

**Rock County Telephone Company  
Nebraska Universal Service Fund  
Broadband Program  
Grant Application  
Bassett, Nebraska**

**REDACTED PUBLIC COPY**

**Submitted to the Nebraska Public Service Commission  
November 26, 2014**

Rock County Telephone Company  
Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program  
Bassett, Nebraska Application

**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:*

Rock County Telephone Company (“RCTC”) is the incumbent local exchange carrier that will be responsible for managing the implementation of the project submitted through this application and will be providing the facilities for the proposed broadband project. RCTC will be providing the voice component of the service to the consumers in the proposed project area.

HunTel.net, Inc. is the Internet service provider (“ISP”) that will be providing the broadband services over Rock County Telephone Company’s facilities.

The mailing addresses for these companies are:

Rock County Telephone Company  
PO Box 400  
1638 Lincoln Street  
Blair, NE 68008

HunTel.net, Inc.  
PO Box 400  
1638 Lincoln Street  
Blair, NE 68008

The main point of contact for this project is:

Joe Jetensky

President

Office Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [jjetensky@americanbb.com](mailto:jjetensky@americanbb.com)

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**Application Checklist Item #2:**

**“A description of the proposed broadband project plan for which Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program 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.”**

*Narrative:*

In this application, Rock County Telephone Company (“RCTC”) proposes to construct broadband infrastructure in the rural, underserved areas near Bassett, Nebraska in north central Nebraska. [REDACTED]

The proposed project area near Bassett, Nebraska is a vast, rural area with an extremely low population density, making the area an exceptionally high-cost area to serve. In the National Broadband Plan, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) found that the broadband availability gap is greatest in areas with low population density. In an effort to make broadband services more widely available in Nebraska and to close the broadband availability gap, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”) established the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program (“NUSF Broadband Program”) to provide specific and targeted broadband support to unserved and underserved areas.

[REDACTED]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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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 proposed project service area is an underserved, rural area in RCTC’s Bassett, Nebraska exchange. The proposed project service area [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the Bassett exchange [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A listing of whole and partial census blocks depicting the proposed project service area is included with this application. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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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:*

Rock County Telephone Company has provided the census block list in an electronic, Excel Format and has also included a print out of the census block list in this application.

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**Rock County Telephone Company  
Bassett Census Block List**

311499746001274  
311499746001275  
311499746001281  
311499746001282  
311499746001283  
311499746001285  
311499746001286  
311499746001287  
311499746001288  
311499746001290  
311499746001296  
311499746001298  
311499746001325  
311499746001326  
311499746001328  
311499746001330  
311499746001331  
311499746001332  
311499746001336  
311499746001337  
311499746001338  
311499746001339  
311499746001343  
311499746001344  
311499746001345  
311499746001346  
311499746001348  
311499746001357

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**Application Checklist Item #5:**

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

*Narrative:*

In order to determine an estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers, Rock County Telephone Company utilized the engineering plans for the proposed project area to determine how many households in the proposed project area would gain access to increased speed capabilities and broadband availability.

An estimate of the number of households which will have access to broadband service at the 4/1 Mbps speed level in the proposed project service area is included in the table below:

	Bassett
<b>Underserved</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	

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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.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company has estimated the major milestones and completion dates for the Bassett project. However, because the actual construction schedule is contingent upon the application approval process and timeline, RCTC submits that the estimated completion dates are fluid. RCTC intends to have the Bassett project completed in late 2015. In developing the project milestone schedule, RCTC has presumed that the approval notifications would be made in early 2015.

Additional information regarding the project milestones or estimated completion dates will be provided to the Commission upon request.

**PROJECT MILESTONES SCHEDULE**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Hardware Selection/Ordering	June 2015
Outside Plant Construction/Equipment Configuration & Installation	August 2015
System Turn-up/Testing	October 2015
Service Implementation	November 2015

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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:*

Rock County Telephone Company has included a proposed budget, showing total project costs, including a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment. RCTC has provided the budget and depreciation schedule in an electronic, Excel Spreadsheet format and has included a print out of the budget and depreciation schedule in this application.

Summary totals from the proposed project budget, along with a summary of the depreciation schedule, are provided below:

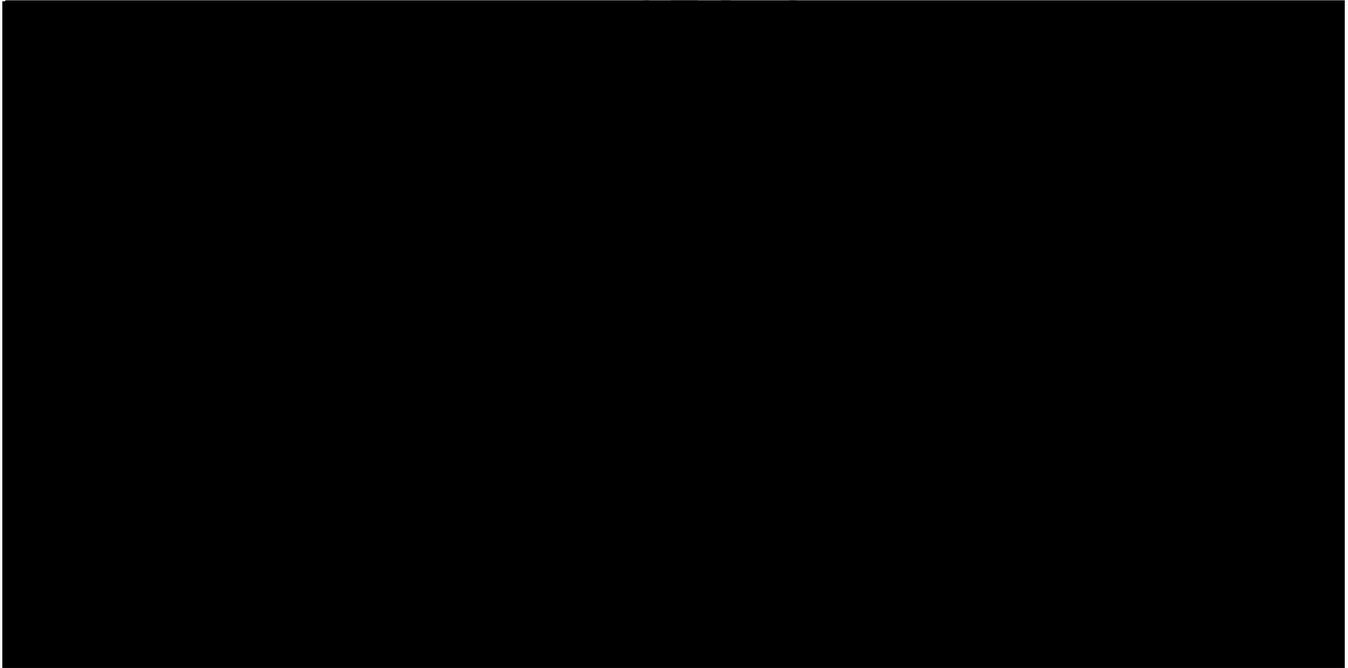
Description	Gross Investment	Depreciable Life	Depreciation Per Year
<b>Electronics</b>			
<b>Plant</b>			
<b>Total Capital Budget</b>			
<b>RCTC Matching Amount (25%)</b>			

Rock County Telephone Company commits to using the NUSF Broadband Program support only for the purposes intended and which have been approved by the Commission through the application process.

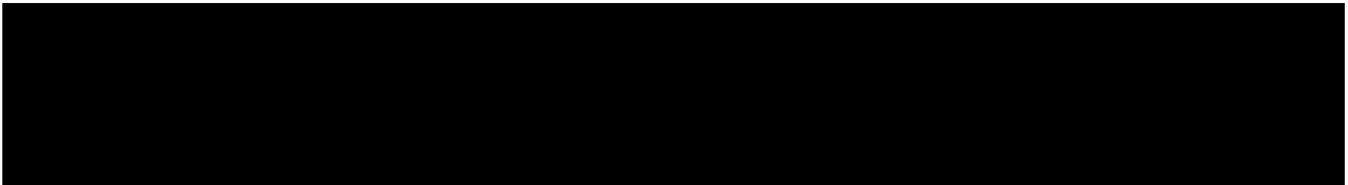
Bassett  
Node #3

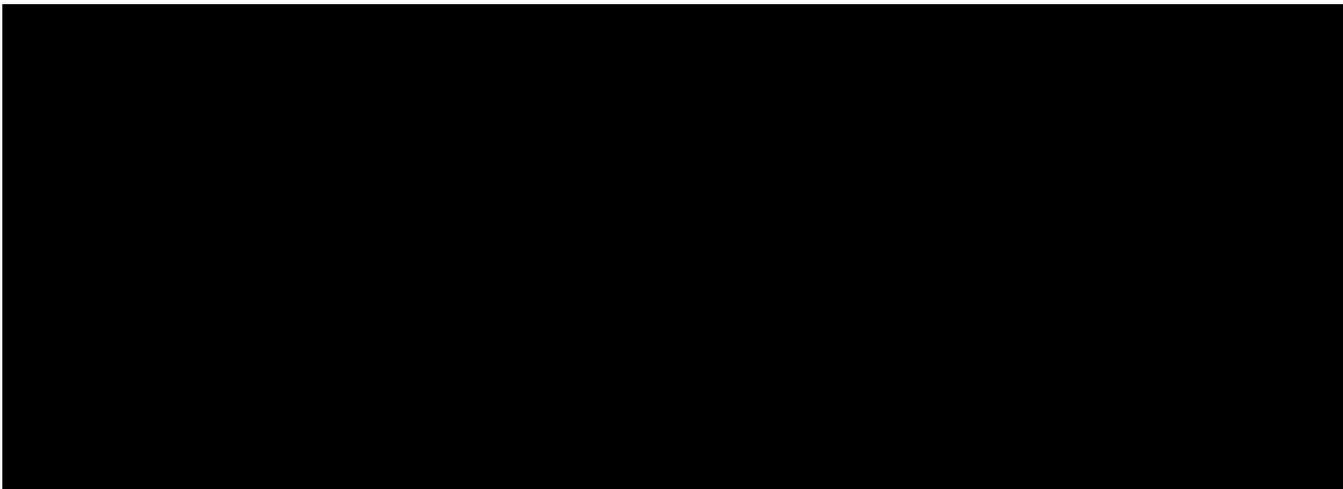


Node #4



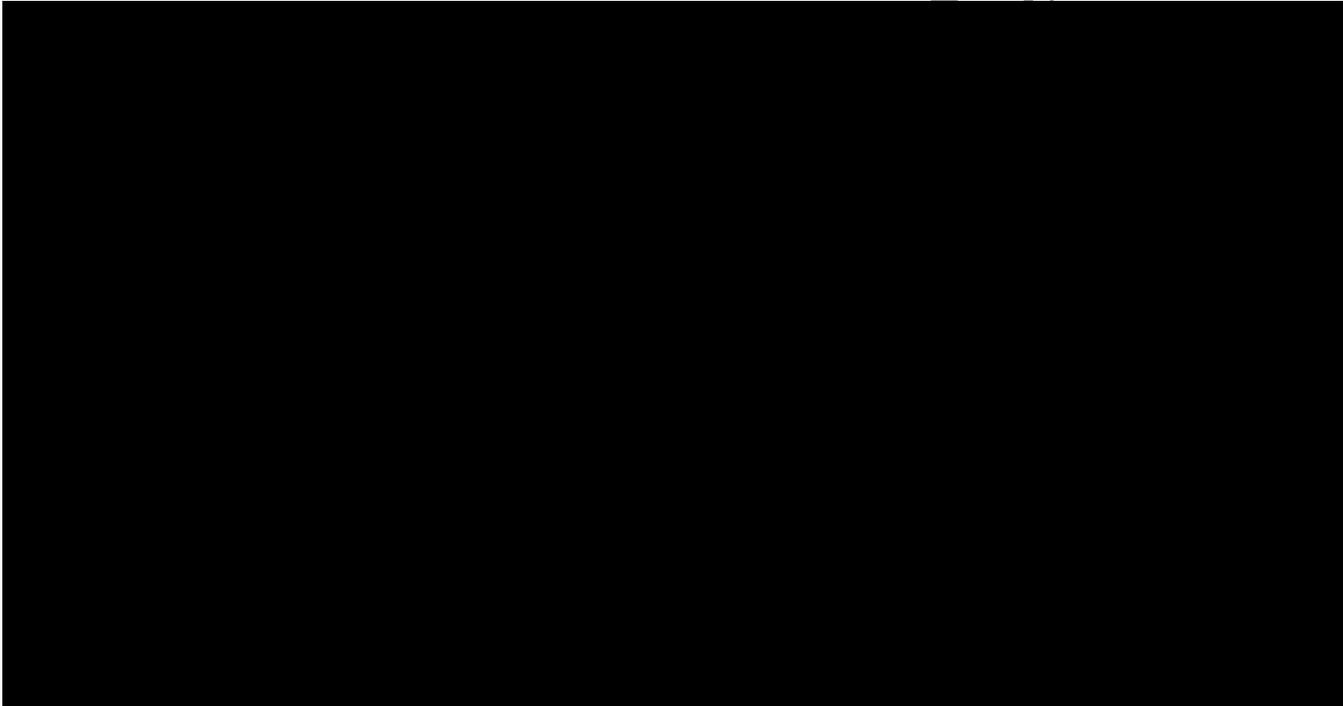
Node #5





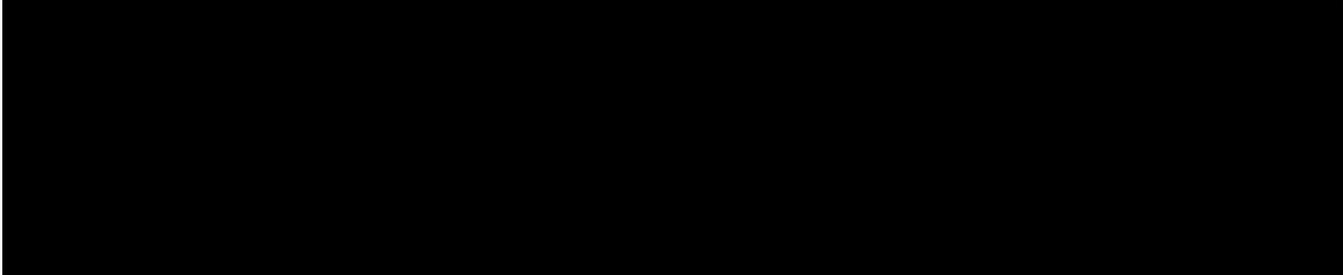
Node 6 ETV  
Hut

TA



Node #7

CC





Node #8 Rose  
Hut

ALL



Node #9





Total Electronics

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Exchange: Bassett

Nodes 3 - 6 Linky Hut to ETV Hut

Materials

<i>Materials used</i>	<u>Price per unit</u>	<u>Footage used</u>	<i>Cost</i>
<i>Total Material Cost</i>			
			<b>Labor</b>
Labor	<u>Price per unit</u>	<u>Footage used</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>Total Labor Cost</b>			

Exchange: Bassett

Nodes 7 - 9 ETV Hut to Rose Hut

Materials

<i>Materials used</i>	<u>Price per unit</u>	<u>Footage used</u>	<i>Cost</i>
<i>Total Material Cost</i>			
			<b>Labor</b>
Labor	<u>Price per unit</u>	<u>Footage used</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<b>Total Labor Cost</b>			

Summary	COST
Materials	
Labor	
Total	
<b>Grand Total</b>	

**Rock County Telephone Company  
Depreciation Schedule - Bassett, NE**

Category	Electronics	Plant-Fiber
Yr Life		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

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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 charging a rate to the end user for broadband CPE.”**

**Narrative:**

Rock County Telephone Company is committed to offering broadband service at reasonably comparable rates for comparable services in urban areas.

In the table below, RCTC details the recurring pricing of the broadband services offered through this project, as well as any nonrecurring costs associated with the broadband service to be offered through the proposed project.

<b>Recurring Monthly Prices</b>		
<b>Bundle Package</b>	<b>Residential Price</b>	<b>Business Price</b>
<b>Nonrecurring Prices</b>		
Broadband Activation Charge		
Customer Modem (CPE)		
*Nonrecurring charges are often waived or discounted during marketing of broadband services		

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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.”**

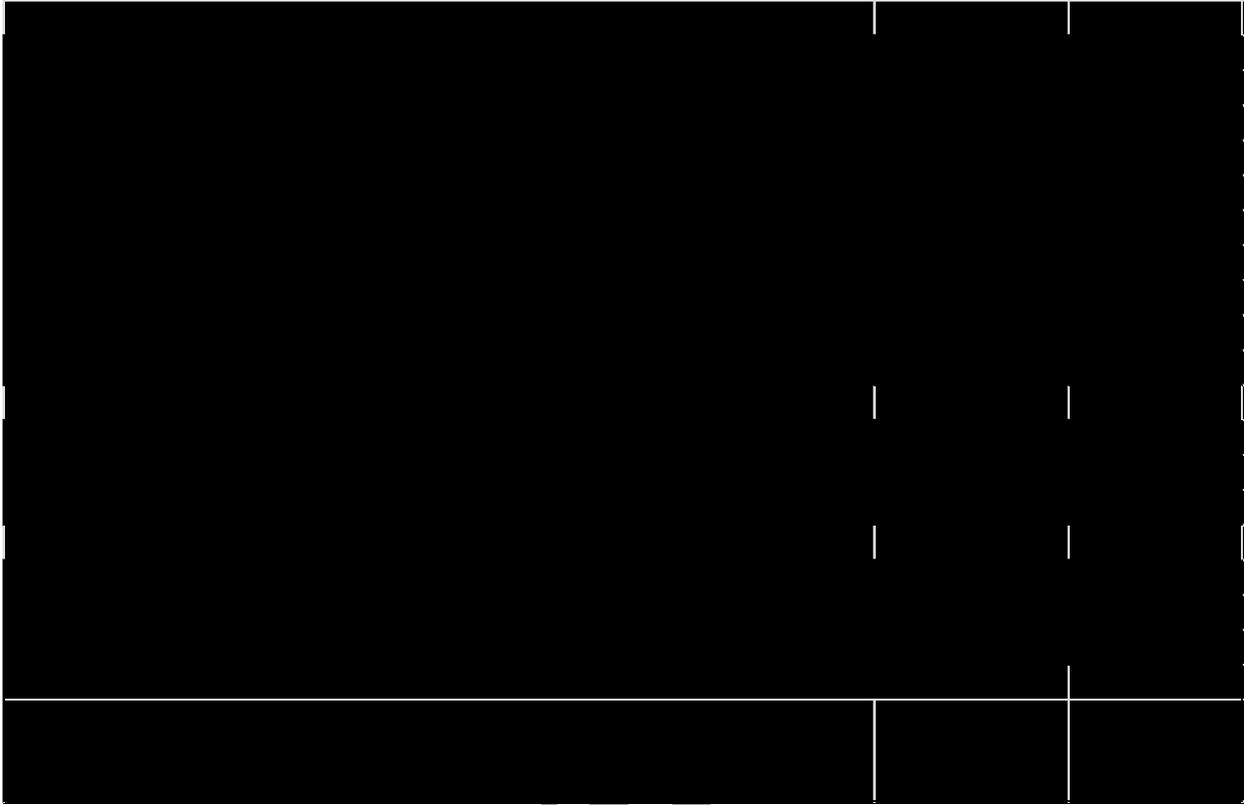
Narrative:

Rock County Telephone Company is committed to offering voice services at reasonably comparable rates for comparable services in urban areas.

In the table below, RCTC details the recurring and any non-recurring pricing of the voice services offered through this project. RCTC does assess a subscriber line charge and the amount of the SLC is included in the table.

<b>Recurring Monthly Prices</b>		
<b>Voice Service</b>	<b>Residential Price</b>	<b>Business Price</b>
Access Line		
Subscriber line charge		
Subscriber line charge single line business		
Subscriber line charge multi line business		
<b>Nonrecurring Prices</b>		
Service order/installation		
*Nonrecurring charges are often waived or discounted during marketing of voice services		

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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:*

Rock County Telephone Company is committed to providing the supported broadband service upon completion of the deployment to all households within the proposed project service area for a period of no less than five years.

The proposed project area is within Rock County Telephone Company’s incumbent local exchange service area, and as the Carrier of Last Resort, RCTC is committed to offering a voice grade service to all customers within the proposed project service area, including access to emergency services.

[REDACTED]

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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:*

Rock County Telephone Company has been and will continue to be committed to providing its broadband data to the Nebraska Public Service Commission and to its vendors for the duration of the State Broadband Data and Development Program.

As a successful applicant to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program, RCTC will continue to provide all required mapping data to the Commission and its vendors for its existing and new service areas so Rock County Telephone Company’s broadband service coverage areas will be depicted on the Nebraska Broadband Map and on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s National Broadband Map.

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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.”**

*Narrative:*

The Commission has indicated that for companies filing Annual Report Form M, the information contained in Form M would be sufficient to meet the application requirement.

Rock County Telephone Company’s Annual Report Form M illustrates the company’s financial position and is on file with the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

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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.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company is an established rural, incumbent local exchange carrier operating in Nebraska and holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunications services in the State of Nebraska.

RCTC commits to abide by all applicable Commission rules, regulations and orders.

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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.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company’s proposed budget for the entire project costs has been included with the application.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RCTC commits to provide project invoices as required based upon the completion milestones identified in NUSF 77 P.O. No. 5. RCTC further commits to fulfilling all reporting and audit requirements adopted by the Commission for oversight of the NUSF Broadband Program.

A summary of the total project cost and match amount is included below:

Total Capital Budget	Rock County Telephone Company 25% Match	NPSC 75% Grant Request
[REDACTED]		

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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:*

Included with this application is an Affidavit of Joe Jetensky, President of Rock County Telephone Company attesting to the truth and accuracy of all information included in this application.

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knowledge and belief of all of the information included in Rock County Telephone Company's application.

4. This completes my affidavit.

**VERIFICATION**

I, Joe Jetensky, declare under penalty of perjury that the statements in this Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Jetensky  
President  
Rock County Telephone Company

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this  
17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Merri B. Dibben (Printed Name)

Notary Public, Washington County, Nebraska

Acting in the County of Washington

My Commission Expires: April 6, 2016

