

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company,
ILEC Division, seeking transition of ongoing high-cost
Nebraska Universal Service Support for eligible served
locations in Windstream Nebraska Inc. Support Areas

Application No. 148.16

VERIFIED APPLICATION

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, ILEC Division ("Applicant") files this application with the Public Service Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, seeking receipt of ongoing high-cost Nebraska Universal Service Fund ("NUSF") support for locations for which Windstream Nebraska, Inc. ("Windstream"), the incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC") has carrier of last resort ("COLR") responsibilities and which are within the "Support Area or Support Areas," as further defined below. Applicant is currently offering fiber-based voice and broadband services to all locations in the Support Area(s). As the Application will set forth, the action sought is consistent with existing law, the Commission's NUSF Rules and Regulations, as well as orders entered in NUSF-139.

In support of its Application, Applicant provides the following:

1. A description of the Applicant's organizational structure (Exhibit A), including a certificate of good standing from the Nebraska Secretary of State (Exhibit B).
2. A demonstration that the Applicant is a Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (Exhibit C. Affidavit of Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company). Note that Applicant has filed Application No. C-5724/NUSF-156 with the Commission on August 14, 2026 seeking Commission approval of Applicant's request to enlarge the locations for which Applicant is designated as an ETC/NETC to include all locations that are the subject of this Application.

3. A commitment verified by the Affidavit (Exhibit C) to comply with all provisions of NEB. ADMIN. CODE, tit. 291, ch.10, § 004.02(G).
4. A commitment verified by the Affidavit (Exhibit C) to fulfill to the Commission's satisfaction the following COLR obligations for so long as the Applicant receives NUSF support:
 - a. Offer Voice Services to all locations in the Support Area in compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations.
 - b. Offer reliable Broadband Services to all locations in the Support Area at speeds required by Nebraska statute.
 - c. Offer affordable and reasonably comparable Voice Services and Broadband Services to all locations in the Support Area.
 - i. Rates for Voice Services will be no higher than the Voice Benchmark Rate established by the Commission.
 - ii. Rates for Broadband Services will comply with the Broadband Benchmark Rate established by the Commission.
 - d. Offer 911 and Telecommunications Relay services.
 - e. Participate in the Nebraska Telephone Assistant Program.
5. A description of the Support Area, showing by shapefile all Serviceable Locations for which support is sought is attached to the electronic filing of this Application as Exhibit D, Exhibit D includes a list of locations served/to be served.
6. A commitment to file the NUSF EARN Form, or any replacement filing, annually.
7. A commitment to file Commission-prescribed NETC certification reports annually.

8. A commitment to provide interconnection with any requesting carrier on a reasonable and nondiscriminatory basis.
9. A commitment to file speed test data and to meet speed testing metrics consistent with the Commission's Orders in NUSF-133.
10. A commitment that NUSF support received will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of the NUSF Act (NEB. REV. STAT. 86-316 - 86-329), Commission Rules and Regulations, and any order or policy of the Commission relevant to the use of NUSF support.
11. An affirmation verified by the Affidavit (Exhibit C) that Applicant is not using or deploying communications equipment or service deemed to pose a threat to national security which is identified on the FCC's *List of Equipment and Services Covered by Section 2 of the Secure Networks Act* anywhere on its network.
12. Information responsive to the Commission's NUSF Rules and Regulations (NEB. ADMIN. CODE, tit. 291, ch.10, § 004.02(G)(i)):
 - a. **The cost of providing the supported services.** Applicant requests support for all Serviceable Locations in the Support Area based on modelling approved by the Commission in NUSF-139.
 - b. **An estimate of the amount of NUSF high-cost program support needed in the area.** Applicant defers to the modelling approved by the Commission in NUSF-139.
 - c. **Benefits to consumers.** Consumers already have access to Applicant's fiber-based telecommunications and broadband services at locations where the ILEC was not offering comparable services.

d. The supported services provided in unserved areas.

Applicant will comply with its COLR obligations as stated above.

e. A demonstration that the quality of service provided would equal the existing service or be better than service provided.

Such information is publicly available as part of Broadband Data Collection ("BDC") program administered by Federal Communications Commission ("FCC").

f. Applicant will adopt existing interconnection agreements for the Support Area as needed to provide services, consistent with the requirements of NUSF-139.

g. Specific demonstration and documentation of the ability of the Applicant to offer service to everyone on its own network. Such information is publicly available as part of the FCC's BDC program.

Having complied with all statutes, rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission, Applicant respectfully requests the Commission enter an Order:

1. Allocating ongoing high-cost support consistent with modelling under NUSF-139 to Applicant for all locations in the Support Area that are eligible for such support;
2. Subjecting Applicant to the following COLR duties for so long as it receives NUSF ongoing support:
 - a. Offer Voice Services to all locations in the Support Area in compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations.

- b. Offer reliable Broadband Services to all locations in the Support Area at speeds required by Nebraska statute.
 - c. Offer affordable and reasonably comparable Voice Services and Broadband Services to all locations in the Support Area.
 - d. Rates for Voice Services will be no higher than the Voice Benchmark Rate established by the Commission.
 - e. Rates for Broadband Services will comply with the Broadband Benchmark Rate established by the Commission.
 - f. Offer 911 and Telecommunications Relay services.
 - g. Participate in the Nebraska Telephone Assistant Program.
3. Holding Applicant to the other commitments it has made in its application.
4. Relieving ILEC of its COLR duties for all locations in the Support Area.

August 21, 2026

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company ILEC Division, APPLICANT

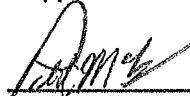
By: Paul M. Schudel

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Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
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Fax. 402-437-8558
Its Attorney

VERIFICATION

State of Nebraska)
)
County of Dakota)

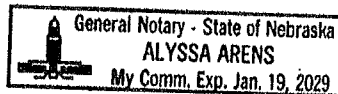
Pat McElroy, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that he has read the foregoing Verified Application and that the information set forth therein is true to the best of his knowledge and belief and verifies the commitments made in the Verified Application on behalf of the Applicant.



Pat McElroy
CEO

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Pat McElroy on this 6th day of August 2026.

(SEAL)





Notary Public



STATE OF NEBRASKA

United States of America, } ss.
State of Nebraska }

Secretary of State
State Capitol
Lincoln, Nebraska

I, Robert B. Evnen, Secretary of State of the
State of Nebraska, do hereby certify that

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY

**incorporated on July 18, 1955 and is duly incorporated under the law of
Nebraska;**

**that all fees, taxes, and penalties owed to Nebraska wherein payment is
reflected in the records of the Secretary of State and to which nonpayment
affects the good standing of the corporation have been paid;**

**that its most recent biennial report required by section 21-19,172 has been
delivered to the Secretary of State;**

that Articles of Dissolution have not been filed.

*This certificate is not to be construed as an endorsement,
recommendation, or notice of approval of the entity's financial
condition or business activities and practices.*

In Testimony Whereof,



I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed the Great Seal of the
State of Nebraska on this date of

May 13, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Evnen".

Secretary of State



**Northeast Nebraska
Telephone Company**
YOUR COMMUNICATION SOURCE

Exhibit C

**AFFIDAVIT OF NORTHEAST NEBRASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY IN SUPPORT OF
APPLICATION FOR NUSF HIGH-COST SUPPORT**

State of Nebraska

I, Pat McElroy, being first duly sworn, hereby state and affirm as follows:

1. Organizational Structure

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company is a Corporation in good standing with the Nebraska Secretary of State. A current Certificate of Good Standing is attached hereto.

2. Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Status

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company is a Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("NETC") and is authorized to receive ongoing NUSF support in Nebraska.

3. Election to Serve as COLR

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company elects to assume COLR obligations in the described service area.

4. Service Area Description

The designated service area for which Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company seeks NUSF high-cost support is specifically described in Exhibit D attached hereto.

5. Commitment to Universal Service

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company commits to offering service to every location within the designated service area.

6. Service Capability

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company demonstrates that it provides voice and broadband service with minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload to locations in the designated service area, including, but not limited to, locations reported as serviceable through the FCC Broadband Data Collection process.

7. Public Safety and Supported Services

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company commits to providing NUSF-supported services including, but not limited to, 911 and Telecommunications Relay services.

8. Affordability and Benchmark Compliance



**Northeast Nebraska
Telephone Company**
YOUR COMMUNICATION SOURCE

Exhibit C

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company commits to offering affordable and reasonably comparable services at rates which are at or below the benchmark rate established by the Commission.

9. Regulatory Reporting Commitments

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company commits to filing the NUSF EARN Form on an annual basis, as well as the Commission-prescribed NETC certification reports on an annual basis.

10. Interconnection Commitment

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company commits to providing interconnection with any requesting carrier on a reasonable and nondiscriminatory basis.

11. Speed Testing Compliance

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company commits to filing speed test data and meeting speed testing metrics consistent with the Commission's Orders in Docket No. NUSF-133.

12. Use of Funds

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company affirms that all NUSF support received will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of the NUSF Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-316 through 86-329), Commission rules and regulations, and applicable Commission orders relevant to the use of NUSF high-cost support.

13. National Security Compliance

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company affirms that it is not using or deploying any communications equipment or services deemed to pose a threat to national security, as identified on the FCC and State of Nebraska's Covered List, anywhere within its network.

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat McElroy", is written over a horizontal line.

Pat McElroy
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Nebraska Telephone
July 29, 2026

Exhibit D

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Service Areas

Description of Support Area(s)

Locations are located within the service area of Windstream Nebraska, Inc. ("Windstream").

The locations within Windstream Service Areas were awarded in conjunction with the Nebraska Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Docket No. CPF-1.

The locations are listed on the attached Excel file.

Supporting map data in shapefile format is also attached in electronic format.

location_i	address_pr	city	state	zip	latitude	longitude
1088910407	1630 33 RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.220848	-97.076024
1088910419	3241 P RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.211411	-97.082006
1088910486	3040 X RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.182342	-96.925168
1088910488	2421 29 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.160438	-96.923624
1088910508	2220 31 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.191589	-96.963785
1088910692	2321 30 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.175181	-96.942790
1088910694	2721 ROAD X	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.136336	-96.929695
1088910732	1761 35 RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.242928	-97.051390
1088910734	1721 35 RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.248367	-97.058090
1088910773	3341 O RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.227488	-97.100262
1088910787	2290 33RD RD	BRUNO	NE	68014	41.220489	-96.949362
1088910911	3330 V RD	BRUNO	NE	68014	41.224541	-96.964557
1088911023	2439 COUNTY ROAD 29	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.163177	-96.922939
1088911027	2231 32 RD BLDG 2	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.204891	-96.960289
1088911044	1771 33 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.219173	-97.044952
1088911062	2230 32 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.211303	-96.960040
1088911064	3049 W RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.183321	-96.948895
1088911067	3010 V RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.178322	-96.967574
1088911191	2451 30 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.175327	-96.917346
1088911192	2888 W RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.158527	-96.934935
1088911250	3161 X RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.199192	-96.928523
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1088911351	2068 33 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.223758	-96.991378
1088911359	1661 34 RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.234540	-97.069906
1088911365	2250 30 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.179573	-96.955685
1088911406	2420 31 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.194537	-96.923290
1088911412	2440 29 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.162682	-96.920690
1088911515	2751 X RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.141092	-96.928689
1088911597	3588 R RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.262492	-97.042001
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1088911997	2240 33RD RD	BRUNO	NE	68014	41.221057	-96.957929
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1088912088	2391 31 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.189947	-96.931506
1088912126	2130 33 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.223973	-96.980040
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1088912729	2231 33RD RD	BRUNO	NE	68014	41.218740	-96.960017
1088912732	2111 33 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.219628	-96.984179
1088912734	2073 33 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.217727	-96.991123
1088912740	2422 COUNTY ROAD 33	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.203711	-96.924696

1088912747 3041 X RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.183228	-96.928267
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1088912832 2851 W RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.155776	-96.950406
1088912833 2240 28 RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.148107	-96.959090
1088912835 2840 X RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.154767	-96.922890
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1088913594 1589 COUNTY ROAD 34	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.235420	-97.092639
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1413981861 1621 35 RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.249302	-97.076957
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1486533747 3056 V RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.184987	-96.965602
1486533928 2097 COUNTY ROAD 33	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.218166	-96.990206
1486535379 3370 O RD	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.230261	-97.099539
1604447752 2756 W RD	BRAINARD	NE	68626	41.140658	-96.946035
1606126629 1519 COUNTY ROAD 33	DAVID CITY	NE	68632	41.220079	-97.090673