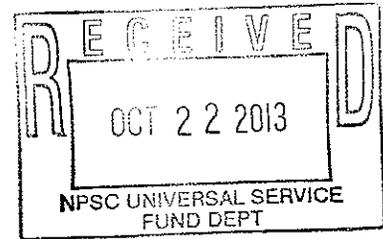


In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to implement policies and procedures related to providing dedicated universal service support for wireless telecommunications services: Petition received July 1, 2013 from United States Cellular Corporation.

) Application No. NUSF-69.15
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PREFILED TESTIMONY OF SUE VANICEK

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2 **Q: Please state your name for the record.**
3 A: Sue Vanicek, V-A-N-I-C-E-K
4 **Q: Where are you employed and in what capacity?**
5 A: I am the Director of the Nebraska Telecommunications
6 Infrastructure and Public Safety Department of the Nebraska
7 Public Service Commission which administers the Nebraska
8 Universal Service Fund. I have been employed by the
9 Commission as Director since August 14, 2008.
10 **Q: What Was Your Experience Prior To Your Current Position?**
11 A: For 14 years I was employed by Lincoln Telephone/Aliant
12 Communications. I held a variety of positions specializing
13 in regulatory and legislative analysis and strategic
14 planning. There I also served as Economic Costs and
15 Analysis Manager. In that position I was responsible for
16 managing the development of cost information, both forward-
17 looking and historical. After leaving Aliant, I was

1 employed as a Senior Consultant at TELEC Consulting
2 Resources now known as Consortia Consulting.

3 **Q: What Is Your Educational Background?**

4 A: I have Master of Arts degree in Economics and a Bachelor of
5 Science degree in Business Administration, both from the
6 University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

7 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

8 A: To make recommendations and to discuss the Department's
9 opinion regarding the application of United States Cellular
10 Corporation (US Cellular).

11 **Q: Will you please describe the Department's views regarding
12 US Cellular's application for NUSF support?**

13 A: Yes. My testimony will generally support the grant of
14 support to US Cellular. The Commission has conditioned the
15 grant of dedicated wireless fund program support on
16 compliance with several requirements in prior years. I
17 will briefly discuss these requirements.

18 **Q: Please describe the conditions the Commission has adopted
19 in order for an applicant to receive Dedicated Wireless
20 Fund Program support.**

21 A: The Commission has adopted five conditions for carriers
22 seeking Dedicated Wireless Fund Program support. First,
23 the Commission will approve new towers only in high-cost
24 unserved and underserved areas. Mr. Tyler Frost, the

1 Commission's economist, will present testimony more fully
2 explaining the staff's methodology for determining towers
3 which meet these criteria and for ranking the proposed
4 tower locations in order to receive benefits for the
5 greatest number of households.

6 Second, the Commission requires a carrier receiving support
7 to construct the towers in such a way that the towers would
8 be able to accommodate the collocation of additional
9 equipment, such as CDMA and GSM, and have space reserved on
10 those towers for public safety equipment. Third, the
11 Commission requires a carrier receiving support to enter
12 into roaming agreements with other carriers where
13 technically feasible. Fourth, the Commission requires a
14 carrier receiving support to place equipment on its towers
15 to ensure that it is Phase II E911 capable in the event
16 that it is requested to provide Phase II E911 by the
17 particular PSAP in the area. Finally, the Commission will
18 require a commitment from dedicated wireless fund program
19 recipients which provide mobile broadband service in
20 Nebraska to submit broadband availability data to the
21 Commission and its vendors for the duration of the State
22 Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program so that this
23 broadband coverage area can be depicted on the Commission's
24 state broadband data inventory map and on the National

1 Telecommunications and Information Administration's
2 (NTIA's) national broadband map. This requirement applies
3 to all towers a carrier operates which provide broadband
4 service, not only the towers for which a carrier may
5 receive dedicated wireless fund program support. The data
6 should be updated on the schedule for updating data under
7 the SBDD program, which calls for semiannual updates.

8 **Q. Do you have any recommendations as to costs the Commission**
9 **should consider to be eligible for funding?**

10 A. Yes. The Commission has paid for equipment to be located
11 on towers and for the costs associated with constructing a
12 tower. We believe that these are the minimum necessary
13 costs to fund so that a wireless carrier may construct a
14 tower in an unserved or underserved area. US Cellular has
15 included an allocation of operating costs for the first
16 year of service in its application. Operating costs have
17 not been funded for any other applicants under this
18 program. Therefore, the staff recommends that operating
19 costs should not be funded.

20 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

21 A: Yes it does.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that an original of the foregoing Direct Testimony of Sue Vanicek was filed with the Commission on this 22nd day of October 2013, and that a copy of the Direct Testimony was sent via e-mail to the following:

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Shana Knutson