

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The Commission, on its own motion,) Application No. C-2256/PI-38
to investigate and seek comment)
on cost models for the following:)
(1) unbundled network element)
(UNE) pricing; (2) developing)
zones to de-average rates on a) ORDER BIFURCATING DOCKET
geographical basis; (3) deter-)
mining zones for establishing)
universal service (USF) payments;)
(4) establishing a permanent fund-)
ing mechanism for USF payments; and)
(5) determining whether all sub-)
sidies have been removed from)
access prices.) Entered: May 10, 2000

BY THE COMMISSION:

On March 28, 2000, this Commission, in Application No. C-2256, issued an order to open a docket to seek comment on and to implement cost models for the following: (1) unbundled network element (UNE) pricing; (2) developing zones to de-average rates on a geographical basis; (3) determining zones for Universal Service Fund (USF) payments; (4) establishing a permanent funding mechanism for USF payments; and (5) determining whether all subsidies have been removed from access prices.

On April 10, 2000, a number of rural companies filed a joint motion to bifurcate this docket and to establish a separate docket and timeline for rural companies. The motion explained that there was not an immediate need to address many of the tasks cited in Application No. C-2256 for rural companies, and that rural companies did not have sufficient time to review the cost models under consideration in the docket. The rural companies further stated that the Federal Rural Task Force will not issue a recommendation on a new federal universal service mechanism for rural companies until October 1, 2000. This recommendation could result in additional methodologies to be considered for determining Nebraska universal service fund (NUSF) support for rural companies.

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

This Commission finds that a separate docket is warranted, and therefore, should be opened. The rural companies should perform the tasks as originally addressed in Application No. C-2256, however, a separate timeline should be established.

The Commission further finds that these issues should be studied in both the Communications Department and Nebraska Universal Service Fund Department. A docket will be opened whereby the tasks relating to UNE pricing, developing zones to de-average rates on a geographical basis and determining whether subsidies

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have been removed from access prices will be addressed by the Communications Department. The tasks, with respect to determining zones for establishing USF payments and establishing a permanent funding mechanism for USF payments, will be done through the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Department. As the issues are separate but related, they will be addressed in a combined docket, Application No. C-2290/NUSF-22.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that this docket as it pertains to the rural companies shall be bifurcated and Application No. C-2256 will remain in effect as it relates to the non-rural carriers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the issues in Application No. C-2256 relating to rural carriers be moved into Application No. C-2290/NUSF-22.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 10th day of May, 2000.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Kevin Johnson

Aune C. Boyle

Paul Johnson

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

Alan Lander
Chairman

ATTEST:

Robert B. Logsdon
Executive Director