

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Public) Application No. NUSF-26
Service Commission, on its)
own motion, seeking to) ORDER SEEKING COMMENTS
establish a long-term univer-)
sal Service funding mechanism.) Entered: January 8, 2001

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

By order entered August 21, 2001, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened the above-captioned docket to establish a long-term universal service funding mechanism. In the order, the Commission requested comments to a series of specific questions numbered 1.1 to 7.2. The Commission also established a comment cycle for receiving initial and reply comments. Comments and reply comments were originally due October 26, 2001, and November 30, 2001 respectively. The Commission subsequently extended the comment cycle whereby initial comments were to be filed by November 9, 2001, and reply comments were to be filed on or before December 14, 2001. Twelve commenters filed comments with the Commission. On December 14, 2001, with its reply comments, the Rural Independent Companies filed a plan referred to by the Rural Independents as "The Public Policy Goals Plan"(hereinafter referred to as the "PPGP".)

Due to the fact that the PPGP goes beyond the scope of questions posed in the Commission's August 21, 2001 order, and because interested parties did not have an opportunity to comment in response to the PPGP, the Commission finds it appropriate to notify other interested parties that the PPGP has been filed and the Commission will receive comments on it prior to considering it as an alternative in this docket. Therefore, the Commission makes the PPGP available for public comment. A copy of this plan has been added to the Commission website at www.nol.org/home/NPSC. Interested parties have until March 12, 2002, to file written comments on the plan. Interested parties will then have until April 12, 2002, to file reply comments.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that interested parties may file comments on the Public Policy Goals Plan submitted in the above-captioned proceeding. Initial comments must be received on or before 5:00 p.m., on March 12, 2002. Reply comments must be received on or before 5:00 p.m., on April 12, 2002. All parties filing comments must file five paper copies and one electronic copy in WordPerfect 5.0 (or newer) format.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 8th day of January,
2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director