

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the ) Application No. NUSF-99.05  
Nebraska Public Service )  
Commission, on its own )  
Motion, to administer the ) GRANTED  
Universal Service Fund High- )  
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 June 20, 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 July 14, 2017 and in The Pender Times on July 20, 2017.

The Applicant seeks support in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand One Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$230,146) for the construction of facilities around Thurston, 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 27 census blocks in and around Thurston, Nebraska, which is in CenturyLink's Pender exchange. CenturyLink would start construction on this project 90 days after approval from the Commission 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 Mapping data, which uses FCC Form 477 deployment data collected by the FCC biannually. Taking the wireline competition information into account the Commission finds

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the project should be approved, in full. Total approved support is **\$230,146** or the **actual cost** to complete the project whichever is lower.

### 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.

### 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.

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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.

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

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

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Mary Reddis*

*Crystal Knudsen*

*Frank E. Landis*

//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Tim Schram

*Tim Schram*  
Chairman

ATTEST:

*Michael J. Hill*

Executive Director