

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska	)	Application No. NUSF-99.35
Public Service Commission, on	)	
its own Motion, to administer	)	
the Universal Service Fund	)	REIMBURSEMENT ORDER
High-Cost Program: Windstream	)	
Nebraska Inc., Broadband Grant	)	
Request.	)	Entered: May 10, 2022

### BY THE COMMISSION:

By Application filed December 6, 2018, Windstream Nebraska Inc., ("Windstream") sought high-cost support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund ("NUSF"). Notice of the application appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska and in the Hastings Tribune on December 12, 2018. No protests or interventions were filed; therefore, the Commission processed this application pursuant to its Rule of Modified Procedure.

On January 15, 2019, the Commission granted the application, awarding Windstream support in the amount of \$405,559 for the construction of facilities to the southwestern area of the Hastings, Nebraska ILEC exchange ("Hastings SW project").

On September 27, 2021, Windstream notified the Commission that it seeks additional support for this project in the amount of \$247,452.92. Windstream states that this additional support is necessary due to a project re-design to accommodate additional fiber and boring, as well as county requirements regarding placement and right-of-way. Windstream states that approximately eighty percent of the amount over budget was due to 17,934 feet of additional boring.

Windstream seeks to reallocate funding previously allocated to other NUSF-99 projects that were under budget to fund the remainder of the Hastings SW project. Windstream has notified the Commission that several of its NUSF-99 projects were completed under budget, primarily due to less boring being required and less buried fiber required to complete the projects than expected. Additionally, Windstream identified one project that used aerial fiber rather than buried fiber, one project in which there was a change in equipment design, as well as some projects that came in under budget. Windstream stated that no changes in service resulted due to the projects coming in under budget. Windstream requests that the Commission reallocate the funding previously allocated but not used for these NUSF-99 projects that were under budget to

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other NUSF-99 projects that were over budget, including the above-captioned application.

Upon consideration of Windstream's request for additional support, we find it to be reasonable. Accordingly, it shall be approved. The Commission authorizes the additional reimbursement amount of \$247,452.92 for Windstream as requested. The Commission's January 15, 2019 Order shall be modified so that the total of reimbursement for this application shall be \$653,011.92.

### O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Windstream's request for reimbursement shall be, and is hereby granted.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 10th day of May, 2022.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Rod Johnson*  
*Crystal Brander*  
*Mary Kidden*  
*Tim Schram*

*Don Watson*

Chair

ATTEST:

*Thomas W. Golden*  
Executive Director