

**Great Plains Communications, Inc.**  
2014 NUSF-77 Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program  
Application Checklist Responses

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**Application Checklist Item #1:**

**“A listing of all companies associated with the proposed broadband project that will provide the broadband or voice component of the service to consumers, including a main point of contact for all companies. (This requirement does not refer to vendors such as construction companies or equipment providers.)”**

*Narrative:*

Great Plains Communications, Inc. (“GPC”) will be responsible for managing the implementation of the projects submitted through this application. The broadband services for these projects will be offered through Netlink, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of GPC. The mailing address for both these organizations is:

1600 Great Plains Centre  
P.O. Box 500  
Blair, NE 68008

The main point of contact for this application is:

**Great Plains Communications, Inc.**

Mike Huggenberger  
Senior Director – Technology and Engineering Services  
Office: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

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**Application Checklist Item #2:**

**“A description of the proposed broadband project plan for which NEBP funding is being requested including download and upload speed capabilities which can be provided using the proposed infrastructure. Minimum speed standards should be 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.”**

Great Plains Communications (“Great Plains” or “GPC”) provides voice, data and other services to customers in small rural communities and surrounding areas across Nebraska. GPC’s regulated services footprint spans more than 14,000 square miles. The company provides voice, data, and other services in other communities and rural areas elsewhere in the state to meet the needs of customers who have not had availability of sufficient services from existing providers. Great Plains is an exemplary steward of Nebraska Universal Service Fund (“NUSF”) high-cost support and of Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program (“NEBP”) support awarded in 2012 and 2013. In this application, Great Plains proposes to construct and operate ten (10) separate projects dispersed across its regulated service area. Great Plains believes that NEBP funding should be distributed in a manner that customers in all difficult-to-serve areas of the state have an opportunity to benefit from the availability of broadband service. The company has the unique ability to provide that reach given the expanse of its network and service footprint across so much of the state’s geography. Importantly, each of the projects represent an effective use of scarce funding, bringing broadband service to sizeable numbers of unserved and/or underserved households at a relatively low per-unit cost. The Commission may consider these projects as a whole or individually.

The projects submitted in the 2014 NEBP cycle are particularly critical to Great Plains’ customers because of trends in traditional universal service funding at the federal and state levels. GPC has experienced significant reductions in its federal and state universal service support, even though Great Plains serves some of the most sparsely populated areas in the state and the entire nation as evidenced by its location density of only about 1.5 subscribers per square mile. Despite this location density being amongst the lowest of all carriers in Nebraska, Great Plains’ per-line support is lower than most regulated carriers in Nebraska (significantly so in many instances). A comparison of total high-cost federal and state USF and per-line support received by all local exchange carriers in the state is included as “Tab 16: USF Information” to this application. This information is also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2014 NUSF-77 USF Information.xlsx*.

The high-cost portion of the NUSF program recognizes customer density as the primary cost determinant, and properly targets distribution of funding across the state to the highest-cost locations. Unfortunately, because of overall demands on high-cost funding and shrinking

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collections, many higher-cost areas in the state are not being adequately funded to the extent that was intended by the Legislature when the NUSF was established many years ago. The business reality of this situation is that the reductions in high-cost state and federal universal service funding that Great Plains has experienced will limit the company's ability to further expand its broadband availability without the Commission's granting of the projects contained in this application. Great Plains urges the Commission to comprehensively consider the total 2014 universal service funding picture – both federal and state USF -- for all applicants as well as the cost-to-serve challenges of service areas contained in all applications.

To accomplish this, the Commission should recognize the current total USF funding that all applicants receive, the scale of existing broadband availability in an applicant's service areas relative to other applicants, and the costs to provide broadband service in the areas included in all applications. Projects from applicants such as Great Plains whose existing per-customer universal service support is relatively low and per-location project costs are high deserve to be prioritized in comparison to all projects in the application pool. Otherwise, customers in those areas will continue to be left unserved or underserved since traditional high-cost USF funding will not be sufficient to allow service providers to expand broadband to those areas.

Following (in alphabetical order) are descriptions of the Great Plains projects, which are spread across many areas of the state, thus ensuring a wide diversity of customers in various geographic locations will benefit:

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Project Narratives:

**1. Bloomfield**

The Bloomfield wireline project proposes to expand GPC's Digital Subscriber Loop ("DSL") service availability to [REDACTED] underserved and [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural areas outside of Bloomfield. GPC has long wanted to expand broadband services to these rural areas, but has been unable to do so financially. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

The Bloomfield project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband Digital Loop Carrier ("DLC") equipment, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Bloomfield central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least "5/1" available to all customers, and some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

**2. Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids/Belgrade/Primrose wireline project proposes to expand GPC's DSL service availability to [REDACTED] underserved and [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural areas outside the communities of Cedar Rapids, Belgrade, and Primrose. GPC has long wanted to expand broadband services to these rural areas, but has been unable to do so financially. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

The Cedar Rapids/Belgrade/Primrose project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Cedar Rapids, Belgrade, and Primrose central offices. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

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Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers, and some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

### **3. Creighton**

The Creighton wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] underserved and [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural areas west of Creighton. GPC has long wanted to expand broadband services to these rural areas, but has been unable to do so financially. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

The Creighton project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Creighton central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers, and some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

### **4. Crofton**

The Crofton wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] underserved customers in the rural areas outside of the Crofton. GPC has long wanted to expand broadband services to these rural areas, but has been unable to do so financially. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

The Crofton project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Crofton central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

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Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers, and some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

## **5. Lamar**

The Lamar wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved customers in the Lamar area of Chase County. Expanding services to this rural area has been desired in GPC’s long-term network planning, but the expense of doing so has prohibited the project to date. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

The Lamar project consists of placing [REDACTED] new [REDACTED] broadband DLC units that will interface with [REDACTED] equipment already being placed in the Imperial central office (completed as part of our approved 2013 NUSF project for Imperial). GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power, and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers. This location will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed out to the customers.

## **6. Niobrara**

The Niobrara wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural areas west of the community of Niobrara. GPC has long wanted to expand broadband services to these rural areas, but has been unable to do so financially. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

The Niobrara project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Niobrara central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC

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equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers, and some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

## **7. Petersburg**

The Petersburg wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] underserved and [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural areas outside of Petersburg. GPC has long wanted to expand broadband services to these rural areas, but has been unable to do so financially. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

The Petersburg project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Petersburg central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers, and some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

## **8. Stratton**

The Stratton wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] and underserved and [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural areas outside of the Stratton. GPC has long wanted to expand broadband services to these rural areas, but has been unable to do so financially. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

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The Stratton project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Stratton central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers, and some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

#### **9. Trenton**

The Trenton wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural areas outside of Trenton. GPC has long wanted to expand broadband services to these rural areas, but has been unable to do so financially. This project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities.

The Trenton project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Creighton central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers, and some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

#### **10. Wisner**

The Wisner wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural areas outside the community of Wisner, including a number of commercial feedlots. Expanding services to these rural areas has been desired in GPC’s long-term network planning, but the expense of doing so has prohibited the project to date. This project represents

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an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when GPC is in a position to upgrade the local loop facilities. Enclosed in “Tab 17: Letters of Recommendation” with this application are endorsement letters from State Senators Lydia Brasch for the Wisner project and Mark Christensen for the Lamar project. Additional letters of recommendation from GPC customers who will benefit from the proposed projects will be provided to the Commission by mid-February.

The Wisner project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment on the north side of town, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Wisner central office. The south part of this project will add two GPON<sup>1</sup> systems along with three DSL nodes. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] DLC equipment throughout the state and has had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in the project.

Each of the new sites will require placement of fiber backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the [REDACTED] equipment, power, and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers. Some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed out to the customers.

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<sup>1</sup> Gigabit Passive Optical Network

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**Application Checklist Item #3:**

**“A description of which areas are “unserved” or “underserved” in accordance with the Commission’s definition.”**

*Narrative:*

The household counts in this table were obtained using three different information sources:

1. GPC’s customer information and billing database
2. GPC’s CAD system
3. Visual site verification by GPC’s district managers

<b>Project</b>	<b>Underserved Households</b>	<b>Unserved Households</b>	<b>Total Households</b>
#1 - Bloomfield	■	■	■
#2 - Cedar Rapids	■	■	■
#3 - Creighton	■	■	■
#4 - Crofton	■	■	■
#5 - Lamar	■	■	■
#6 - Niobrara	■	■	■
#7 - Petersburg	■	■	■
#8 - Stratton	■	■	■
#9 - Trenton	■	■	■
#10 - Wisner	■	■	■

<b>TOTALS</b>	■	■	■
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**Application Checklist Item #4:**

**A list in Excel format of all the census blocks where broadband facilities would be deployed for the proposed project which shall include 2010 Census Block identification numbers of service area, by project. The list of census blocks must be identified on a per project basis and must be contained in one spreadsheet. Carriers should not break apart the listing of census blocks in separate workbook tabs.**

*Narrative:*

GPC has prepared the requested Excel file and it is provided in print format in Tab 18: “Census Block Information” of this document. It is also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2014 NUSF-77 Census Block Information.xlsx*

GPC has also provided the applicable census track information for each project in separate tab in the above file. Duplicate census block numbers are shown in the “Census Block” tab of this file. The reason for this is a census block may have multiple census tracks associated with it.

GPC has also provided electronic maps of all submitted projects in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. For GPC’s ten projects, all census blocks that fall under the proposed service areas are numbered according to the 2010 Census Block boundaries and shown on the maps. The individual maps for all ten project locations are available in 11” x 17” print format in “Tab 19: Project Maps” of this document. They are also provided electronically in the attached files:

- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 All Project Locations.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 # 1- Bloomfield Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #2 - Cedar Rapids Map.pdf<sup>2</sup>*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #2 - Belgrade Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #2 - Primrose Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #3 - Creighton Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #4 - Crofton Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #5 - Lamar Map.pdf<sup>3</sup>*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #6 - Niobrara Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #7 - Petersburg Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #8 - Stratton Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #9 - Trenton Map.pdf*
- GPC 2014 NUSF-77 #10 - Wisner Map.pdf*

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<sup>2</sup> Project #2 – Cedar Rapids also encompasses the towns of Belgrade and Primrose so there are three maps provided for that project.

<sup>3</sup> The legend for this map says “Imperial”

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**Application Checklist Item #5:**

**“An estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers.”**

*Narrative:*

At this time, GPC has a [REDACTED] take rate in the areas where a “5/1” broadband service is offered. That same percentage is used to identify the estimated number of customers projected to sign up for the “5/1” service offered by each project.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Underserved Households</b>	<b>Unserved Households</b>	<b>Potential Subscribers</b>	<b>Estimated Subscribers</b>
#1 - Bloomfield	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#2 – Cedar Rapids	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#3 - Creighton	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#4 - Crofton	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#5 - Lamar	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#6 – Niobrara	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#7 - Petersburg	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#8 - Stratton	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#9 - Trenton	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#10 - Wisner	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Total</b>	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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**Application Checklist Item #6:**

**“A schedule for broadband deployment with commitment to complete the build-out within 24 months of approval of the application. The schedule should describe milestones in project completion increments of 25 percent, and the estimated date by which the milestones will be completed.”<sup>4</sup>**

*Narrative:*

Below are the primary activities and planned start dates for all ten of the proposed projects. The “Production Date” shown for each project is when the service will be available for full consumer use.

<b>2015 Project Milestones</b>					
<b>Project</b>	<b>Fiber Optic Construction</b>	<b>Equipment Orders</b>	<b>Equipment Installation</b>	<b>System Testing</b>	<b>Production Date</b>
#1 - Bloomfield	████	████	████	████	████
#2 - Cedar Rapids	██	████	████	████	████
#3 - Creighton	████	████	██	████	████
#4 - Crofton	████	████	██	████	████
#5 - Lamar	████	████	██	████	████
#6 - Niobrara	████	████	██	████	████
#7 - Petersburg	████	████	██	████	████
#8 - Stratton	████	████	██	████	████
#9 - Trenton	████	████	██	████	████
#10 - Wisner	████	████	████	████	████

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<sup>4</sup> While the applicant must provide a build-out plan which shows a commitment to complete the project within 24 months. This timeframe may be extended by the Commission upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances.

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**Application Checklist Item #7:**

**“A proposed budget, showing total project costs, in electronic format, with a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment.”**

*Narrative:*

Summary totals from the proposed ten project budgets, along with a depreciation schedule, are provided below:

Project	Network Equipment	Fiber Optics	Customer Premise Equipment	Total Capital Budget	GPC Match (25%)	Annual Depreciation (5 Year Life)
#1 - Bloomfield	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#2 - Cedar Rapids	██████	██	██████	██████	██████	██████
#3 - Creighton	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#4 - Crofton	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#5 - Lamar	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#6 - Niobrara	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#7 - Petersburg	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#8 - Stratton	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#9 - Trenton	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#10 - Wisner	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████

<b>TOTALS</b>	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
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The budget details for each of the ten proposed projects are available in “Tab 20: Project Budgets” of this document, and are also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2014 NUSF-77 Project Budgets.xlsx*. The budget information includes an estimate of anticipated penetration rates for each market (as described in Item #5) that was used to derive the CPE CapEx estimations in the above table.

For all the proposed projects, GPC has relied upon its vast depth of experience with projects of this nature to estimate CapEx requirements. Pending grant award, GPC plans to utilize its

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existing vendor, [REDACTED], for the DSL equipment that will be installed for our projects. As a long-term existing customer, GPC receives “best-in-class” pricing from this vendor, although specific prices are also subject to non-disclosure agreement. The project budget presents representative pricing for each of the projects.

The fiber construction cost for each project is computed by using the number of fiber route miles multiplied by GPC’s historical cost per mile (\$20,000) for similar fiber construction projects. Great Plains uses a static/vibratory plow to place the fiber optic cable at the required 4- to 5-foot depths. A second Caterpillar is used as a pull tractor to increase pulling power and reduce the track slippage on the plow tractor. Prior to the start of the project, Great Plains requests assistance from county government to “wind-row” the loose gravel to the side of the road surface. If such assistance is not possible, Great Plains uses a tractor and blade to move the loose gravel.

Once the cable has been placed, the pull Caterpillar is unhooked from the plow and proceeds to backpack the plow rip. Once required compaction is achieved, the loose gravel from the “wind row” is placed back on top of the trench. Grading is performed until road service is returned to pre-construction condition. If needed, Great Plains will replace needed gravel to return road to the previous and safe condition. Great Plains directionally bores all drainage culverts in the path of the cable route. An orange 1.25-inch duct pulled through each bore at a minimum depth of 4 feet below the bottom side of the drainage culvert. Great Plains places an orange 6-inch-wide warning-tape at a depth of 18 inches above the fiber optic cable. Warning signs are placed at a maximum of a quarter of a mile apart along the route and on both sides of every intersection crossed.

The signs are placed as far back of the right of way as possible. A polymer concrete 36-inch fiber splice vault is placed at every customer location passed along the fiber route. Each vault is flush mounted at ground level with a metal locate pedestal mounted on a 10’ wooden post next to it. The vaults are placed on an 18-inch base of gravel and a mesh screen to prevent rodents from digging into the vault. Each vault has a 20,000-pound load rating to prevent the lid collapsing and damaging the fiber within it. A 1.25-inch duct is placed between the vault and the locate pedestal to accommodate #6 braided, jacketed ground wire. A ground wire is ran between the pedestal and splice kit for every fiber optic cable that is placed within the splice kit.

The jacket of each ground wire is color-coded to identify which direction the fiber optic cable leaves from the splice vault. A 1.25-inch duct with a 4-conductor fiber optic cable is placed to each house along the route. The 1.25-inch duct is placed at a minimum of 18 inches in depth and a small fiber vault is placed at the house for cable slack storage. Nebraska One-Call maps are updated prior to the start of the project, thus assuring the new fiber is accounted for on locate tickets.

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**Application Checklist Item #8:**

**“Proposed retail pricing, including both monthly recurring costs and nonrecurring costs for the new broadband service(s) to be offered. Proposed rate, either monthly recurring (MRC) or non-recurring (NRC), for broadband related customer premise equipment (CPE, e.g. modem). If none listed, please state that applicant will not be changing a rate to the end user for broadband CPE.”**

*Narrative:*

The recurring monthly pricing of the “5 x 1” broadband service offered through these projects will be consistent with GPC’s current a la carte and bundled monthly recurring prices. The a la carte prices are shown below. The bundle pricing for the “5 x 1” Internet service varies by bundle, but typically the monthly service pricing per bundle is [REDACTED] lower than the a la carte prices.

**Residential: a la carte**

5 Mbps	\$47.95
10 Mbps	\$57.95

**Business: a la carte**

5 Mbps	\$50.95
10 Mbps	\$60.95

GPC does not charge for a standard wired DSL modem. If the customer requests a modem with wireless connectivity capabilities, GPC will lease that type of modem for [REDACTED] per month. GPC has a standard nonrecurring installation fee of [REDACTED] for these services. For each approved NUSF-77 project, GPC will conduct a special introductory offer for the new service that will waive the installation fee, along with other possible promotions such as “first month’s service is free.”

A number of residential and business service bundles are available for this application’s ten projects. A detailed description of these bundles and where they are offered are provided in “Tab 21: Bundle Information.”

This information is also provided electronically in this attached file: *GPC 2014 NUSF-77 Bundle Information.docx*

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**Application Checklist Item #9:**

**“Retail rate(s) charged for basic voice service. If a subscriber line charge is assessed, the amount of the (SLC). If no SLC is assessed then a statement that no SLC is assessed.”**

GPC’s retail rate for residential local voice service in \$19.20 per month and \$29.95 per month for business local voice service.

The single-line SLC is \$6.50 and the multi-line SLC is \$9.20.

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**Application Checklist Item #10:**

**“A description of the applicant’s commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.”**

*Narrative:*

GPC will provide broadband service to each household within the described service areas for a period of no less than five years, and would anticipate doing so for far beyond that timeframe.

For the proposed ten projects GPC will provide service to each customer in the applicable census blocks as outlined in Item #4. Each of these locations is served by existing GPC facilities for regulated telephone service. Thus, GPC is already obligated to serve these customers and will do so for broadband as required by the pilot program.

The [REDACTED] product is capable of delivering broadband services over several different technology platforms, utilizing both fiber and copper facilities. It can be used to deliver ADSL or VDSL based broadband over copper local loops, for speeds from a minimal 5 Mbps x 1 Mbps up to 75 Mbps x 10 Mbps, dependent on the gauge and availability of copper pairs and the distance between the equipment and the subscriber. The [REDACTED] also fully supports the deployment of two FTTH technologies, GPON and Active Ethernet. These can deliver broadband from 75 Mbps x 1 Mbps up to 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps over a fiber local loop. In the more remote rural areas, the [REDACTED] may be deployed, which will allow for ADSL only service over copper loops. However, this product will still provide a robust 25 Mbps x 1 Mbps broadband service, dependent on distance and gauge of the copper cable.

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**Application Checklist Item #11:**

**“A description of the applicant’s commitment to provide broadband data to the Commission and its vendors for the duration of the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program so that this broadband coverage area can be depicted on the Commission’s state broadband data inventory map and on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA’s) national broadband map.”**

*Narrative:*

To date for this activity, GPC has strived to supply timely and highly accurate mapping data for both the SBDD and NTIA mapping activities. As a successful applicant to the NEBP Program, GPC will provide the Commission and its vendors all required broadband mapping data for these new service areas, so the benefits of these projects can be recognized and incorporated into broadband inventory maps at the Commission and NTIA.

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**Application Checklist Item #12:**

**“A description of the applicant’s financial qualifications, which may be filed on a confidential basis, to meet the commitments made in the application.<sup>5</sup>”**

*Narrative:*

GPC’s Annual Report Form M illustrates the company’s financial position and is on file with the Nebraska PSC.

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<sup>5</sup> For companies filing Annual Report Form M information, such information would be sufficient to meet this requirement.

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**Application Checklist Item #13:**

**“If the applicant does not have a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunications services in Nebraska, a demonstration of the applicant’s financial, technical, and managerial competence.”<sup>6</sup>”**

*Narrative:*

N/A

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<sup>6</sup> A balance sheet and income statement can be submitted to demonstrate financial competency.

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**Application Checklist Item #14:**

**“A description of the applicant’s financial match which will be used to meet the commitments made in the application. Applicant shall submit a proposed budget for the entire project cost.<sup>7</sup>”**

*Narrative:*

GPC’s financial match for all approved projects will be funded by cash from its normal operating budget.

A detailed budget for each submitted project is available in “Tab 20: Project Budgets” of this document and also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2014 NUSF-77 Project Budgets.xlsx*

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<sup>7</sup> Consistent with the Department’s recommendation, the applicants may provide invoices to the Commission based upon 25 percent milestones. Once those are reached, the Commission would reimburse 75 percent of the invoice cost and the grantee would be responsible for the remaining 25 percent.

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**Application Checklist Item #15:**

**“An affidavit from the Applicant attesting to the truth and accuracy of all information included in the application.”**

*Narrative:*

An affidavit signed by GPC’s Chief Operating Officer is included in this Checklist Item. A copy of this affidavit is also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2014 NUSF-77 Affidavit.pdf*.