

# PSC DEPARTMENT DIGEST



Nebraska Public Service Commission  
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## PSC Welcomes New 911 Service System Advisory Board Members

The Nebraska Public Service Commission has approved the appointment of 14 members to the 911 Service System Advisory Committee (911SSAC). The appointments follow the end of the tenure of all current committee members. The committee held its first meeting with new members on August 14.

The 911SSAC makes recommendations to the PSC, on matters concerning the implementation, coordination, operation, management, maintenance, and funding of the 911 Service System as the State transitions to Next Generation 911.

A list of committee members appointed to serve a three-years term can be found on the [NG911 Information / 911SSAC page](#) of the PSC website.

*“As the committee continues its work, we look forward to a good mix of experienced members and new contributors,” said David Sankey, Director State 911 Department.*

## Windstream Department Complaint Hearing Continued

A hearing involving a director's complaint against Windstream involving three separate 911 service outage/disruption has been continued until October.

In July, the Commission issued an Order ([911-076/PI-249](#)) closing its investigation into the outages and opened a new department complaint ([911-078/DC-104/C-5596](#)).

The hearing originally planned for August 27 & 28 was rescheduled ([911-0768/DC-104/C-5596](#)) to allow for the continued review of materials by both parties.

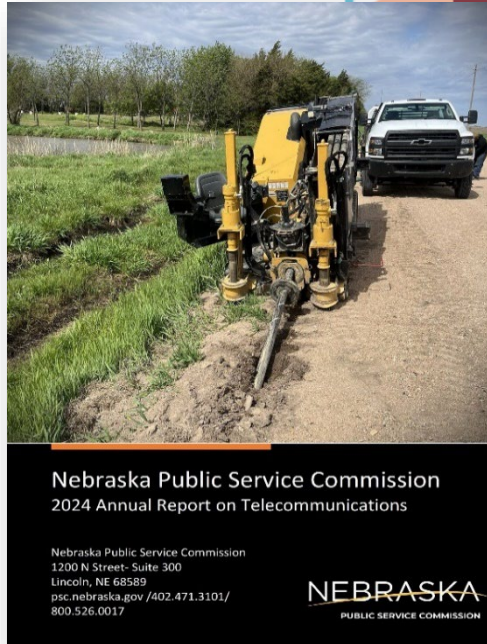
The hearing will now take place beginning at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, October 15 and Thursday, October 17, if needed.

# Annual Report on Telecommunications

The Nebraska Public Service Commission has filed its annual report on Telecommunications with the legislature.

Required by statute the report highlights activity by the Commission's Telecommunications and State 911 Departments.

Interested? You can find the report on our website <  
<https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/2024-annual-report-legislature> >.



## Northeast Nebraska Site of Boundary Exchange Hearings

Commissioners joined by Telecommunications and IT staff traveled to Fordyce to conducted boundary exchange hearings.

Boundary exchange hearings occur when residents file an application with the Commission seeking to receive telecommunications services from a carrier outside of their service area.

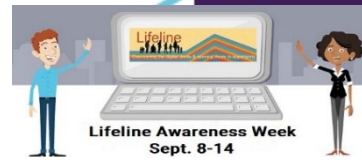
During the two boundary exchange hearings, Commissioners heard testimony from staff, the individuals seeking the change and the two carriers involved in the process.

"These hearings allow us to visit communities and hear from the applicants about the telecommunications challenges they are facing," said Commission Chair Dan Watermeier.

The Commissioner will take the information gained from the hearing and issues a decision on the applications.



## PSC Promotes Lifeline Awareness



During the second week of September, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) in conjunction with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) highlighted “National Digital Connectivity and Lifeline Awareness week. Lifeline helps make affordable voice and broadband services available to qualifying participants.

Under the [Federal Lifeline Program](#), consumers who participate in certain public assistance programs and veterans' programs or qualify based on income can receive a discount of up to \$9.25 per month off an eligible phone, broadband, or bundled phone/broadband service.

The PSC supplements the federal program through the [Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program \(NTAP\)](#), providing an additional monthly discount of \$3.50 to qualified Nebraskans. This support can be applied to one landline or wireless phone bill or used to provide minutes to eligible cellular phone services. To receive the NTAP discount, consumers must participate in the federal Lifeline Program and meet eligibility requirements. Learn more about the NTAP/Lifeline Program on the PSC website < <https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/nebraska-telephone-assistance-programlifeline> >.

## Harvest Season Brings Reminders



With the harvest season underway, the PSC reminds producers to familiarize themselves with Nebraska Grain Laws.

Under the [Grain Dealer Act](#) if a producer/seller wants to ensure their transactions with a licensed grain dealer are covered by the grain dealers' security posted with the PSC, they must demand payment within 15 days of completion of their contract with the dealer. Producers /sellers who choose not to demand payment within 15 days after completion of their contract will be unsecured creditors of that dealer and forfeit any protection from the grain dealer's security.



“It's also very important that producers/sellers know who they are doing business with,” said Terri Fritz, Dir. PSC Grain Dept. “Grain dealers must be licensed with the PSC to do business in the state of Nebraska,”

A list of [licensed Grain Dealers](#) in Nebraska can be found on the [Grain Department](#) page of the PSC website < <https://psc.nebraska.gov/grain> >.



Grain Warehouses wishing to use emergency ground piles are reminded that they must make application to the Commission.

An Emergency Storage form and copy of a memo outlining PSC Emergency Storage for 2024 information can be found on the Grain Department page of the PSC website @ < <https://psc.nebraska.gov/grain> >.



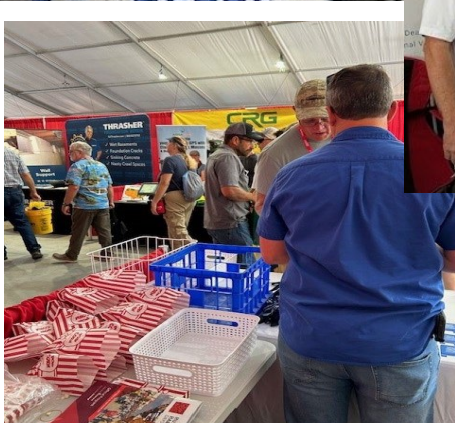
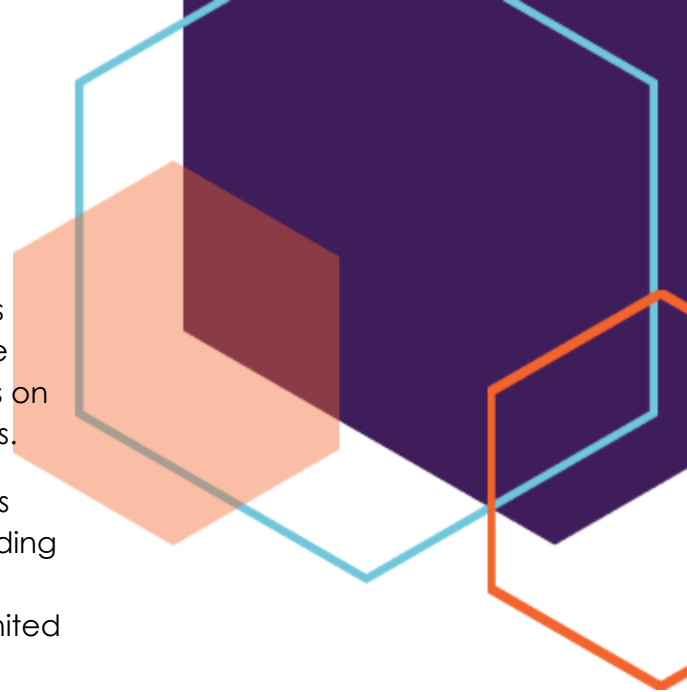
# Husker Harvest Days Provides PSC Opportunity to Reach Citizens

The world's largest working farm show, Husker Harvest Days (HHDays) afforded the Commission an opportunity to once again to provide information to and hear from Nebraskans on issues regarding the Commission's regulatory responsibilities.

Staff from the Grain and Telecommunications departments manned the PSC booth in the West Diversified Industry Building Exhibition area for the three day event (Sept 10-12), which brought hundreds of thousands of folks from all over the United States to the HHDays site just west of Grand Island.

Commissioners joined in the festivities frequenting the booth at different times to visit with constituents and provide them information on a variety of regulatory topics.

Commission Chair Dan Watermeier said, "The Commission through its regulatory responsibilities plays a role in everything from agriculture and transportation to telecommunications, natural gas, and more. Participating in this event allows us to answer questions from Nebraskans on the role the Commission plays in their everyday lives."



# PSC MP&E Inspector Receives FRA Certificate of Completion

PSC Motor Power & Equipment (MP&E) Inspector Josh Smith has received his certificate of completion from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Following nearly a year of training Smith has been a certified MP&E inspector since June. He was presented with his certificate during FRA Recurrent Training in Pueblo, Colorado in September.

“Being certified by the FRA requires tremendous commitment,” said Thomas Golden, PSC Executive Director. “We congratulate Josh on his accomplishment and thank him for his dedication.”

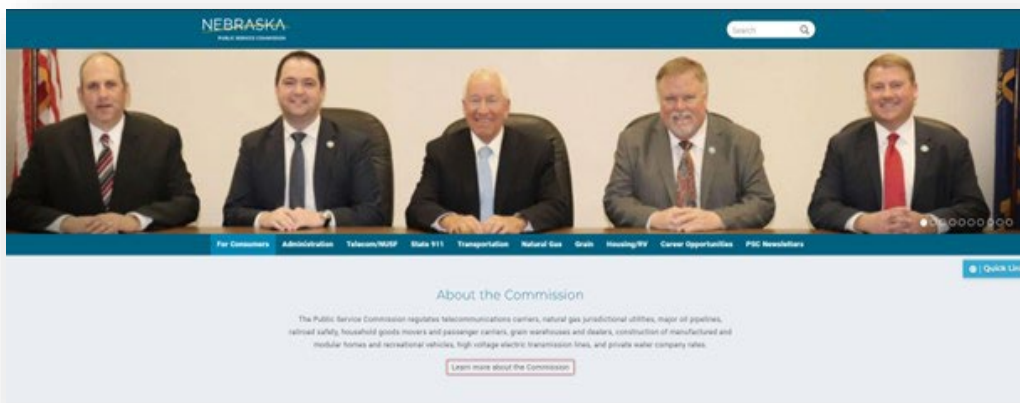
Under the PSC's agreement with the FRA, Smith as a certified MP&E inspector has the ability to conduct supplemental safety inspections in coordination with the FRA.

Nebraska joined the FRA's State Rail Safety Participation program in 1994 and is one of 32 states that has entered into an agreement with the FRA.

In addition to an MP&E inspector the PSC has the ability to employ a track inspector and is currently seeking applications for the position. Find out more on how you can join the PSC in this capacity and apply @ [https://son.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/NebraskaStateCareers/job/Railroad-Track-Inspector\\_JR2024-00006311](https://son.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/NebraskaStateCareers/job/Railroad-Track-Inspector_JR2024-00006311)



**FRA Representatives Ken Johnson & Sean Bussey present Josh Smith, PSC MP&E Inspector with his Certificate of Completion**



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The Nebraska Public Service Commission regulates telecommunications carriers, natural gas jurisdictional utilities, major oil pipelines, railroad safety, household goods movers and passenger carriers, grain warehouses and dealers, construction of manufactured and modular homes and recreation vehicles, high voltage electric transmission lines, and private water company rates.

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