

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska ) Application No. C-4543/PI-186  
Public Service Commission, on )  
its own motion, to investigate )  
and explore federally mandated ) ORDER CLOSING DOCKET AND  
filing of electronic maps ) SETTING WORKSHOP  
certifying the study area of )  
Incumbent Local Exchange )  
Carriers in Nebraska. ) Entered: May 28, 2014

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On November 6, 2012, the Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Report and Order<sup>1</sup> (Report) mandating incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) submit certified study area boundary data in ESRI shapefile format to the FCC.

On December 11, 2012, the Commission opened the above-captioned investigation to assist with determining and implementing the most efficient method of complying with the mandates contained in the Report.

The Commission conducted a workshop regarding the issues in the Report on January 16, 2013. The Commission released Progression Order No. 1 on February 20, 2013, seeking comment from interested parties on certain issues.

On February 26, 2013, the WCB issued an Order on Reconsideration (Recon Order) making substantive modifications to the Report.<sup>2</sup> In Progression Order No. 2 issued by the Hearing Officer on March 1, 2013, commenting parties were urged to adjust their comments in light of the Recon Order.

On March 18, 2013, the WCB announced procedures and deadlines for submission of study area boundaries (Order).<sup>3</sup> In the Order the WCB established a deadline of April 12, 2013, for state commissions to file notice of its intent submit boundary data on behalf of companies to the FCC. Further the Order

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<sup>1</sup> See *In the Matter of Connect America Fund High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, Report and Order, 27 FCC Rcd (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012)(*Study Area Boundary Order*).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, Order on Reconsideration, DA 13-282 (rel. Feb. 26, 2013)(Recon Order).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Procedures and Deadlines for Submissions of Study Area Boundaries, DA 13-456 (rel. March 18, 2013)(Order).

established a June 28, 2013, deadline for state commission's to submit and certify study area boundary data to the FCC.

In an order dated March 29, 2013, the Hearing Officer ordered all ILECs to participate in the transition of the official hard copy boundary maps of the state of Nebraska to electronic format. During the creation and compilation of the electronic boundaries, Staff and ILECs were ordered to collaborate and informally seek to resolve any disagreements or discrepancies arising during the creation of the boundaries.

The Hearing Officer established a formal process to determine disputed boundaries in the event agreement could not be reached by informal collaboration. No petitions were received and electronic versions of all ILEC exchange boundaries have been created.

Electronic boundary data was submitted to the FCC on June 27, 2013, by the Commission. Updated electronic boundary data was submitted to the FCC by the Commission on November 27, 2013.

Staff and ILECs continued to collaborate to clean-up and make decisions on minor discrepancies in the boundaries and submitted the most current version of the electronic boundaries to the FCC on March 17, 2014.<sup>4</sup> The Commission certifies the electronic boundaries it submits to the FCC and will provide updates reflecting any changes to the boundaries annually to the FCC. The Commission will recertify the accuracy of the boundary data to the FCC every two years.<sup>5</sup>

The electronic ILEC boundary data resulting from this process were created by utilizing the Commission's official legacy hard copy boundary maps, updated through a collaborative process between Commission Staff and ILECs, and certified and filed with the FCC by the Commission. Therefore, the Commission finds the electronic boundary data submitted by the Commission to the FCC shall become the official boundaries for the state of Nebraska in place of the existing official hard copy maps. Electronic maps displaying the boundaries by exchange shall be made available on the Commission's website for viewing once the method for displaying the information is adopted.

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.*, Order (January 9, 2014).

<sup>5</sup> *Study Area Boundary Order*, 27 FCC Rcd at 13535, para. 23.

When the Commission orders any changes to the boundaries, such changes shall be reflected in the shapefiles and on the electronic map and submitted annually to the FCC. The electronic boundaries that are certified or recertified by the Commission to the FCC on an annual or biannual basis shall become the official boundaries approved by the Commission and shall be reflected in the exchange maps available from the Commission's website.

The Commission finds that in order to determine how best to make the electronic boundary maps available on the Commission's website, a workshop shall be held with interested parties to seek input on best practices and methods for such display. The Commission hereby schedules a workshop for **Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.**, in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium Building, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508. A telephone bridge will be made available for the convenience of anyone unable to attend in person. The call-in number will be **888-820-1398, attendee code: 5582059#**.

As the electronic ILEC boundaries have been created and filed with the FCC as ordered, the purposes of the above-captioned docket have been fulfilled and we find the above-captioned proceeding should be closed.

#### O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the electronic ILEC boundary data created, certified and filed with the Federal Communications Committee by the Commission on March 17, 2014, be, and are hereby adopted as the official boundaries of the Commission for the State of Nebraska.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission's official electronic boundary maps shall reflect the most recent electronic boundary data certified to the Federal Communications Commission by the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a workshop for interested parties regarding display of the official electronic boundary maps on the Commission's website will be held on **Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, with telephonic participation via a telephone bridge available at **888-820-1398, attendee code: 5582059#**.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that the above-captioned docket be, and is hereby, closed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING: NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that the above-captioned docket be,  
and is hereby, closed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May,  
2014.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Alice Boyle*

*Tim Schram*

*Ed Johnson*

//s//Frank E. Landis

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*Frank E. Landis*  
Chairman

ATTEST:

*Steve Meredith*  
Executive Director