

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of the Nebraska )  
Telecommunications Association for )  
Investigation and Review of Processes and )  
Procedures Regarding the Nebraska )  
Universal Service Fund: Application to the )  
Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program (NEBP) )  
Received from Consolidated Telco, Inc. )



DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BRIAN THOMPSON IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION

**Q. Please state your name.**

A. My name is Brian Thompson.

**Q. Please state your position with and the name of your current employer and provide a summary of your duties.**

A. I am the Vice President of External Relations For Consolidated Telco, Inc. ("Consolidated Telco"). My duties include maintaining Consolidated Telco's relationship with regulatory agencies, including providing information regarding the operation and deployment of Consolidated Telco's communication network. Further, I participate in the development and implementation of long range and short range plans to provide internet access services to customers located in our service area in Western Nebraska.

**Q. Please describe the Applicant and its business.**

Consolidated Telco is a common carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"). Consolidated Telco holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by this Commission and operates general

telecommunications businesses in Nebraska. As of December 31, 2011, Consolidated Telco served approximately 1,200 access lines.

**Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

A. My testimony is provided to support the application filed by Consolidated Telco for funding from the Nebraska Broadband Fund (“Application”).

**Q. Can you please generally describe the Application?**

A. Consolidated Telco applied for the following projects:

1. Wallace
2. Wellfleet
3. Maywood

Of these projects, I would like to provide specific information regarding the Maywood project. Consolidated Telco believes that the project will bring broadband service to underserved areas of the state.

The Application filed by Consolidated Telco proposed a cost-efficient project that will significantly improve access to high-speed broadband services. The targeted locations will gain access to Consolidated Telco broadband services of at least 5 megabits-per-second (“Mbps”) “downstream” and 1 Mbps “upstream”.

Consolidated Telco will use a fiber-to-the-node (“FTTN”) configuration that provides a cost-effective approach for significantly enhancing broadband quality and speed. The FTTN projects involve extending fiber from central offices and existing fiber nodes, replacing existing copper facilities.

**Q. What is the estimate of the potential new broadband subscribers that would be created by the Application?**

A. The rural area addressed by the Application covers 194 square miles in rural Nebraska and would provide service to 76 locations.

**Q. Are there additional details and supporting information in the Application?**

A. Yes. These details are contained in the Application filed with the Commission. Additionally, Staff requested and was provided additional information.

**Q. Do you support the Staff recommendation regarding the Application?**

A. Yes. I appreciate the Staff's recommendation to approve the Application and believe that the Commission should adopt the Staff's recommendation regarding the Application.

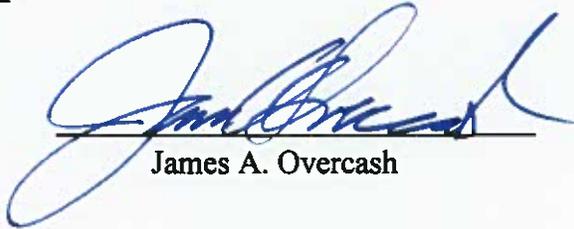
**Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

A. Yes.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013, the original, five copies, and an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading was delivered to:

**Nebraska Public Service Commission**  
Shana Knutson  
1200 N Street, Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
[Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov](mailto:Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov)



James A. Overcash