

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. NUSF-7.02
of Great Plains Communications,)
Inc., seeking a waiver for) ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION
additional Nebraska Universal)
Service Funding.) Entered: January 29, 2002

BY THE COMMISSION:

By application filed November 13, 2001, Great Plains Communications, Inc. (Great Plains), seeks a waiver for additional Nebraska Universal Service funding pursuant to the Nebraska Public Service Commission's (Commission's) previous findings in NUSF-7. Notice of the application appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, on November 20, 2001. No protests or comments on the application were filed. Therefore, this application is processed by the Commission Rule of Modified Procedure. Because more than one application for additional support has been received, the Commission has added the ".02" to the above docket number to distinguish the applications received and published.

In support of its application, applicant states as follows:

Great Plains is a Nebraska corporation which holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity to furnish telecommunications services for hire in this state. The applicant is a rural common carrier and has been granted eligible telecommunications carrier status by the Commission. Great Plains has made significant outside plant investment and other investments for the purpose of increasing the overall quality of service to subscribers. Among the investments, applicant has obtained new equipment and fiber optic cable that have improved customer service and order efficiencies and added line capacity. To support its application, Great Plains attached an exhibit detailing plant investment made during 1999, 2000 and 2001. Great Plains has supplemented this exhibit upon requests from the NUSF Department of the Commission. This exhibit was identified as Application Exhibit A and incorporated by reference. Application Exhibit A was filed under proprietary seal. Great Plains further states that granting its request would be consistent with the purpose of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act.

Upon consideration of the application and its supporting documentation, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application for additional Nebraska Universal Service Funding should be approved as follows:

1. Applicant's request for additional funds for investments made 1999, 2000 and 2001, should be approved to the extent shown in the confidential attachment to this order.
2. In order to receive the approved additional funding, Great Plains must file affidavit(s) certifying the following:

- A. The additional Nebraska Universal Service Fund monies will be used only for the purposes described by Great Plains in Application Exhibit A received by the Commission pertaining to investments already made.
 - B. On an ongoing basis, the additional Nebraska Universal Service monies will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of services that qualify for NUSF support.
 - C. The use of the funds received by Great Plains from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund will be subject to a departmental audit at the Commission's discretion.
3. Great Plains will have 60 days after this order has been entered in which to file the required affidavit.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the application of Great Plains Communications Inc., in NUSF-7.02 be and it is hereby granted as provided herein.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 29th day of January, 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director