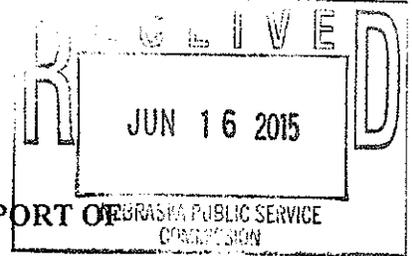


**BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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 Great Plains )  
Communications. )

Application No. NUSF-92.26



**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MIKE HUGGENBERGER IN SUPPORT OF NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE  
APPLICATION COMMISSION**

**Q. Please state your name.**

A. My name is Mike Huggenberger.

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

A. I am the Senior Director – Technology and Engineering Services for Great Plains Communications, Inc. (“Great Plains”). My duties include managing the following engineering support staffs: Information Technologies (“IT”), IP Engineering, CATV Engineering, Central Office Engineering, and the Network Operations Center.

**Q. Prior to assuming your current positions what was your employment background?**

A. I have been an IT and networking professional for 43 years. I have held various technical and managerial positions with three Fortune 500 companies in the Omaha area: Mutual of Omaha, CenturyLink (US WEST), and ConAgra. I have been employed at Great Plains since June, 2000. I have a master's degree in Computer Systems Management from Creighton University and a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Telecommunications from the University of Colorado. I am a certified business continuity planner and I have been an adjunct professor at the College of St. Mary in Omaha for the past 16 years.

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

A. Great Plains is a Nebraska corporation and a common carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"). Great Plains holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by this Commission and operates general telecommunications businesses in Nebraska. The Commission's September 30, 2014, Annual Report to the Legislature regarding telecommunications shows that as of December 31, 2013, Great Plains served approximately 21,500 voice lines. We currently provide broadband internet services to a majority of Great Plains' customers.

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

A. My testimony is provided to support the application filed by Great Plains for funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program ("Application").

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

A. Great Plains applied for funding of projects for 2015 in the following locations:

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.

Of these projects, I would like to provide specific information regarding the following projects, which were recommended for approval by the Commission Staff: Byron, Cody,

Crofton, Palisade, Red Cloud, Snyder, Wisner North and Wisner South (the "Projects"). Great Plains will construct facilities and install associated electronic equipment to expand Great Plains' digital subscriber loop ("DSL") service to rural areas within its Byron, Cody, Crofton, Palisade, Red Cloud and Snyder exchanges. Also, Great Plains will construct facilities and install associated electronic equipment to expand Great Plains' DSL service to rural areas north and south of Wisner as well as within the Wisner exchange.

The Projects represent an efficient use of existing facilities and provide a scalable broadband solution that can be expanded to additional customers in the future. Each of the Projects has been recommended for funding by the Commission Staff.

**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 to supplement the data provided in the Application.

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

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

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

A. Yes.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 16th day of June, 2015, the original, five copies, and an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading were delivered to:

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Shana Knutson  
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[Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov](mailto:Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov)

  
Paul M. Schudel