

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-1176/PI-14
of the Nebraska Public Service)
Commission on its own motion to) PROGRESSION ORDER
conduct an investigation into)
the effects of a State Universal)
Service Fund.) Entered: April 30, 1996

BY THE COMMISSION

The recent legislative debate in Congress has included extensive discussions of the Universal Service support mechanisms. With a majority of the focus of the current national debate being on how to implement local competition, it is important to remember the needs of the customer who will not receive any immediate benefit from such local competitive entry. Potential reductions in the level of interstate support mechanisms create the possibility of significant rate shock for Nebraska residential ratepayers, especially those located in rural and small communities.

In order to provide for a smooth transition to an increasingly competitive environment, it will likely be necessary to implement certain intrastate support mechanisms. To that end, the Commission is establishing a task force made up of interested members of the public including individuals in the health and educational fields, as well as knowledgeable persons from within the industry to develop a plan for implementing a State Universal Service Fund.

The task force should compile public comment and seek the development of a plan for the implementation of a State Universal Service Fund. Commission staff shall solicit a task force leader and members which will be confirmed by this Commission. Members of the task force are encouraged to incorporate the ideas and goals embodied in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 into their plan.

This task force shall begin meeting to develop an agenda for designing a State Universal Service Fund as soon as practicable, with the goal of completing the task by December 2, 1996.

When the task force has completed its duties, the task force should report back to the Commission with their findings. The Commission's goal is to implement the State Universal Service Fund in 1997.

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that a task force be formed to compile public comment and to develop a plan for the implementation of a State Universal Service Fund.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this task force will consist of interested members of the public including individuals in the health and educational fields, as well as knowledgeable persons from within the industry.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the task force leader and members shall be confirmed by this Commission.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this task force shall, report back to the Commission with their plan for the implementation of a State Universal Service Fund on or before December 2, 1996.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 30th day of April, 1996.


COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:


//s//Rod Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//James F. Munnelly
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director