

COMMUNICATIONS & NEBRASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND AGENDA

October 8, 2024

10:00 AM

- C-5484 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to administer the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program in the 2023 program year.
- C-5580 In the Matter of the Application of Richard Bruening, St. Helena, seeking authority to receive telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc.
- C-5587 In the Matter of the Application of Randy Bruening, St. Helena, seeking authority to receive telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc.
- C-5588 In the Matter of the Application of Jon and Janet Wiechelman, Crofton, seeking authority to receive advanced telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc.
- C-5593 In the Matter of the Application of Roger Albin, Crofton, seeking authority to receive advanced telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc.
- C-5594 In the Matter of the Application of Claudette Wiepen, St. Helena, seeking authority to receive advanced telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc.
- C-5604 In the Matter of the Application of Charles and Tara Mundt, Alan and Tamara Merchant, Brenda Raile, Brian and Karen Helmberger, Bryce Feldman, Della Sawyer, Donna Sautter, Jacob Simmons, Jim Reynolds, Joshua Lueders, Julie Wetherington, Karl Keller, Mark Klute, Rick Stueven, Roger Lange, and Tim Spires, Marquette, each seeking authority to receive advanced telecommunications capability service from the Hordville Exchange of the Hamilton Telephone Company.

BROADBAND

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INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

NUSF-131, In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to establish reverse auction procedures and requirements.

NUSF-133, PO #1 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to implement standards for the verification of broadband service provider coverage and speed data.

NUSF-139 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to consider appropriate modifications to the high-cost distribution and reporting mechanisms in its Universal Service Fund program in light of federal and state infrastructure grants.

NUSF/TRS LATE-FILED CARRIERS

REPORTS

NUSF Fund Status Report

DISCUSSION

Report on telecommunications Complaints and Outages received by the Communications Department during the preceding month.

Communications Pending Applications

Filed	Appl #	Summary	Att	Protest	Hearing	Officer
2/7/2017	C-4892	Show Cause for Centurylink	Shana Knutson	3/13/2017	3/28/2017	Tim Schram
2/22/2017	C-4893/PI-207	Redundancy and testing investigation	Shana Knutson	3/27/2017		
2/5/2019	C-5037/PI-223	NPSC/CenturyLink/Service Quality	Shana Knutson	3/9/2019	8/19/2020	Mary Ridder
8/6/2019	C-5069/PI-226	LB 641	Jonathan Smith	9/9/2019		
6/8/2021	C-5272	Broadband Bridge Act Program	Sallie Dietrich		6/7/2023	Dan Watermeier
8/10/2021	C-5303/PI-240	Service Quality	Sallie Dietrich			Tim Schram
1/4/2022	C-5368	Broadband Bridge Act Program 2022	Sallie Dietrich		3/22/2022	Tim Schram
12/6/2022	C-5461/PI-244	Dark fiber	Sallie Dietrich		9/19/2023	Eric Kamler
3/7/2023	C-5484	Broadband Bridge Act Program 2023	Sallie Dietrich		9/17/2024	Dan Watermeier
3/21/2023	C-5493/PI-245	FCC Prohibited Communications Equipment Attestations	Jonathan Smith		5/10/2023	Christian Mirch
7/5/2023	C-5520/PI-246	FCC Prohibited Communications Equipment Attestations to all Communications Providers	Jonathan Smith			
8/29/2023	C-5529	Precision Agriculture Grant Act	Sallie Dietrich		10/26/2023	Eric Kamler
2/6/2024	C-5561	Broadband Bridge Act Program 2024	Sallie Dietrich		3/26/2024	Dan Watermeier
4/3/2024	C-5564/PI-250	Service outage reporting requirements	Sallie Dietrich		9/30/2024	Christian Mirch
3/21/2024	C-5569	CLEC Authority/Stratus Networks, Inc.	Jonathan Smith	4/29/2024		Christian Mirch
4/11/2024	C-5576	CLEC Authority/Viaero Fiber Networks, LLC	Jonathan Smith	5/16/2024	9/25/2024	Kevin Stocker
4/22/2024	C-5580	Boundary change/Richard Bruening/Hartington/Great Plains	Shana Knutson	5/30/2024		Eric Kamler
5/20/2024	C-5587	Boundary change/Randy Bruening/Hartington/Great Plains	Shana Knutson	6/22/2024		Eric Kamler
5/20/2024	C-5588	Boundary change/Wiechelmann/Hartington/Great Plains	Shana Knutson	6/24/2024		Eric Kamler
5/28/2024	C-5593	Boundary change/Roger Albin/Hartington/Great Plains	Shana Knutson	7/12/2024		Eric Kamler
5/30/2024	C-5594	Boundary change/Claudette Wiepen/Hartington/Great Plains	Shana Knutson	7/12/2024		Eric Kamler
7/10/2024	C-5599	Add trade name Segra to Unite Private Networks, LLC	Jonathan Smith	9/9/2024		
8/6/2024	C-5600	Precision Agriculture Grant Act 2024-2025	Sallie Dietrich		10/1/2024	Eric Kamler
7/19/2024	C-5601	Boundary change/Michael and Bethany Hansmire/Windstream/Great Plains	Shana Knutson	8/23/2024		
7/25/2024	C-5602	Boundary change/Cindy Melcher/Windstream/Great Plains	Jonathan Smith	8/29/2024		
8/6/2024	C-5603	Boundary change/David and Sharon Kathman/Glenwood Telephone/Windstream	Sallie Dietrich	9/12/2024		
7/22/2024	C-5604	Boundary change/Brian and Karen Helmberger, Bryce Feldman, Della Sawyer, Donna Sautter, Jacob Simmons, Jim Reynolds, Joshua Lueders, Julie Wetherington, Karl Keller, Mark Klute, Rick Stueven, Roger Lange, and Tim Spires/Hamilton Telephone/CenturyLink	Sallie Dietrich	9/23/2024		
8/27/2024	C-5605	Boundary change/Keenan Wieseler/Hartington/Great Plains	Shana Knutson	9/30/2024		
9/10/2024	C-5606	Waiver of Directories/Arlington/Blair/Eastern/Rocky County Telephone Companies	Jonathan Smith	10/15/2024		
9/11/2024	C-5607	IXC Authority/Applied Connective Technologies, LLC	Sallie Dietrich	10/21/2024		
9/16/2024	C-5608	Boundary change/Schieffer/Stevens/Schumacher/Hartington/Great Plains	Shana Knutson	10/28/2024		
Filed	Appl #	Summary	Att	Protest	Hearing	Officer
2/6/2018	ADC-14	Complaint aganst Central Marketing Services	Sallie Dietrich			
Filed	Appl #	Summary	Att	Protest	Hearing	Officer
12/13/2022	CPF-1	Capital Projects Funds	Shana Knutson			Tim Schram
8/15/2023	CPF-2	Capital Project Funds	Shana Knutson			Tim Schram

Universal Service Pending Applications

<u>Docket</u>	<u>Date Opened/ Received</u>	<u>Protest Date</u>	<u>Hrg. Officer</u>	<u>Atty</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>
NUSF-2, PO #12	7/27/2021			SD	To establish guidelines for the administration of NE Telephone Assistance Program	Pending	Comments due September 21, 2021; Reply Comments due October 5, 2021
NUSF-4, PO #30				SK	Determine level of Fund necessary to carry out NE Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act beginning 7-1-2024	Pending	Public Hearing scheduled Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 1:30 p.m./ CHR
NUSF-32.19	7/12/2022		Schram	TM	Seeking to conduct an inquiry into failure by inContact, Inc., to comply with Commission Rules or Orders and impose administrative fine	Pending	Sustaining Show Cause & Assess Civil Penalties
NUSF-33/PI-68				SK	Seeking to Investigate audit requirements related to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund	Pending	Due date extended to 2-28-2025 for those audits otherwise due on 12-31-2024
NUSF-37.447	6/25/2024			JS	Cullen Robbins, Director, Complainant, v Working Assets Funding Service, Inc., Respondent, for late-filing of the NUSF worksheets/payments	Pending	
NUSF-37.448	8/6/2024			JS	Cullen Robbins, Director, Complainant, v CallTower, Inc., Respondent, for late-filing of the NUSF worksheets/payments	Pending	
NUSF-57, PO #9	6/27/2006		Mirch	SK	Seeking to administer the Nebraska Telehealth Program	Pending	Filing deadline extended to July 29, 2024
NUSF-91	8/13/2013			SD	To increase broadband adoption among low-income consumers through the development of a Nebraska broadband telephone assistance program	Pending	Held in abeyance
NUSF-92, PO #15	4/19/2023			SK	To administer the NUSF Broadband Program	Pending	Grant application window opens May 1, 2024, closes June 17, 2024.
NUSF-99, PO #2	10/15/2014		Schram	SK	To administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program	Pending	Price Cap Carriers' Project Selections due 4-1-2024
NUSF-108, PO #7	10/19/2021			SK	Seeking to make adjustments to the high-cost distribution mechanism and revise reporting requirements	Pending	On-going
NUSF-131, PO #3	8/29/2021		Schram	SD	To establish reverse auction procedures and requirements	Pending	Post-Auction Commitment Forms due 10-25-2024 @ 5:00 p.m.
NUSF-133	3/15/2022		Watermeier	SD	To implement standards of verification of broadband service coverage/speed data	Pending	Comments due July 23, 2024; a hearing has been scheduled for August 6, 2024 at 1:30p.m. / CHR
NUSF-139	8/29/2023		Schram	SK	Consider modification to high-cost distribution of NUSF in light of federal/state infrastructure grants	Pending	Workshop originally scheduled for May 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. has been moved to May 30, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room

9/24/2024

Monthly NUSF Snapshot

As of:

8/31/2024

NUSF Payments

Amounts in thousand of \$

	Current Month	Year to Date
High Cost	\$1,794	\$14,355
Lifeline	\$3	\$27
Telehealth	\$3	\$67
E-Rate	\$0	\$5
E-Rate	\$0	\$5
Grant	\$1,599	\$28,666
NUSF-92	\$1,599	\$4,185
NUSF-92 PO10	\$0	\$0
NUSF-99	\$0	\$11,632
NUSF-108	\$0	\$2,363
E-Rate	\$0	\$5
NUSF-131	\$0	\$10,481
Grand Total	\$3,399	\$43,120

NUSF Remittances

Amounts in thousand of \$

	Current Month	Year to Date
Reported Remittances	\$3,939	\$31,655
Prepaid Remittances	\$284	\$2,192
Grand Total	\$4,223	\$33,847

Committed and Outstanding Grants

Amounts in thousand of \$

		Committed Balance
92	92-2016: Broadband Adoption	\$48
	92-2016: NEBP	\$129
	92-2019: Wireless	\$446
	92-2020: Wireless	\$2,853
	92-2021: Wireless	\$1,967
	92-2022: Wireless	\$4,667
	92-2023: Wireless	\$2,014
99	99-2018: NEBP	\$9,632
	99-2020: NEBP	\$3,993
	99-2021: NEBP	\$5,555
	99-2022: NEBP	\$18,703
	99-2023: NEBP	\$13,687
99 Committed	99 Committed-2023: NEBP	\$2,292
	99 Committed-2024: NEBP	-\$6,300
108	108-2021: NEBP	\$1,281
	108-2022: NEBP	\$2,735
	108-2023: NEBP	\$5,241
	108-2024: NEBP	\$2,646
108 Committed	108 Committed-2022: NEBP	\$340
	108 Committed-2023: NEBP	\$3,042
	108 Committed-2024: NEBP	\$557
131 Committed	131 Committed-2023: NEBP-RO	\$880
	131 Committed-2024: NEBP-RO	\$18,405
131	131-2022: NEBP-RO	\$23
	131-2024: NEBP-RO	\$10,481
Grand Total		\$105,318

NUSF Balance

Amounts in thousand of \$

as of

8/31/2024	EOP Adjusted Balance	\$	121,744
	Committed Balance	\$	105,318
	Uncommitted Balance	\$	16,426

Summary of Telecommunications Complaints

September, 2024

Total complaints this month - 28

Fiscal year to date - 157

Service Category	Total	Complaint Issue	Company
Wireline	Total: 15	Service Quality - 7 Billing - 4 Miscellaneous - 3 Customer Service - 1	Qwest - 6 Windstream - 3 Time Warner Cable - 2 Citizens - 2 Matrix - 1 Blair - 1
Cellular	Total: 4	Miscellaneous - 2 Service Quality - 1 Auto Dialer - 1	Verizon - 2 Cingular - 2
Internet	Total: 9	Service Quality - 7 Billing - 2	Qwest - 5 Time Warner Cable - 2 Great Plains - 1 Cox - 1

Savings to date
Wireline: \$4,147.34
Cellular: \$1,773.15
Internet: \$1,128.76
Cable TV: \$0.00
Total: \$7,049.25

Of the above complaints:

Valentine Area	0 Complaints
Chappell/Oshkosh/Lewellen	0 Complaints
Tariff	0 Complaints

Outages for September 2024

Short Name	Area	Time of Outage	Time Service Restored	Outage Duration	Count of Affected Lines	Primary Cause	Comments
Qwest	O'Neill	2024-09-04 01:49:00	2024-09-04 11:01:00	9 hours 12 minutes	757	Equipment	The O'Neill, NE switch not processing calls. Cleared prior to intervention.
Qwest	Valentine	2024-09-04 01:49:00	2024-09-04 11:01:00	9 hours 12 minutes	514	Equipment	The Valentine, NE switch not processing toll calls. Service restored without intervention.
K&M	K & M Exchanges	2024-09-04 01:30:00	2024-09-04 11:09:00	9 hours 39 minutes	400	Cable Cut	Cable cut near Oakdale - Indicated issues were not on their network, but originated outside of K&M exchanges. Customers could call locally, but all long distance and broadband service was impacted.
Windstream	Lincoln, Daykin, Alexandria, Milligan, Ohio, Tobias	2024-09-10 08:49:00	2024-09-10 17:58:00	9 hours 9 minutes	241	Damaged Cable	Locators dropped a splice case and broke the fiber near 71501 Highway 15, Jefferson County. Repair crews respliced the broken fiber to restore services.
Qwest	Chappell, Broadwater, Oshkosh, Lewellen, Bayard, Minatare	2024-09-17 01:42:00	2024-09-17 02:10:00	0 hours 28 minutes	1,183	Equipment	Toll Switch Isolation. Service restored prior to Lumen isolation or intervention
Qwest	Minatare	2024-09-17 02:48:00	2024-09-17 10:37:00	7 hours 49 minutes	124	Equipment	Toll Switch Isolation. Two cards were replaced thus restoring services to a stable state.
NNTC	Dixon, Obert, Newcastle, Coleridge, Stuart, Long Pine, Spencer and Bristow.	2024-09-18 09:35:00	9/18/2024 19:58	12 hours 23 minutes	1,172	Equipment	Level 3 has confirmed their origination trunks are down. Level 3 corrected the issue to restore service.
Windstream	62 Communities	2024-09-20 09:42:00	9/20/2024 13:55	4 hours 13 minutes	5,514	Cable Cut	Dual fiber cuts isolated multiple remotes out of Lincoln and multiple DSLAMs. 48 count fiber damaged by work crew due to bad locate, and mower hit a temporary cable near Roca. Crews had to repair 48 count, and repair temporary cable to restore service.
Glenwood TMC	All ILEC and CLEC customers except for Holdrege & Funk.	2024-09-20 10:15:00	2024-09-20 14:00:00	3 hours 45 minutes	1,967	Cable Cut	Windstream fiber cut. Waited for Windstream to repair the fiber. Service was back up - 9/20/24 @ 2:00 pm.

Henderson	Henderson	2024-09-20 09:42:00	2024-09-20 13:52:00	4 hours 10 minutes	447	Cable Cut	Fiber Cut in the Windstream area.
Diller	Diller, Odell, Harbine, Virginia, South Odell	2024-09-20 09:42:00	2024-09-20 13:52:00	4 hours 10 minutes	525	Cable Cut	Cut fiber in Windstream Territory
Sodtown	Sodtown	2024-09-25 09:37:00	2024-09-25 18:16:00	8 hours 39 minutes	37	Cable Cut	911 and toll outage. Hamilton Fiber cut. Fiber was repaired. 911 est calls placed and circuit working properly.
Citizens	Battle Creek	2024-09-27 06:20:00	9/27/2024 10:37	4 hours 17 minutes	89	Equipment	Hardware failure caused by commercial power outage. Field tech reset the card to restore service.