

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) Application No. NUSF-99.07
Nebraska Public Service)
Commission, on its own)
Motion, to administer the) GRANTED, IN PART
Universal Service Fund High-)
Cost Program: CenturyLink)
Broadband Grant Requests)
2018.) Entered: May 1, 2018

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

By Application filed February 28, 2018 Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink and United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink (collectively referred to as the "CenturyLink entities") seek high-cost support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). Notice of the application appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska and in the Loup City/Sherman County Times on March 7, 2018. Notice also appeared in the Scottsbluff Business Farmer on March 9, 2018.

The CenturyLink entities seek support in the amount of One Million Nine Hundred Forty-One Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Eight dollars (\$1,941,158.00) for the construction of facilities around the Bayard, Gering, Loup City, Scottsbluff and Valley communities.

According to the Application, network upgrades will enable a network capable of providing broadband service at speeds at up to 40 Mbps in some areas and up to 100 Mbps in others. The CenturyLink entities would start construction on this project 90 days after approval from the Commission and complete the project within 24 months. The CenturyLink entities 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 FCC Form 477 deployment data, collected by the FCC biannually, to determine if comparable wireline service was reported as available in the same area. Taking the wireline competition information into account the Commission finds the project should be approved in part. Total approved support is

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identified in the table below or the **actual cost** to complete the project whichever is lower:

Project ID	Wireline Comp. Blocks	Amount Requested	Support Recommended
CR 36 and S	0	\$43,825.00	\$43,825.00
CR 37 and L	0	\$298,584.00	\$298,584.00
CR J and 19	0	\$66,919.00	\$66,919.00
CR R and CR 24	1	\$44,037.00	\$42,035.32
Hunts Dairy Road	0	\$26,170.00	\$26,170.00
HWY 71 and Lake Minatare Rd	0	\$54,540.00	\$54,540.00
Loup City	0	\$373,743.00	\$373,743.00
Sandberg Road	0	\$43,825.00	\$43,825.00
Valley	0	\$768,775.00	\$768,775.00
Wildcat Estates	0	\$220,740.00	\$220,740.00
Total		\$1,941,158.00	\$1,939,156.32

Requests for Reimbursement:

The CenturyLink entities must first make the investment and then may file a request for reimbursement with the NTIPS Department. The CenturyLink entities do not need to complete the construction process prior to seeking reimbursement; rather, they may work with the NTIPS Department to develop intervals at which reimbursement can be sought. The NTIPS Department will reimburse the CenturyLink entities 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, the CenturyLink entities 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 the CenturyLink entities will not request reimbursement for equipment where grant money was also received from another source. The CenturyLink entities shall file their annual report on or before June 1 of each year.

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In addition, the CenturyLink entities 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, the CenturyLink entities must report broadband availability to the Commission upon request. The CenturyLink entities must also confirm that they 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 United Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink and Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC be, and it is hereby granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that United Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink and Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC shall be subject to all terms and conditions adopted in this Order.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 1st day of May, 2018.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Mary Ridder
Tim Schram Chair

Crystal Unwaded ATTEST:
Paul Jensen

Michael H. H. H.
Executive Director

//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Mary Ridder