

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Arapahoe Telephone Company.

Application No. NUSF-92.01

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Cable TV Company of Stanton.

Application No. NUSF-92.02

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Cambridge Telephone Company.

Application No. NUSF-92.03

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from CenturyLink.

Application No. NUSF-92.04

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Consolidated Telephone Company.

Application No. NUSF-92.05

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company.

Application No. NUSF-92.06

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Glenwood Telephone Company.

Application No. NUSF-92.07

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Great Plains Communications.

Application No. NUSF-92.08

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, d/b/a Vistabeam.

Application No. NUSF-92.09

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Nebraska Central Telephone Company.

Application No. NUSF-92.10

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from N.E. Colorado Cellular, Inc., d/b/a Viaero Wireless.

Application No. NUSF-92.11

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Pinpoint Wireless d/b/a Blaze Wireless.

Application No. NUSF-92.12

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Raicom, Inc.

Application No. NUSF-92.13

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Rock County Telephone Company.

Application No. NUSF-92.14

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from United States Cellular Corporation.

Application No. NUSF-92.15

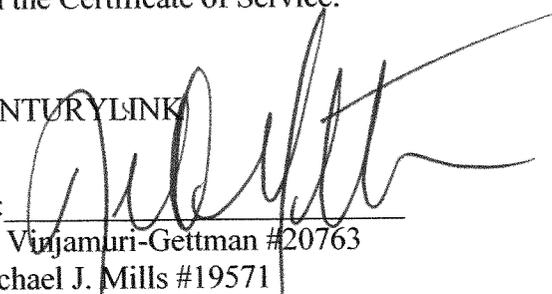
In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund's Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program Received from Windstream Communications of Nebraska.

Application No. NUSF-92.16

COMES NOW CenturyLink and hereby gives notice of service of the filing of the Direct Testimony of Ann Prockish in the above matters. A copy of same is attached hereto and has been served on all interested parties as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Dated this 9th day of May, 2014.

CENTURYLINK

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1 **BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

2 **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ANN PROCKISH**

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5 **Q. Please state your name, title, and business address.**

6 A. My name is Ann Prockish. I am employed by CenturyLink as Director – State
7 Regulatory Operations. My business address is 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe,
8 Louisiana 71203.

9 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

10 A. I am testifying on behalf of United Telephone Company of the West, Inc. d/b/a
11 Centurylink and Qwest Corporation, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink QC (collectively
12 “CenturyLink”).

13 **Q. Please describe your educational background and business experience.**

14 A. I graduated in 1987 from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln with Bachelor of
15 Science degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. I
16 received a Master of Business Administration degree from Kansas State
17 University in 1995.

18

19 I have over 25 years of business experience in a variety of positions, with 17 years
20 in telecommunications. My career in the telecommunications industry began in
21 February 1997 as a Revenues Analyst with Sprint Corporation. I have held a
22 variety of positions of increasing responsibility since that time, including Analyst
23 – State Analysis and Reporting, Senior Administrator – State Analysis and

1 Reporting, Manager – State Analysis and Reporting, and Manager – State
2 Regulatory. In these positions I was responsible for a variety of state regulatory
3 and financial matters, including Universal Service Funding (“USF”) and Eligible
4 Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”). I was promoted to Director, State
5 Regulatory Operations in 2009 at the time of the Embarq/CenturyTel merger. In
6 my current position I am responsible for the development and implementation of
7 regulatory and legislative policy and strategy for eight states, including Nebraska.

8 **Q. Have you testified before this Commission or any other regulatory agency?**

9 A. Yes, I have testified before this Commission and the South Carolina Public
10 Service Commission on a number of USF matters.

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

12 A. The purpose of my testimony is to discuss CenturyLink’s applications for NUSF-
13 92 support and recommend the Commission approve these applications.

14 **Q. How many applications for NUSF-92 support did CenturyLink submit this
15 year?**

16 A. CenturyLink submitted 12 applications for broadband deployment projects across
17 the state. The applications varied in size, both in dollar amounts and number of
18 customers impacted. All of the applications, however, will deploy broadband
19 service to customers at minimum speeds of 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.
20 In the proposed project areas, many customers cannot obtain broadband service
21 from any provider at these speeds currently. CenturyLink has subsequently
22 withdrawn one of the applications.

1 **Q. Would CenturyLink be deploying broadband service to these areas without**
2 **NUSF-92 support?**

3 A. No. These projects would have been too costly on a per subscriber basis, and
4 therefore uneconomic to CenturyLink, without the assistance provided through
5 the NUSF-92 program. If the Commission chooses not to approve one or all of
6 CenturyLink's applications, or approves funding at a lower level, CenturyLink
7 will not be able to deploy broadband service to the areas shown in these
8 applications.

9 **Q. Were there other projects that CenturyLink also considered, but did not**
10 **submit applications for?**

11 A. Yes, CenturyLink considered a number of potential projects for NUSF-92 support
12 this year. However, many of those projects continued to be uneconomic for
13 CenturyLink even with NUSF-92 support. The projects for which CenturyLink
14 submitted an NUSF-92 application are projects that are economic for CenturyLink
15 to undertake when the 75% match from the NEBP program is taken into account.

16 **Q. Please describe CenturyLink's applications.**

17 A. CenturyLink submitted applications for NUSF-92 funding for projects in Central
18 City, Chadron, Grand Island, Fremont, North Platte, Norfolk, Springfield, and
19 Wakefield. The Chadron application has since been withdrawn. For some of
20 these cities, applications for more than one project were submitted. In each of the
21 applications, CenturyLink provided the number of households that would benefit
22 from the project, including the number of households that are currently unserved

1 or underserved. For each of the applications, CenturyLink will deploy broadband
2 at minimum speeds of 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.

3 **Q. Are any of the projects for which CenturyLink requested NUSF-92 funding**
4 **eligible for CAF support?**

5 A. CenturyLink did not request CAF Phase I support for any of the 12 projects for
6 which it requested NUSF-92 support. These projects would not have been
7 economic for CenturyLink under the rules of the CAF Phase I program.
8 CenturyLink does not know if ultimately any of the projects would have qualified
9 for CAF Phase II support. At its April 23rd public meeting, the FCC discussed its
10 intent to change a number of key components of the CAF Phase II program and
11 will soon be releasing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to seek comments on
12 these changes.

13 **Q. What is your recommendation?**

14 A. CenturyLink supports the Commission's efforts to deploy broadband to unserved
15 and underserved areas of the state through the Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program.
16 While all of the applications the Commission received for support from this
17 program appear worthy, the Commission has developed an objective methodology
18 for reviewing and scoring the applications to determine which applications should
19 be funded at this time. Absent significant evidence to the contrary, Staff's
20 recommendations should be adopted, except for CenturyLink's Chadron
21 application, which has been withdrawn.

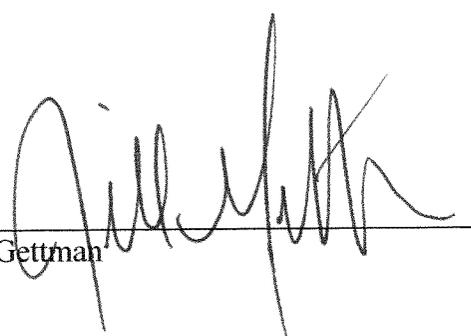
22 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

23 A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 9th day of May 2014, a true and correct copy of the Direct Testimony of Ann Prockish on behalf of CenturyLink was provided to the following interested persons by electronic mail as follows:

By electronic mail and federal express delivery to: Steve Meradith, c/o Sue Vanicek Shana Knutson Brandy Zierott Nebraska Public Service Commission 1200 N Street, Suite 300 Lincoln, NE 68508 Sue.vanicek@nebraska.gov Shana.knutson@nebraska.gov Brandy.zierott@nebraska.gov	Paul M. Schudel James Overcash Woods & Aitken LLP 301 South 13 th Street, Suite 500 Lincoln, NE 68508 pschudel@woodsaitken.com jovercash@woodsaitken.com
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