

**Great Plains Communications, Inc.**  
2015 NUSF-92 Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program  
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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: 402-456-6543  
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Email: mhuggenberger@gpcom.com

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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 (GPC) is the largest independent telecommunications company devoted to serving rural Nebraska. It offers residential services including digital local and long-distance telephone as well as high-definition cable television. Broadband Internet service is available in all Great Plains exchanges and several other communities through DSL and cable modem facilities or Great Plains’ satellite partnership.

The GPC network covers more than 14,000 square miles across various regions of the state, and the company’s service territory is about the size of New Jersey and Connecticut combined. The company has investments of about 3,500 miles of fiber optic cable to provide local loop and interexchange network services to its customers, many located in some of the most-rural locations in the state as well as the entire nation. GPC provides telephone service to 63 exchanges, in small communities and surrounding rural areas. Its largest exchange (Imperial) has 1,378 subscribers and its smallest (Cotesfield) has only 48 subscribers. GPC’s average customer density is about 1.6 customers per square mile.

In this application, GPC proposes to construct and operate fifteen (15) separate projects dispersed across its regulated service area. GPC believes that NEBP funding should be distributed in a manner that customers in all difficult-to-serve areas, or “high cost” 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 2015 NEBP cycle are particularly critical to GPC’s 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 GPC serves some of the most sparsely populated areas in the state and the entire nation. Without support from the NUSF broadband grant program for projects such as those submitted, GPC would not be able to expand its broadband availability to the rural areas encompassed in this application. Great Plains appreciates the Commission’s consideration of the following projects (listed below in alphabetical order) across the state.

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Finally, GPC will provide a standard offering of a “10 x 1” service with all the projects in this year’s application. GPC’s application also contains confidential information, so a redacted copy of this application checklist is provided in “Tab 19: Redacted Application” and is also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2015 NUSF-92 Redacted Application Checklist.pdf*.

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Project Narratives:

**1. Arnold**

The Arnold wireline project proposes to expand GPC's DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural area outside of Arnold. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been able to do so. 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.

This project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] equipment outside of Arnold, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Arnold central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] 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 this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of [REDACTED] miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the [REDACTED], power, and other required 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 "10 x 1" available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a "50 x 2" service (at a higher MRC). 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. Byron**

The Byron wireline project proposes to expand GPC's DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved and [REDACTED] underserved customers in the rural area outside of Byron. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been able to do so. 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. This project will also allow GPC to achieve better utilization of a toll fiber route that runs through this exchange.

This project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] equipment outside of Byron, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Byron central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] 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 this project.

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The new nodes will require the placement of █ miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the █, power, and other required equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new █ equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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. Chester**

The Chester wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to █ unserved and █ underserved customers in the rural area outside of Chester. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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. This project will also allow GPC to achieve better utilization of a toll fiber route that runs through this exchange as well as provide high-speed internet services to a State of Nebraska weigh station.

This project consists of placing █ new nodes of █ equipment outside of Chester, as well as new █ equipment in the Chester central office. GPC has utilized █ equipment throughout the state and has had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the █ equipment to be utilized in this project.

The new nodes will not require any new buried fiber backbone cable, but will need cabinets to house the █, power, and other required equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new █ equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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. Cody**

The Cody wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to █ unserved and █ underserved customers in the rural area outside of Cody. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. This project

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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.

This project consists of placing █ new nodes of █ equipment outside of Cody, as well as new █ equipment in the Cody central office. GPC has utilized █ equipment throughout the state and has had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the █ equipment to be utilized in this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of █ miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the █, power, and other required equipment. Due to the Sandhills' soil composition, the expected per mile cost for this fiber build is lower than the typical █ per mile GPC uses for estimating this cost for other projects. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new █ equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least "10 x 1" available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a "50 x 2" service (at a higher MRC). 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. Crofton**

The Crofton wireline project proposes to expand GPC's DSL service availability to █ underserved customers in the rural area outside of Crofton. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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.

This project consists of placing █ new nodes of █ equipment outside of Crofton, as well as new █ equipment in the Crofton central office. GPC has utilized █ throughout the state and has had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the █ equipment to be utilized in this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of █ miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the █, power, and other required equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new █ equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least "10 x 1" available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a "50 x 2" service (at a higher MRC). 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.

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**6. Culbertson**

The Culbertson wireline project proposes to expand GPC's DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved and [REDACTED] underserved customers in the rural area outside of Culbertson. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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.

This project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] equipment outside of Culbertson, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Culbertson central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] 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 this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of [REDACTED] miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the [REDACTED], power, and other required 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 "10 x 1" available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a "50 x 2" service (at a higher MRC). 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. Deshler**

The Deshler wireline project proposes to expand GPC's DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved and [REDACTED] underserved customers in the rural area outside of Deshler. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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.

This project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] equipment outside of Deshler, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Deshler central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] 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 this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of [REDACTED] miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the [REDACTED], power, and other required equipment. The existing copper loops will be

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retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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. North Bend**

The North Bend wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved and [REDACTED] underserved customers in the rural area outside of North Bend. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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.

This project will not require [REDACTED] equipment in rural North Bend but it will require the placement of [REDACTED] miles of buried fiber backbone cable to provide a passive optical network connection to each home. The standard broadband speed offering will be at least “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “75 x 75” service (at a higher MRC) will be available.

## **9. Palisade**

The Palisade wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved and [REDACTED] underserved customers in the rural area outside of Palisade. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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.

This project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] equipment outside of Palisade, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Palisade central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] 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 this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of [REDACTED] miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the [REDACTED], power, and other required equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new [REDACTED] equipment will provide

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both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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. Red Cloud**

The Red Cloud wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved and [REDACTED] underserved customers in the rural area outside of Red Cloud. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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.

This project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] equipment outside of Red Cloud, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Red Cloud central office. 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 this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of [REDACTED] miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the [REDACTED], power, and other required 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 “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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.

### **11. Reynolds**

The Reynolds wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved and [REDACTED] underserved customers in the rural area outside of Reynolds. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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. This project will also allow GPC to achieve better utilization of a toll fiber route that runs through this exchange.

This project consists of placing [REDACTED] new node of [REDACTED] equipment outside of Reynolds, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Reynolds central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] equipment throughout the state and has had excellent results. If requested by the

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Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the [REDACTED] equipment to be utilized in this project.

The new node will not require any new buried fiber backbone cable, but will need a cabinet to house the [REDACTED], power, and other required 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 “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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.

## **12. Snyder**

The Snyder wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural area outside of Snyder. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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.

This project consists of placing [REDACTED] new nodes of [REDACTED] broadband DLC equipment outside of Snyder, as well as new [REDACTED] equipment in the Snyder central office. GPC has utilized [REDACTED] 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 this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of [REDACTED] miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the [REDACTED], power, and other required 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 “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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.

## **13. Wisner - North**

The Wisner North wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to [REDACTED] unserved customers in the rural area outside of Wisner North. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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. This

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project will provide high-speed access to several large cattle feeder operations as well as assist GPC with repairing several rural pedestals that were damaged by the 2014 Pilger tornado.

This project consists of placing █ new nodes of █ equipment outside of Wisner North, as well as new █ equipment in the Wisner North central office. GPC has utilized █ equipment throughout the state and has had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the █ equipment to be utilized in this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of █ miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the █, power, and other required equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new █ equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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.

#### **14. Wisner – South**

The Wisner South wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to █ unserved customers in the rural area outside of Wisner South. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been able to do so. 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. This project will provide high-speed internet access to a relatively densely populated rural area as well as high-speed access services to several large cattle feeder operations.

This project consists of placing █ new nodes of █ equipment outside of Wisner South, as well as new █ equipment in the Wisner South central office. GPC has utilized █ equipment throughout the state and has had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the █ equipment to be utilized in this project.

The new nodes will require the placement of █ miles of buried fiber backbone cable, and cabinets to house the █, power, and other required equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new █ equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). Some of these locations will be capable of

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upgrades to FTTP by the future addition of cards in the existing shelves and fiber loops placed to the customers.

**15. Wolbach**

The Wolbach wireline project proposes to expand GPC’s DSL service availability to ■ unserved and ■ underserved customers in the rural area outside of Wolbach. GPC has long desired to expand broadband services to this targeted area, but financially has not been unable to do so. 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.

This project consists of placing ■ of ■ equipment outside of Wolbach, as well as new ■ equipment in the Wolbach central office. GPC has utilized ■ equipment throughout the state and has had excellent results. If requested by the Commission, GPC will provide additional information on the ■ equipment to be utilized in this project.

The new node will not require any new buried fiber backbone cable, but will need a cabinet to house the ■, power, and other required equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new ■ equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “10 x 1” available to all customers, and optional offerings up to a “50 x 2” service (at a higher MRC). 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.

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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>Unserved Households</b>	<b>Underserved Households</b>	<b>Total Households</b>
#1 - Arnold	■	■	■
#2 - Byron	■	■	■
#3 - Chester	■	■	■
#4 - Cody	■	■	■
#5 - Crofton	■	■	■
#6 - Culbertson	■	■	■
#7 - Deshler	■	■	■
#8 – North Bend	■	■	■
#9 - Palisade	■	■	■
#10 – Red Cloud	■	■	■
#11 - Reynolds	■	■	■
#12 - Snyder	■	■	■
#13 – Wisner North	■	■	■
#14 – Wisner South	■	■	■
#15- Wolbach	■	■	■
<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:*

The census block information is provide in the “Tab 16: Application Template” and in the attached file: *GPC 2015 NUSF-92 Application Template.xlsx*.

GPC has provided electronic maps of all submitted projects in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. For GPC’s fifteen 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 fifteen project locations are available in 8.5” x 11” print format in “Tab 17: Project Maps” of this document. They are also provided electronically in the attached files:

*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 # 1- Arnold Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #2 - Byron Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #3 - Chester Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #4 - Cody Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #5 - Crofton Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #6 - Culbertson Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #7 - Deshler Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #8 - North Bend Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #9 - Palisade Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #10 - Red Cloud Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #11 - Reynolds Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #12 - Snyder Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #13 and #14 - Wisner North and South Map.pdf*  
*GPC 2015 NUSF-92 #15 - Wolbach Map.pdf*

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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 “10 x 1” broadband service is offered. That same percentage is used to identify the estimated number of customers projected to sign up for the “10 x 1” service offered by each project.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Unserved Households</b>	<b>Underserved Households</b>	<b>Potential Subscribers</b>	<b>Estimated Subscribers</b>
#1 - Arnold	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#2 – Byron	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#3 - Chester	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#4 - Cody	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#5 - Crofton	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#6 – Culbertson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#7 - Deshler	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#8 - North Bend	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#9 - Palisade	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#10 - Red Cloud	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#11 - Reynolds	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#12 - Snyder	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#13 - Wisner North	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#14 - Wisner South	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
#15 - Wolbach	[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>1</sup>”**

*Narrative:*

Below are the primary activities and planned start dates for all fifteen 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 - Arnold	Apr 1	Mar 1	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 1
#2 - Byron	Apr 1	Mar 1	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 1
#3 - Chester	N/A	Mar 1	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 1
#4 - Cody	Apr 1	Mar 1	May 1	Jun 1	Jul 1
#5 - Crofton	May 1	Apr 1	Jun 1	Jul 1	Aug 1
#6 - Culbertson	May 1	Apr 1	Jun 1	Jul 1	Aug 1
#7 - Deshler	May 1	Apr 1	Jun 1	Jul 1	Aug 1
#8 – North Bend	May 1	Apr 1	Jun 1	Jul 1	Aug 1
#9 - Palisade	Jun 1	May 1	Jul 1	Aug 1	Sep 1
#10 – Red Cloud	Jun 1	May 1	Jul 1	Aug 1	Sep 1
#11 - Reynolds	N/A	May 1	Jul 1	Aug 1	Sep 1
#12 - Snyder	Jun 1	May 1	Jul 1	Aug 1	Sep 1
#13 - Wisner North	Jun 1	May 1	Jul 1	Aug 1	Sep 1
#14 – Wisner South	Jul 1	Jun 1	Aug 1	Sep 1	Oct 1
#15 - Wolbach	N/A	Jun 1	Aug 1	Sep 1	Oct 1

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<sup>1</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 fifteen project budgets, along with a depreciation schedule, are provided below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Network Equipment</b>	<b>Fiber Optics</b>	<b>Customer Premise Equipment</b>	<b>Total Capital Budget</b>	<b>GPC Match (25%)</b>	<b>Annual Depreciation (5-Year Life)</b>
#1 – Arnold	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#2 - Byron	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#3 - Chester	██████	██	██████	██████	██████	██████
#4 - Cody	██████	██████	██	██████	██████	██████
#5 - Crofton	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#6 - Culbertson	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#7 - Deshler	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#8 - North Bend	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#9 - Palisade	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#10 - Red Cloud	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████
#11 - Reynolds	██████	██	██	██████	██████	██████
#12 - Snyder	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████	██████



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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, GPC will replace needed gravel to return road to the previous and safe condition. GPC directionally bores all drainage culverts in the path of the cable route. An orange 1.25-inch duct is pulled through each bore at a minimum depth of 4 feet below the bottom side of the drainage culvert. GPC 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 run 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:*

This information is included in “Tab 16: Application Template” and also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2015 NUSF-92 Application Template.xlsx*

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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.”**

This information is included in “Tab 16: Application Template” and also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2015 NUSF-92 Application Template.xlsx*

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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 15 projects GPC will provide service to each customer in the applicable census blocks as outlined in Application Checklist Item #4 above. 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 Broadband 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 10 Mbps x 1 Mbps up to 50 Mbps x 2 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 a symmetrical broadband from 75 Mbps x 75 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, along with supplying detailed information on our broadband offerings via the FCC’s Form 477. 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>2</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>2</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>3</sup>”**

*Narrative:*

N/A

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<sup>3</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>4</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 18: Project Budgets” of this document and also provided electronically in the attached file: *GPC 2015 NUSF-92 Project Budgets.xlsx*

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<sup>4</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 2015 NUSF-92 Affidavit.pdf*.