

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-1604
of the Nebraska Public Service)
Commission on its own Motion to) Clarification Order
Designate Telecommunications)
Carriers Eligible to Receive)
Federal Universal Service Support.) Entered: October 21, 1997

BY THE COMMISSION:

On August 12, 1997, this docket was opened to designate telecommunications carriers eligible to receive universal service support and to define the service areas for which carriers shall receive support pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Order, Common Carrier Docket CC-96-45. Initial comments were to be submitted on this issue by September 12, 1997. Reply comments were due on or before September 30, 1997. On October 15, 1997, an Order was entered designating both rural and non-rural Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) for Nebraska. We also defined in that Order the service areas for ETCs. However, it has come to our attention that the definition of rural service areas was unclear. Therefore, we enter this Order to clarify the proper service area for rural ETCs.

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

As stated in our previous Order, we find a rural carrier's study area should be its service area. However, we agree with many commenters that a carrier's study area should generally be contiguous. In the future, if a rural ETC serves a non-contiguous study area, the carrier should have multiple contiguous study areas. This designation better targets where high cost support is needed and does not pose a barrier to competitive entry. However, at this time, it is more appropriate to designate a carrier's study area as its service area.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the designated study areas for rural carriers be, and hereby are its service area.

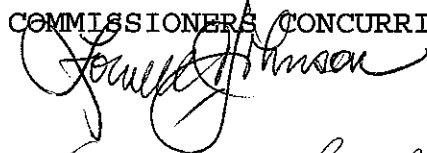
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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 21st day of October.

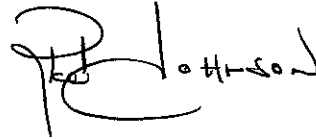
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

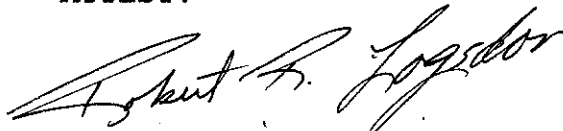


//s//Rod Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

Chairman



ATTEST:



Executive Director