped locations (BDS-CL). Distributions for 2022 will be released in January 2022, pending resolution of any outstanding issues.

Challenge Process for Calendar Year 2022 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 2022 high-cost support. The staff shall post the list of census blocks on the Commission website on or before November 24, 2021. All challenges must be filed with the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m. central time on December 17, 2021.

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

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. NUSF-108

Page 2

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 2021, 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 and psc.nusf@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 18, 2022, along with an updated high-cost support distribution for calendar year 2022.

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 2022 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 17, 2021.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 16th day of November, 2021.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson
Crystal Linder
Mary Kipper
Tim Schram

Donna Johnson
Chair

ATTEST:

Shanice Knutson
Deputy Director