

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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| In the Matter of the Nebraska |) | Application No. NUSF-69 |
| Public Service Commission, on |) | PROGRESSSION ORDER NO. 1 |
| its own motion, seeking to |) | |
| implement policies and |) | |
| procedures related to providing |) | ORDER SEEKING COMMENT |
| dedicated universal service |) | |
| support for wireless |) | |
| telecommunications services. |) | Entered: July 24, 2007 |

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On August 9, 2005, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened NUSF-48/PI-104 to investigate whether it should provide support to wireless telecommunications carriers through a dedicated state universal service program within the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. The Commission sought and received written comments regarding the following issues:

- Services currently receiving support; and
- Issues related to providing support for wireless telecommunications services including the nature and extent of any support, eligibility, cost recovery related to wireless infrastructure, nature and extent of regulatory oversight of carriers receiving support, and ownership and sharing of supported wireless infrastructure.

A hearing in NUSF-48/PI-104 was held on October 3, 2005.

Based upon the written comments and testimony received at the hearing, the Commission found that dedicated universal service support for wireless telecommunications services should be established. Such support should derive from a dedicated program within the existing Nebraska Universal Service Fund.

The Commission also found that a separate docket should be opened to determine the amount of support, the allocation methodology and, to implement any policies and procedures for the dedicated wireless fund. The Commission stated that any policies and procedures would subsequently be codified in rules and regulations.

In this Progression Order, the Commission seeks comment on whether the Commission should use the dedicated wireless program to buy down the cost of connecting cellular towers in rural areas to a cost comparable to connection costs in an urban area. In addition to the propriety of doing so, the Commission seeks comment on how to implement this if adopted. The Commission seeks comment on the information it should require in order to provide universal service fund support for the cost of connecting towers in rural areas.

In addition, the Commission seeks comment on how the Commission should identify the rural areas for the purpose of assisting with the cost of tower connectivity. How should the Commission determine the areas should qualify for support?

Comments on these and other issues germane to this proceeding will be accepted on or before August 31, 2007. Reply comments may be filed by interested parties on or before September 14, 2007. Commenting persons should file five (5) paper copies along with one (1) copy in a Word or WordPerfect electronic format.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that initial comments shall be filed by persons interested in this proceeding on or before **August 31, 2007**. Reply comments shall be filed by persons interested in this proceeding on or before **September 14, 2007**.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 24th day of July, 2007.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director