

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,	)	Application No. C-2290/
on its own motion to investigate	)	NUSF-22
and seek comment on	)	
methodologies for the following	)	
tasks for rural companies: (1)	)	
determining a permanent funding	)	ORDER CLOSING INVESTIGATION
mechanism for Nebraska Universal	)	
Service Fund (NUSF) support; (2)	)	
determining deaveraged zones for	)	
NUSF support; (3) evaluating	)	
adjustments to access rates	)	
after the NUSF transition period	)	
is complete; and (4) ensuring	)	
that interconnection agreements	)	
contain at least three	)	
geographic rate zones for	)	
unbundled network elements	)	
(UNEs) on a statewide basis.	)	Entered: December 9, 2003

BY THE COMMISSION:

On its own motion, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened the above-captioned investigation soliciting methodologies to complete the following tasks: (1) determining a permanent funding mechanism for Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) support; (2) determining deaveraged zones for NUSF support; (3) evaluating adjustments to access rates after the NUSF transition period is complete; and (4) ensuring that interconnection agreements contain at least three geographic rate zones for unbundled network elements (UNEs) on a statewide basis. The Order initiating this docket was entered on May 10, 2000. Notice of this investigation appeared in the Daily Record, Omaha, on May 11, 2000. In this proceeding the Commission asked the rural companies to perform the above-listed tasks as originally addressed in Application No. C-2256, but on a separate timeline.

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

Upon review of this investigation, the Commission finds that many of the NUSF-related issues originally raised in this investigation are currently being examined under the scope of NUSF-26. NUSF-26 was opened to establish a long-term NUSF funding mechanism. NUSF-26 affects all Nebraska telecommunications carriers including the rural companies. In

light of this, the Commission finds that the NUSF-related issues need not be further developed in the above-captioned investigation.

Moreover, the Commission has already developed three geographic rate zones for unbundled network elements (UNEs) on a statewide basis for Qwest. (See Application No. C-2516.) The Commission may, in the future, find it appropriate to deaverage UNE rates for other carriers based on geographic costs; however, the Commission will most likely choose to open carrier specific investigations to pursue that task.

Accordingly, the Commission finds the investigation in C-2290/NUSF-22 should be closed.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Docket C-2290/NUSF-22 be and it is hereby closed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 9th day of December 2003.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director