

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska)	Application No. NUSF-35/
Public Service Commission, seeking)	PI-69
to determine Nebraska Eligible)	
Telecommunications Carrier status)	
for the purposes of receiving)	
state universal service support)	
for providing Lifeline/Link-up)	
services and Telehealth services)	
to rural hospitals.)	
)	
In the Matter of the Nebraska)	Application No. C-2868/
Public Service Commission, seeking)	PI-69
to require all local exchange)	
carriers to provide Lifeline and)	ORDER OPENING DOCKET AND
Link-up services.)	SEEKING COMMENT
)	Entered: January 28, 2003

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

1. The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) hereby opens this docket on its own motion seeking to determine Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (NETC) status for telecommunications carriers to receive state universal service support for the Lifeline/Link-up and rural Telehealth programs and to determine whether all local exchange carriers should be required to provide Lifeline and Link-up services upon Commission certification.

2. The Commission solicits comments on the following questions:

- A. The Commission proposes that all carriers holding a local exchange carrier certificate be required to offer Lifeline and Link-up service upon the commencement of the actual provisioning of local exchange service and be given NETC status for the associated state Lifeline/Link-up support. If you do not support this proposal please comment on which telecommunications carriers should be designated as an NETC for the purpose of receiving such support? Are there any eligibility requirements that the Commission should require of all NETCs relating to the specific purpose of receiving NUSF support for the provisioning of Lifeline or Link-up service?
- B. The Commission further proposes that any carrier that has been granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide local exchange or interexchange service be granted NETC status for the specific purpose

of provisioning services to rural healthcare providers as identified in NUSF-26, Progression Order No. 3. If you do not agree with this approach, please comment on which telecommunications carriers should be designated as an NETC for the purposes of receiving support for the provisioning of Telehealth services to rural hospitals? Are there any eligibility requirements that the Commission should require of all NETCs relating to the specific purpose of receiving NUSF support for the provisioning of Telehealth services?

3. Any interested party filing comments in this proceeding should file one original, five paper copies, and one electronic copy in Word or WordPerfect format on or before February 21, 2003.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above captioned docket be opened to determine Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (NETC) status for telecommunications carriers to receive state universal service support for the Lifeline/Link-up and rural Telehealth programs.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the above captioned docket be opened to determine whether all carriers holding a local exchange carrier certificate with the Commission should be required to participate in the Lifeline and Link-up programs.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that written comments shall be filed on or before February 21, 2003. Interested parties filing written comments must file one original, five paper copies and one electronic copy in Word or WordPerfect format.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 28th day of January, 2003.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director