

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-30
Public Service Commission)
seeking to determine what is) ORDER CLOSING DOCKET
"reasonably comparable" with)
respect to rates charged for)
urban and rural consumers.) Entered: January 30, 2007

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) initiated this proceeding to determine what constituted "reasonably comparable" rates as defined in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act) and in the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act (NUSF Act). Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-323(3)(Supp. 2006) provides in pertinent part that,

Consumers in all regions of the state . . . should have access to telecommunications and information services, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services that are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas and that are available at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas.

(Emphasis added.)

The Commission solicited comments and held a public hearing on March 4, 2003. Comments were filed by Qwest Corporation, Alltel, the Rural Independent Companies, the Nebraska Independent Companies for Embedded Cost Support, and Cox Communications, Inc. No order was issued by the Commission in the above-captioned proceeding relative to the comments filed. Rather, the Commission held this proceeding in abeyance to address other universal service issues.

In late 2005, the Commission opened NUSF-50 to make certain adjustments to the distribution formula established in NUSF-26. On December 19, 2006, the Commission entered an Order which made several adjustments affecting the distribution of NUSF high-cost support. Among its findings, the Commission made a

determination that a range of rates between \$17.50 and \$19.95 constituted reasonably comparable rates. Based on that finding, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that this docket should be closed.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned docket shall be and it is hereby closed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 30th day of January, 2007.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director