

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-69.05
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to)
implement policies and)
procedures related to) REIMBURSEMENT ORDER
providing Dedicated universal)
service Support for Wireless)
Telecommunications Services:)
United States Cellular)
Corporation.) Entered: April 3, 2012

BY THE COMMISSION:

By Petition filed June 1, 2010 United States Cellular Corporation (US Cellular), sought support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) dedicated wireless program. The Commission allocated \$5 million for the 2010 funding year in which the Petition was filed. US Cellular's Petition sought \$5.8 million for proposed cell towers.

A public hearing on the application was held on October 6, 2010 in Lincoln, Nebraska. On November 3, 2010 the Commission granted US Cellular's funding request in part, authorizing dedicated wireless fund support for five of the proposed tower sites.

The Commission approved reimbursement for the construction costs of five of the proposed tower sites as referenced in NUSF-69.05 in the amount of \$1,583,167, or the actual cost of construction on each site, whichever was lower. Seeking reimbursement, US Cellular filed invoices with the NTIPS Department on March 2, 2012. The NTIPS Department staff has reviewed these invoices.

The reimbursement request for the Herman and Walthill locations exceeds the estimated costs contained in the application. However, the reimbursement request for the construction of the Benkelman and Verdon towers was lower than the estimated costs contained in the application. US Cellular seeks an order from the Commission to permit the NTIPS Department to reimburse US Cellular for amounts over the original amount approved for the Herman and Walthill sites, using the cost savings from the Benkelman and Verdon sites. In the Commission order granting application \$326,388.00 was granted for the Herman site. Using cost

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savings from the Benkelman site, US Cellular is seeking reimbursement in the total amount of \$361,628.10 for the Herman site. In the Commission order granting application \$222,615.00 was granted for the Walthill site. Using cost savings from the Verdon site, US Cellular is seeking reimbursement in the total amount of \$257,490.07. Given that the amount of reimbursement sought is reasonable based on the NTIPS Department staff's review of the invoices and taking into consideration the fact that the reimbursement request for two other tower sites was lower than the estimates provided in the application, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the reimbursement request for the Herman and Walthill tower sites should be granted and the NTIPS Department staff is permitted to reimburse US Cellular for the Herman and Walthill locations in the amounts detailed above.. This order does not alter the total amount of construction costs to be reimbursed, as previously approved by the Commission in its November 3, 2010 order.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Order entered on November 3, 2010 is amended as provided herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission approves payment to United States Cellular Corporation for the Herman site in the amount of \$361,628.10 and for the Walthill site in the amount of \$257,490.07.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 3rd day of April, 2012.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Tim Schram

Chairman

Red Johnson

Aune Boyle

ATTEST:

Phil Sykes

//s//Frank E. Landis

Executive Director