

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) Application No. NUSF-99.04
Nebraska Public Service)
Commission, on its own)
Motion, to administer the)
Universal Service Fund High-) GRANTED, IN PART
Cost Program: CenturyLink)
Broadband Grant Requests)
2016.) Entered: August 29, 2017

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

BY THE COMMISSION:

By Application filed May 5, 2017, Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink ("CenturyLink") seeks high-cost support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). Notice of the application appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska on May 9, 2017 in The Phonograph-Herald, St. Paul, on May 10, 2017 and in the Grand Island Independent, Grand Island on May 12, 2017.

The Applicant seeks support in the amount of Three Million Five Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand Forty-Three Dollars (\$3,587,043.00) for the construction of facilities in St. Paul, Nebraska.

According to the Application, network upgrades will enable a network capable of providing broadband service at speeds ranging from 10/1 to 100/5 to 120 census blocks surrounding St. Paul, Nebraska. The project will involve deploying approximately 300,000 feet of fiber and the electronics necessary to allow these speeds. The project includes costs for interoffice fiber between St. Paul, St. Libory, and Grand Island that will increase network capacity. CenturyLink would start construction on this project in the summer of 2017 and complete the project within 24 months. CenturyLink committed to offering broadband services to all households in the project area for a minimum of five years.

The Commission staff conducted an analysis of the census blocks submitted and compared the information against the Connect America Fund Phase II eligible areas. The Commission staff also reviewed the census block information and compared it to its wireline Broadband

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Mapping data, which uses FCC Form 477 deployment data collected by the FCC biannually. Taking the wireline competition information into account the Commission finds it should make an adjustment to the support approved for CenturyLink. Total approved support is adjusted as follows:

Project	Percentage Wireline Competitive	Adjusted Support
St. Paul	5.83%	\$3,377,798.83
Total Approved Support		\$3,377,798.83

CenturyLink shall notify the Commission within ninety (90) days of its intent to move forward with any proposed projects for which partial support is granted herein. Funding for any declined projects will be returned to the allocation available to CenturyLink for future projects.

Requests for Reimbursement:

CenturyLink must first make the investment and then may file a request for reimbursement with the NTIPS Department. CenturyLink does not need to complete the construction process prior to seeking reimbursement; rather, it may work with the NTIPS Department to develop intervals at which reimbursement can be sought. The NTIPS Department will reimburse CenturyLink for capital improvement costs made relative to and as included in the application filed by the company for the project approved in this Order. Once the investment is made, CenturyLink shall file a request for support, provide the NTIPS Department with copies of the invoices and shall certify to the Department that it had made the described investment for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services in the described rural areas.

CenturyLink is permitted to utilize its remaining allocated 2016 support for other projects. In addition or in the alternative, CenturyLink may renew its request for broadband funding not approved herein by providing specific evidence to support a revised adjustment.

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Reporting Requirements:

CenturyLink shall file, on an annual basis, consistent with federally designated ETCs, the information required by the Commission's Telecommunications Rules pertaining to eligible telecommunications companies and the investment information required by the Commission's Order in Docket NUSF-66. The report should make clear to the Commission that CenturyLink will not request reimbursement for equipment where grant money was also received from another source. CenturyLink shall file its annual report on or before June 1 of each year.

In addition, the Applicant shall be required to complete the approved projects within two (2) years from the date of this Order unless good cause is shown for a later completion date.

Broadband Commitments:

The Commission maintains broadband availability data and updates that information on at least an annual basis. As a condition of this support, CenturyLink must report broadband availability to the Commission upon request. CenturyLink must also confirm that it will not seek duplicative support through the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) Remote Areas Fund for the areas supported herein.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned application submitted by CenturyLink be and it is hereby granted in part as described herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that CenturyLink shall be subject to all terms and conditions adopted in this Order.

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this
29th day of August, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Mary Riddis

Kyrtal Snoddes

Frank E. Landis

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Tim Schram

Tim Schram
Chairman

ATTEST:

Phillip J. H. P.

Executive Director