

**Rural Gibbon Underserved
Nebraska Central Telephone Company Noncontiguous/Same Exchange Project
Explanation
Attachment D**

The Nebraska Central Telephone Company (“NCTC”) service area covers a substantial swath of central Nebraska and includes portions of Adams, Blaine, Buffalo, Custer, Greeley, Hall, Holt, Howard, Garfield, Kearney, Loup, Rock, Sherman, and Wheeler counties. Although NCTC has already commenced construction of a fiber broadband network in its territory, there are still serviceable locations presently unserved or underserved by broadband, as that term is defined in the Broadband Bridge Act (the “Act”).

NCTC’s Rural Gibbon Underserved application consists of six underserved locations that are near the Gibbon city limits. The locations are close to, but not quite, contiguous to one another. The noncontiguous locations in the application are all situated in the same exchange and connected to the same fiber network owned by the same service provider. Those shared commonalities substantiate that they are naturally connected to each other and grouping them together in a grant application under the Act is intentional and logical from a business standpoint.

NCTC has submitted Act applications with the objective of eliminating unserved serviceable locations. This application, though, is further down the priority list, and addresses underserved locations in the NCTC service area. Because NCTC has submitted applications meant to address the Act’s top priority and this application is still consistent with the objectives of the Act, this application should be viewed favorably by the Public Service Commission.

When completed, the noncontiguous underserved serviceable locations in this application will be connected to a singular fiber network built and maintained by NCTC. NCTC understands that people in every part of its service area have the need for a fast and reliable broadband connection. Although the locations in this application are noncontiguous currently, when complete, the locations will all be connected to each other over NCTC’s fiber network. NCTC looks forward to completing this broadband project and using it to deploy sufficiently fast internet to all its customers for decades to come.