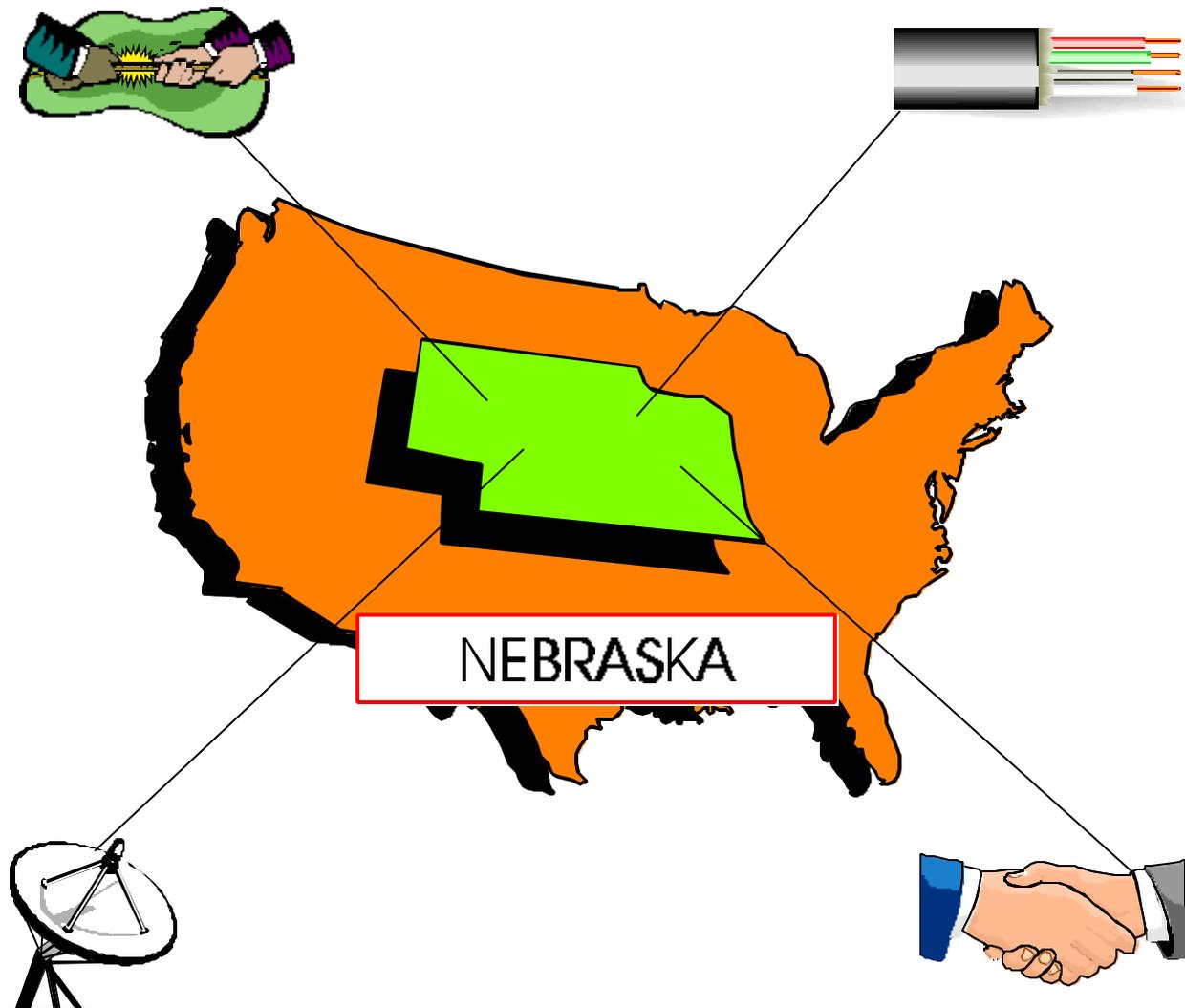
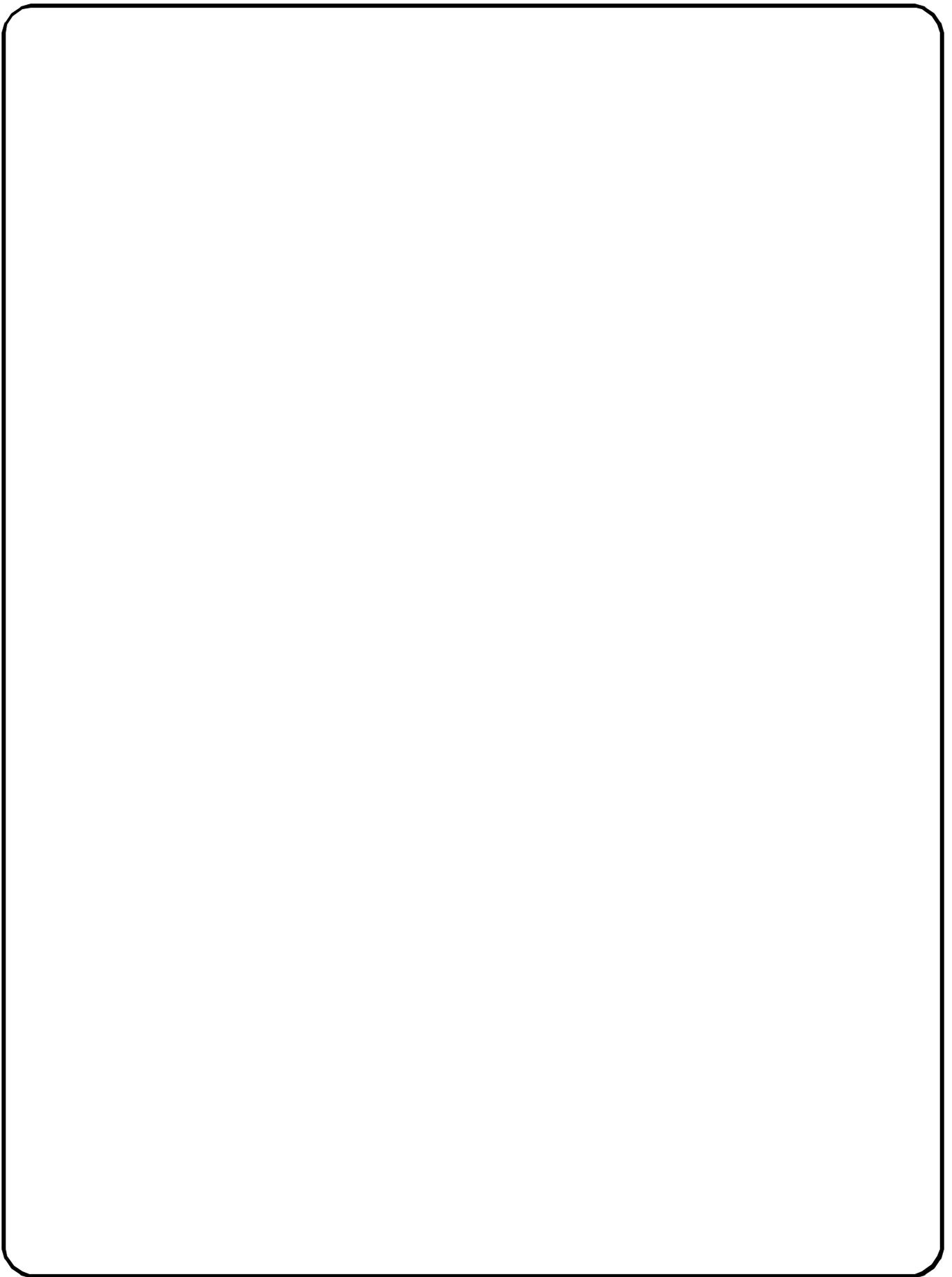


# NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**2000 ANNUAL REPORT ON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE  
ON THE STATUS OF  
THE NEBRASKA TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

September 30, 2000

Nebraska Public Service Commission  
300 The Atrium  
1200 N Street  
P.O. Box 94927  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4927  
(402) 471-3101  
(800) 526-0017 (Instate Only)  
<http://www.nol.org/home/NPSC>

# 2000 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

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1st District  
Lincoln  
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Omaha  
Vice-Chairman

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Joan Raffety - Secretary

## Nebraska Universal Service Fund Department Staff

Jeff Pursley - Director  
Brandy Zierott - Secretary  
Kathy Ptacek - Lifeline Secretary

September 30, 2000

From the Chairman:

I'm pleased to present the 2000 Annual Report on Telecommunications. While it contains some very useful facts, you will also find that it contains a great deal of technical information. For this reason, I would encourage you and your staff to call our offices at 402-471-3101 if you would like to have an explanation of any of the information contained in this report.

Sincerely,

Frank Landis  
Chairman

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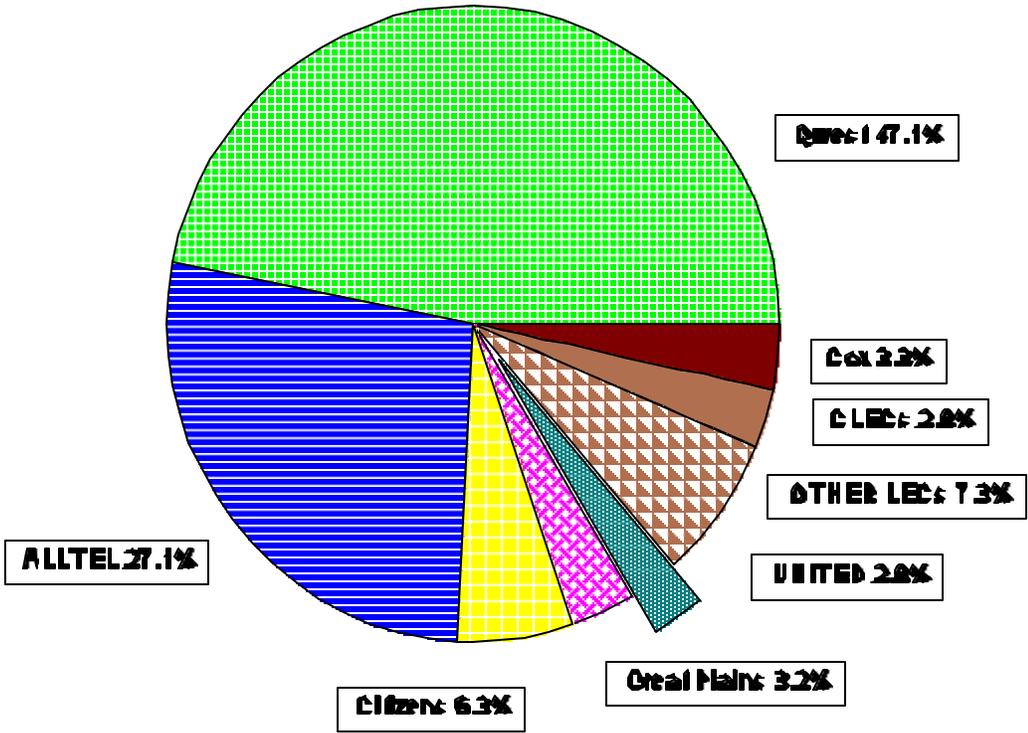
**ACCESS LINE & EXCHANGE DATA**

**January 1, 2000**

COMPANY	ACCESS LINES		
	BUSINESS	RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL
QWEST, F/K/A US WEST	154,256	351,746	506,002
ALLTEL	99,080	191,924	291,004
CITIZENS, F/K/A GTE	28,025	39,377	67,402
COX TELECOM II	2,516	32,787	35,303
GREAT PLAINS	7,911	26,951	34,862
SPRINT/UNITED	10,025	20,197	30,222
ALIANTE MIDWEST, DBA ALLTEL	8,269	1,953	10,222
NEBRASKA CENTRAL	1,695	7,370	9,065
BLAIR	3,204	5,692	8,896
AT&T	8,780	0	8,780
HAMILTON	2,354	4,654	7,008
IONEX, F/K/A FIRSHEL	4,610	1,684	6,294
SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA	1,120	3,407	4,527
NORTHEAST NEBRASKA	812	3,653	4,465
NT&T	2,888	545	3,443
COZAD	834	2,329	3,163
CONSOLIDATED	853	2,287	3,140
NEBCOM	582	2,527	3,109
EASTERN NEBRASKA	936	2,089	3,025
GLENWOOD	421	2,353	2,774
ARAPAHOE	584	2,090	2,674
PIERCE	491	1,521	2,012
CONSOLIDATED TELCO	394	1,305	1,699
HARTINGTON	568	1,060	1,628
DALTON	318	1,048	1,366
HOOPER	309	1,041	1,350
THREE RIVER	244	1,050	1,294
STANTON	369	921	1,290
CAMBRIDGE	342	934	1,276
EZ PHONE CONNECTIONS	0	1,225	1,225
BENKELMAN	339	881	1,220
PLAINVIEW	255	910	1,165
ARLINGTON	146	960	1,106
ROCK COUNTY	309	785	1,094
HENDERSON	283	793	1,076
HEMINGFORD	174	824	998
CLARKS	134	856	990
DILLER	118	839	957
HOME	135	759	894
CURTIS	219	628	847
HERSHEY	124	710	834
K&M	153	543	696
WAUNETA	151	515	666
KEYSTONE-ARTHUR	70	561	631
MCLEOD USA	599	0	599
EUSTIS	114	410	524
HARTMAN	3	449	452
ELSIE	48	187	235
SODTOWN	4	81	95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346,168</b>	<b>727,421</b>	<b>1,073,589</b>

# ACCESS LINES - 1999

State of Nebraska



Note: Wireless access lines reported for relay remittance purposes represent 527,057 lines in addition to the access lines listed above.

# Part I

## PART I

### Review of the Quality of Telecommunications Service Provided to Nebraska Citizens

#### 1. Telephone Complaints

The following table shows the total number of complaints filed this year and divides the complaints between local exchange carriers (LECs) and interexchange carriers (IXCs), also known as long distance companies.

COMPLAINTS	1998-1999 Complaints	1998-1999 Complaint Percentage	1999-2000 Complaints	1999-2000 Complaint Percentage	Complaint Percentage Increase from 98-99 to 99-00
LECs	448	43.5%	475	36.1%	6.0%
IXCs	583	56.5%	818	62.3%	40.3%
Miscellaneous	0	0	21	1.6%	100.0%
TOTAL	1031	100.0%	1314	100.0%	27.2%

Complaints were separated into the following categories:

COMPLAINTS	7/01/95 6/30/96	7/01/96 6/30/97	7/01/97 6/30/98	7/01/98 6/30/99	7/01/99 6/30/00
Service	310	158	114	273	191
Billing	222	178	204	431	724
800/900	7	11	9	10	2
Miscellaneous	129	116	184	167	268
Slammed	66	65	148	137	121
Disconnect	16	9	15	10	6
Cellular	3	1	1	3	2
TOTAL	753	538	675	1031	1314

Miscellaneous complaints include harassing calls, unfilled requests to establish various optional features (e.g., Caller ID), lack of the availability for extended area service (EAS), equal access, as well as local Internet access and availability. Billing complaints primarily consist of billing errors and large deposit requests imposed by both LECs and IXC, as well as costly surcharges imposed by private payphone providers.

### A. Local Exchange Carriers (LECs)

There are 42 incumbent local exchange carriers in Nebraska (including the cooperative telephone companies) and 67 competitive local exchange carriers. Qwest, formerly known as US West, is the largest LEC with 506,002 access lines, while Sodtoun Telephone Company has only 95 access lines. The following table shows the LEC complaints by company. As one would expect, the largest number of complaints involved the two largest LECs, Qwest and ALLTEL.

LECs	98-99 Complaints	98-99 Access Lines	98-99 Percent of Total Lines	99-2000 Complaints	99-2000 Access Lines	99-2000 Percent of Total Lines
Qwest, fka US West	242	529,332	51.1%	264	506,002	47.2%
ALLTEL	88	283,089	27.3%	94	291,004	27.1%
Citizens, fka GTE	14	65,194	6.3%	16	67,402	6.3%
Cox	N/A	N/A	N/A	48	35,303	3.3%
Great Plains	12	33,910	3.3%	12	34,862	3.2%
United	13	28,680	2.7%	15	30,222	2.8%
Others	79	96,121	9.3%	36	108,214	10.1%
TOTAL	448	1,036,326	100.0%	485	1,073,009	100.0%

### B. Interexchange Carriers (IXCs)

The number of long distance companies certificated to operate continues to grow. Currently, there are just under 300 companies authorized to provide long distance services in Nebraska. The following table shows the number of complaints filed against long distance companies. The largest

number of complaints involved MCI and AT&T. Customers can be sure they have the long distance carrier of their choice by dialing the toll-free telephone number (700) 555-4141.

<b>Interexchange Carrier</b>	<b>1999-2000 Complaints</b>
MCI	260
AT&T	165
Qwest	82
Excel	50
Sprint	36
VarTec	36
Talk.com	25
Long Distance Savings	21
Telecom USA	10
Other	133
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>818</b>

### **C. Formal Complaints**

The following formal complaints were filed with the Commission during the past year:

*FC-1270 William D. & E.L. Neater, Wood River, vs. US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado*

The Neaters filed a formal complaint alleging that the sales representative for US West provided incorrect information on the cost of providing dial tone service to a property that the Neaters had contemplated buying. Based on the erroneous information, the Neaters executed the purchase. After the purchase, US West sent an engineer to the site and quoted a price in excess of \$7,000 to provide telephone service to the property. Finding fault with the procedures employed by US West in taking orders, the Commission sustained the complaint against US West and ordered them to supply the service at the first-quoted rate.

*FC-1271 Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications, Inc. (NT&T), Lincoln, vs. Aliant Communications Co., Lincoln*

In August 1999, a formal complaint was filed by NT&T against Aliant alleging that Aliant had failed to comply with their voluntarily-negotiated interconnection agreement. Specifically, NT&T alleged that Aliant had failed to comply with those terms of the agreement which require Aliant to provide NT&T with end user/customer service records and related information within the one-business-day requirement set forth in the agreement and that Aliant had refused to process local service requests within the five-business-day requirement. Aliant responded by filing a Statement of Satisfaction which remedied the alleged unlawful conduct. NT&T accepted these terms and the complaint was dismissed on September 21, 1999.

*FC-1272 Marvion Reichert, Jr., Elm Creek, vs. US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado*

On August 24, 1999, Marvion Reichert filed a formal complaint alleging that the amount US West charged him for the construction of facilities to provide service to his new home was excessive. Following negotiations between the parties, US West agreed to revise its construction plan, resulting in a substantial decrease in the amount charged to Mr. Reichert. Mr. Reichert accepted the revised charges and the complaint was dismissed on September 21, 1999.

*FC-1273 Darlene Pisarek, on behalf of David Isom, O'Neill, vs. US West Communications, Inc., Omaha*

On September 19, 1999, a formal complaint was filed by Darlene Pisarek on behalf of her brother, David Isom, against US West. The complaint alleged that US West had misled the complainant about the cost of constructing new facilities in order to provide service to the complainant's rural home and that the amount charged for such construction was exorbitant. Following negotiations between the parties, US West agreed to waive all costs associated with the special construction to Mr. Isom's residence and to amend its guidelines to inform persons ordering phone service that additional construction costs may apply for special construction of facilities. In exchange for US West's concessions, the complainant agreed to dismiss the complaint.

*FC-1274 William Keller, Merna, vs. Qwest Communications Corporation, Arlington, Virginia*

William Keller filed a formal complaint on October 4, 1999, alleging misrepresentation and false advertising by Qwest for the rates and surcharges associated with Qwest calling cards. Qwest responded by offering Mr. Keller credit to offset future charges for telecommunications services provided by Qwest to Mr. Keller. Mr. Keller accepted Qwest's offer and the complaint was dismissed.

*FC-1275 Lawrence Ferguson, North Platte, vs. US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado*

Mr. Ferguson filed a formal complaint against US West alleging that the telephone line to his dwelling was inadequate because it allowed insufficient transmission speed, which, in turn, hindered his access to the Internet. A public meeting was held in North Platte where the Commission heard similar complaints from residents of the area. While the Commission agreed that access to advanced services continued to be a challenging problem, it was found that current Commission regulations only require the provisioning of voice-grade telephone service, which the complainant did not charge as being inadequate. Accordingly, the Commission dismissed the complaint, but continues to work on improving access to advanced services.

*FC-1276 Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications, Inc., Lincoln, vs. US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado*

In January 2000, NT&T filed a formal complaint alleging that US West had failed to honor a request from NT&T to order network elements on an unbundled basis. The Commission denied a motion from US West to dismiss the complaint based on the fact that, at the time of the complaint, US West was fully compliant with FCC rules, noting that new FCC orders would soon be in effect.

As of the date of this report, Qwest is providing unbundled network elements (UNE-P) to NT&T. Therefore, the main focus of the complaint has been resolved. Both companies are working cooperatively to address concerns over problems with processes and billing. Because of these on-going concerns, the complaint remains pending.

*FC- 1277 Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications, Inc., Lincoln, vs. Aliant Communications, d/b/a ALLTEL, Little Rock, Arkansas*

NT&T alleged in its formal complaint that ALLTEL had failed to comply with the terms of their voluntarily-negotiated service resale interconnection agreement resulting in delayed and held orders and unnecessary inconvenience to NT&T's customers. NT&T further alleged that as a result of the poor service it had received from ALLTEL, it was unable to satisfactorily service its potential customers and had lost clients. At the hearing scheduled in March, the parties entered into a stipulation which included provisions that set specific time frames for compliance by ALLTEL of orders placed by NT&T, required firm order commitments and timely jeopardy notices and required the parties to file compliance statements with the Commission. After the compliance period passed, the Commission entered an order dismissing the complaint without prejudice noting that the parties had agreed to continue compliance with the terms of the agreement notwithstanding the dismissal of the complaint.

*FC-1279 Tom L. Svoboda, Schuyler, vs. US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado*

Tom Svoboda filed a formal complaint alleging that US West misquoted construction charges. The complainant contacted US West in April regarding service to a new construction site and was told the construction charges would be about \$3,500 to \$3,800. After receiving this information, Mr.

Svoboda decided to move forward with the construction. When he requested service, Mr. Svoboda was told that the construction charges would be \$7,200. Negotiations between the parties led to settlement and dismissal of the formal complaint.

*FC-1280 Aliant Midwest, Inc., d/b/a ALLTEL, Little Rock, Arkansas, vs. MCI WorldCom Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado*

On July 10, 2000, Aliant Midwest, Inc., d/b/a ALLTEL, filed a formal complaint against MCI WorldCom. In the complaint, ALLTEL alleged that WorldCom had mistakenly programmed the wrong local routing number, causing long distance callers to several ALLTEL business customers to receive a recording that the customers' numbers were no longer in service. On July 19, 2000, WorldCom informed the Commission that the company had resolved the routing errors and ALLTEL conditionally accepted WorldCom's solution. After a 45-day monitoring period, the complaint was dismissed effective September 15, 2000.

*FC-1281 State of Nebraska, Division of Communications, Lincoln, vs. AT&T, Omaha*

On July 11, 2000, the State of Nebraska Division of Communications filed a formal complaint alleging that AT&T had erroneously billed the State of Nebraska on various accounts beginning in July 1999. Prompted by the alleged billing errors, the State discontinued payment to AT&T beginning in October 1999. Following months of unsuccessful negotiations to resolve the disputes, in June 2000 AT&T threatened to terminate service to the State, leading to the filing of the formal complaint against AT&T by the State. Subsequent to the filing of the complaint, the parties were able to reach a solution to the dispute and the complaint was dismissed.

*FC-1283 RE/MAX Executives, Inc., Kearney, vs. Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications, Inc., Lincoln*

On August 25, 2000, a formal complaint was filed by RE/MAX Executives against NT&T. The complaint concerned numerous service and billing disputes between the parties, including the alleged unjustified amount charged to RE/MAX for termination of its contract with NT&T. NT&T filed a Statement of Satisfaction in which the termination charge was waived. The Statement of Satisfaction was accepted by RE/MAX and the complaint was dismissed on October 12, 2000.

## **D. Relay Service Complaints**

Consumer complaints related to the relay system totaled 39 for the 1999-2000 fiscal year, as compared to 26 in 1998-1999. Of the 39 complaints received, over 56 percent were network software or facilities related. These errors consisted mainly of disruptions in ASCII transmission (PC-based TTYs) calls which resulted in frequent disconnects to the user. Nearly 36 percent of the

complaints involved Communications Assistants (CAs). The “CA Other” category records complaints related to various CA procedural errors. Three complaints were related to (long distance) carrier of choice issues. This occurs when relay users are unable to select their preferred long distance carrier when making outgoing toll calls from the relay.

<b>Type of Complaint</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
Network - Appl. Software	1
Network - Infrastructure	21
CA# Dialed	0
CA Spelling	5
CA Speed	0
CA Staffing	0
CA Etiquette	3
CA Other	6
Carrier Of Choice	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>

At approximately 8:15 a.m. on July 6, 1999, the Nebraska and Idaho relay customers (the state of Idaho is also served by the Nebraska relay) suffered a service outage that lasted until approximately July 7th at 2:00 p.m. The disruption was caused by Sprint inadvertently disconnecting some of the circuits and disabling nine different 800 numbers that served Hamilton, six of these numbers Hamilton used to provide relay service to Nebraska and Idaho. Hamilton was able to route calls over an alternate 800 number to their Louisiana center until service was restored.

## **2. Service Testing**

The Commission ensures Nebraskans are receiving quality telecommunications service by reviewing periodic reports providing performance data and from independently testing telephone companies. During the past year, the Commission staff made test calls in a number of pre-selected telephone exchanges. All local exchange carriers are using digital switches designed to perform a series of self-diagnostic tests which makes our testing job much easier. Besides providing independent testing, the Commission’s technical staff offers consumer assistance. Our technician visited several homes and businesses across the state to assist the consumer in resolving service complaints. For

example, the staff continues to work with Qwest, Omaha Public Power District and Fox/Channel 42 to resolve noise on the line and other interference problems experienced by telephone customers who live near Gretna. Similar coordinated testing was performed at a pumping station in Lincoln County to assist both Curtis Telephone Company and McCook Public Power resolve a power influence problem affecting some Curtis area customers. The staff investigated another interference in Adams County.

# Part II

## PART II

### Review of the Availability of Diverse and Affordable Telecommunications Services to the People of Nebraska

#### 1. The Telecommunications Act of 1996

One of the goals of the Federal Telecommunications Act (Act) is to promote competition while still maintaining quality service at affordable rates. Four and-a-half years after the Act was passed, competitive local carriers now serve approximately 5.5 percent of the state's access lines. In addition, cable companies are providing basic telephone service, wireless providers are serving 33 percent of the combined wireline and wireless market, and we have experienced a growth in the availability of local Internet access and enhanced services. Nebraskans in 97 percent of the households still enjoy basic telephone service.

The convergence of technologies, the sharing of networks, the affordability of service and industry structure changes have resulted in a number of issues before the Commission. These issues have been the subject of a great deal of study, hearings, debate, Commission investigations and litigation. Addressed below are some of the major issues in which the Commission has been involved in the last year:

*C-1128/ Progression Order No. 3*      *The Commission, on its own motion, seeking to set guidelines for mediation, arbitration, and review of negotiated agreements under the Telecommunications Act of 1996.*

The Commission recently amended its policy relating to existing interconnection agreements adopted pursuant to Section 252(i) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This section requires local exchange carriers to make any interconnection, service or network element provided under an already-approved agreement, and to which it is a party, available to any other requesting telecommunications carrier upon the same terms and conditions. Interconnection agreements adopted through the Section 252(i) process were previously processed and approved 10 days following the filing of the agreement. However, the Commission concluded that its policy as written was unclear and did not give the parties adequate notice as to when the 10-day period commenced. Moreover, the Commission determined that its policy would be more internally consistent if the 10-day period started on the date of publication.

*C-1830*      *Application of US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado, seeking authority to file its notice of intention to file a Section 271(c) application with the FCC and request for Commission to verify US West compliance with Section 271(c).*

Section 271 of the Act set out several preconditions that must be satisfied before a Bell Operating Company (BOC), like Qwest, may provide interLATA long distance services.

Before 1996, BOCs were prohibited from offering interLATA services since the break up of the Bell system in January of 1984. However, since the passage of the Act, if a BOC can demonstrate competition exists in its local markets by meeting a 14-point checklist, then it would be authorized to provide interLATA services.

Qwest filed Docket No. C-1830 requesting the Commission to certify that Qwest has met each of the competitive preconditions. In April 1999, the Commission found that Qwest satisfied eight of the fourteen checklist points. Qwest subsequently filed additional evidence pertaining to four of the remaining six checklist points in August 1999. After hearing, the Commission entered an order in May 2000 finding that Qwest had satisfied one of those additional checklist items.

The Commission continues to participate in a collaborative effort with other Qwest states to determine compliance with the remaining checklist items. The Commission anticipates having additional evidence brought forward by the various parties in the months to come.

*C-1889            Application of Western Wireless, for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) that may receive Universal Service Support.*

Western Wireless, a wireless carrier out of Washington State, filed an application to receive eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation. Such a designation will allow Western Wireless to be eligible for funding from the federal and state Universal Service Funds for providing service to high-cost areas. If granted, Western Wireless will be the first wireless carrier to receive such a designation in the state. Western Wireless argues that FCC rules prohibit the state from discriminating in ETC designation based on the type of technology used. Opponents argue that such a designation would be premature prior to the actual offering of service and that such a designation is contrary to the public interest. Even if granted, considerable challenges will remain to determine the level of support that should be granted and in developing an appropriate formula for determining those levels. A decision from the Commission is expected to be released soon.

*C-1960/  
PI-25            The Commission, on its own motion, seeking to conduct an investigation of the interstate or local characteristics of Internet Service Providers traffic.*

The Commission instituted Docket No. C-1960/PI-25 to conduct an investigation of the interstate or local characteristics of Internet Service Provider (ISP) traffic. The primary issue was to determine whether ISP traffic was “local” traffic and if so, whether an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) would be required to pay reciprocal compensation to the competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) for calls placed by the ILEC end user customers to ISPs which obtain local services and local telephone numbers from the CLEC.

Based upon the evidence presented to the Commission, it was determined that the Commission had jurisdiction to determine the regulatory treatment of ISP-bound traffic for purposes of payment of reciprocal compensation. Having reviewed the Nebraska-approved interconnection agreements and based upon the record presented, the Commission concluded that when the interconnection agreements were developed, the parties did not intend to exclude ISP-bound traffic from being subject to reciprocal compensation provisions. At the time the agreements were made, ISP traffic was treated as local in virtually every respect by the industry and the FCC.

As such, the Commission concluded that ISP-bound traffic is properly subject to regulatory treatment as local traffic and, therefore, as a general matter, is subject to reciprocal compensation unless a particular interconnection agreement expressly and specifically excludes ISP-bound traffic from the parties' reciprocal compensation obligations. This decision was appealed to the Supreme Court and then subsequently dismissed by Qwest.

*C-2044 The Commission, on its own motion, seeking to conduct an investigation for determination of requirements for implementation of the contract carriers provisions contained in Legislative Bill 150 [1999].*

This docket has been open since early 1997 to allow the Commission to examine the issues raised by the regulation of contract carriers. In 1999, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Neb. Pub. Serv. Comm. v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.* that the Commission did not have authority over contract carriers. In response, the Legislature passed LB150 (1999) to specifically give the Commission the power to exercise authority over and issue permits to contract carriers. The Commission sent a letter to the Governor asking for permission to proceed under rules developed in Rule and Regulation Docket No. 146. Once this permission is granted, the Commission will issue proposed rules and proceed to a comment period and a public hearing.

*C-2057 The Commission, on its own motion, seeking to conduct an investigation into the potential exhaust of assignable telephone numbers within the 402 area code.*

*C-2233 The Commission, on its own motion, seeking to conduct an investigation into the conservation of assignable numbers.*

In mid-1999, the Commission was made aware of a forecast showing that the available numbers in the 402 area code could be depleted within two years. The Commission began an investigation to determine causes and possible solutions to the possible depletion. The Commission discovered that approximately 40 percent of the assigned numbers in the 402 area code were being used. Further, the Commission learned of possible number conservation measures that might be employed to delay number exhaust. Industry representatives considered several remedies including area code overlays, splitting the 402 area code and changing the boundaries between the 402 and 308 area codes. Eventually, the industry submitted a recommendation that a new area code be

"overlaid" over the existing 402 boundaries. Recognizing the potential problems that would be associated with such a remedy, the Commission continues to explore number conservation methods that are discussed in greater detail in Part II, Section 7 of this report.

Based on the number depletion forecast issued by the North American Number Plan Administrator (NANPA), the Commission decided to examine possible remedies into the expected depletion of assignable numbers. To that end, the Commission opened Docket No. C-2233. One result of that investigation was the discovery that number utilization rates were relatively low. In addition, the Commission determined that several number conservation steps could be taken to delay the need for area code relief measures.

In September 1999, the Commission filed a petition with the FCC requesting authority to implement number conservation methods within Nebraska including the authority to implement thousands-block number pooling, to reclaim unused exchange codes, and to audit number assignment. The FCC granted the Commission request on an interim basis on July 20, 2000. In August, the Commission entered an order establishing a calendar for the implementation of thousands-block number pooling and selecting Neustar, Inc. as the pooling administrator.

Representatives from the industry then negotiated a stipulation which would delay the implementation date from December 1, 2000, to February 17, 2001 in exchange for commitments by the industry to begin internal processes to save numbers including sequential number assignment, internal auditing and voluntary number reclamation.

*C-2112            The Commission, on its own motion, seeking to conduct an investigation into specific areas of concern in the provisioning of payphones in the State of Nebraska.*

In August 1999, the Commission opened this investigatory docket to examine areas of concern in the payphone industry. Specifically, the Commission examined pricing and technical concerns raised by payphone providers. These providers argued that the prices paid to local carriers to connect their payphones were substantially higher than the prices paid in neighboring states. Further, they argued that the prices paid included charges that could not be supported by federal law and that such prices were not cost-based as provided for in federal law. The payphone providers also alleged that local carriers were not supplying the necessary technical requirements to prevent fraudulent use of the payphones. While many of the issues raised have been resolved, some minor pricing issues remain to be decided. Nonetheless, a final order is expected to be issued by the end of the year.

*C-2156            Application of US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado, for establishment of competitive zones.*

On November 15, 1999, US West filed an application asking the Commission to declare that local competition existed in 11 wire centers in the Omaha area. *Neb. Rev. Stat. §86-803(16)* authorizes a telecommunications carrier to seek such a declaration. If a declaration that local competition exists in a given area is entered by the Commission, state law provides that local rates in that area are deregulated and allows carriers to change rates with ten days' notice to the Commission. Although briefs and testimony were filed by US West and opponents to the declaration, US West asked that the application be held in abeyance prior to the scheduled public hearing on the matter, a request that the Commission granted.

*C-2172/ PI-34 Implementation of deaveraged rates for Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs).*

On December 7, 1999, the Commission opened a docket to implement deaveraged unbundled network elements (UNEs) pursuant to FCC rule codified at *47 C.F.R. §51.507(f)*. *Section 51.507(f)* requires that states establish different rate elements in at least three defined geographic areas within the state to reflect geographic cost differences.

On March 31, 2000, the Commission opened Docket No. C-2256 which commenced a cost study of the pricing of UNEs and geographic deaveraging. The Commission, along with many other state commissions, petitioned the FCC for a waiver of the May 1, 2000, deadline of the *§51.507(f)* deaveraging rule because of ongoing state investigatory proceedings. The FCC has granted Nebraska a waiver of the May deadline until February 28, 2001. In C-2256, the Commission released proposed alternatives and has taken comments from the interested parties. The Commission released its initial recommendations for comment and expects to hear the matter in early November. The results of that cost study will determine how the Commission will implement geographically deaveraged UNEs pursuant to C-2172.

*C-2185 Application of US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado, seeking approval of its revised Statement of Generally Available Terms (SGAT) pursuant to Section 252(f) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.*

On December 21, 1999, Qwest filed for approval its revised SGAT, pursuant to Section 252(f) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

A SGAT, which is in some ways similar to tariffs that are currently filed with the Commission, is a statement by Qwest of its general offerings within the State of Nebraska and their related terms and conditions. Qwest filed its proposed revised SGAT in part to comply with the requirements of Section 251 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

As several parties intervened in the docket, the Commission encouraged the parties to continue to negotiate the various terms and conditions contained within the SGAT. This document

is evolving as further revisions are negotiated; therefore, the Commission has yet to take formal action. The Commission and staff continue to participate in a collaborative effort with Arizona to encourage the parties to mutually resolve outstanding issues in the SGAT.

*C-2199/  
PI-35            The Commission, on its own motion, seeking to determine statewide costs to establish rates for campus wire at multiple dwelling units (MDUs).*

The issue of competition for MDUs has formally been before this Commission since May 27, 1998, as the result of a formal complaint. When the issue was brought to the Commission's attention, the Commission opened Docket No. C-1878 to develop a policy regarding access to residents of MDUs in Nebraska by competitive local exchange carriers.

On March 2, 1999, and April 20, 1999, the Commission entered orders establishing a statewide policy for MDUs. In those orders, the Commission indicated that it would open an additional docket to establish the "rates" associated with the findings in Docket No. C-1878. Accordingly, this docket, C-2199/PI-35, was opened. However, after reviewing the comments received, the Commission concluded that it would not establish rates for campus wire at MDUs in this docket. Instead, said rates would be developed in a cost proceeding or in an interconnection arbitration.

On a related note, the Commission's order in Docket No. C-1878, which had been the subject of an appeal before the Nebraska Supreme Court, was argued before the Court on October 5, 2000. A decision has yet to be rendered.

*C-2254            Petition of Pathnet, Inc., Washington, District of Columbia, seeking arbitration of interconnection pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252(b).*

Pathnet, Inc., filed a petition seeking arbitration of an interconnection agreement with Aliant Communications, Company, d/b/a ALLTEL, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(b), on March 24, 2000.

Two issues were arbitrated in this docket. The first issue was whether Pathnet, Inc., was required to pay for escorted access to its collocation space in the event that a separate entrance was not built. The second issue was whether Pathnet, Inc., should be obligated to pay for the conditioning of all the collocation space even though Pathnet, Inc. would occupy only a portion of that space. Pursuant to the Commission's Mediation and Arbitration Policy established in Docket No. C-1128, Progression Order No. 3, as subsequently amended, the arbitrator resolved the dispute through "final offer" arbitration. The arbitrator ruled in favor of the petitioner on both issues. An interconnection agreement conforming with this decision was executed and filed by the parties. The Commission

upheld the arbitrator's decision on both counts and approved the arbitrated interconnection agreement.

C-2256/  
PI-38            *Cost model investigation for pricing unbundled network elements (UNEs); developing zones to deaverage rates on a geographical basis; determining zones for Universal Service Fund (USF) payments; establishing a permanent funding mechanism for USF payments and determining whether all subsidies have been removed from access prices.*

In connection with our investigation in Docket No. C-2172/PI-34, the Commission, on its own motion, opened a docket directed at pricing UNEs, creating geographically deaveraged UNE zones, creating a permanent funding mechanism for the Nebraska Universal Service Fund, determining zones for USF payments, and determining whether implicit subsidies remain in access charges. On June 6, 2000, the staff released its initial proposal and general recommendations with respect to the cost models being analyzed.

In July, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in *Iowa Utilities Board, et. al. v. Federal Communications Commission, No. 96-3321, 2000 U.S. App. LEXIS 17234*, vacated an FCC rule which specifically impacted the total element long run incremental cost (TELRIC) pricing methods used in the Commission's cost model investigation. The FCC and several competitive local exchange carriers moved to stay the issuance of the mandate until the Supreme Court reviews the merits of the case. The stay was granted and the United States Supreme Court is expected to address these issues during their winter session. Because of the volatility of the FCC's TELRIC rules, the Commission requested extra time from the FCC so that it does not implement a methodology which conflicts with FCC rules.

C-2328            *Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P., Overland Park, Kansas, seeking arbitration of interconnection rates, terms, conditions and related arrangements with US West Communications, Inc., Denver, Colorado.*

In June, Sprint Communications Company L.P. filed a petition seeking arbitration of interconnection rates, terms, conditions and related arrangements with US West Communications, Inc. In its petition, Sprint identified six general issues for which it sought resolution. One of the major issues was whether Qwest should pay Sprint reciprocal compensation payments for traffic delivered to enhanced service providers on Sprint's network. Another major issue is whether Qwest can limit its provision of unbundled network elements (UNEs) to only those elements that are already combined or whether it must make all UNEs available to Sprint that are ordinarily or normally combined by Qwest in its network. Qwest subsequently filed an answer to Sprint's petition and stated its position towards these issues. Two of the six issues have been settled through negotiations between Sprint and Qwest. The parties have appointed an arbitrator and the initial hearing on the remaining issues has been scheduled.

Following the arbitrator's decision on this matter, the parties will be required to submit an interconnection agreement to the Commission in conformance with the arbitrator's decision. The

Commission will review that interconnection agreement and determine whether it meets the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

*C-2370/PI-41 The Commission, on its own motion, seeking to investigate the status of directory assistance in Nebraska.*

Due to the growing number of complaints in this area, the Commission, on its own motion, opened Docket No. C-2370/PI-41 on August 22, 2000, to conduct an investigation into the status of directory assistance in Nebraska. A data request was sent to all telecommunications carriers holding operating authority within the state. Among other things, the Commission questioned how often subscriber databases were revised to correct for mistakes and omissions.

The objective of this investigation is to discover the origin of the current problems with directory assistance and to potentially establish minimum quality of service standards on directory assistance providers. The Commission is currently analyzing the responses of the carriers along with analyzing the various suggested means of improving the quality of directory assistance service.

## **2. Local Competition**

### **A. Competitive Local Exchange Carriers**

The Commission has promulgated rules setting forth the requirements that a carrier must fulfill to be issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide local exchange services. The following companies received new or extended authority during the 1999-2000 fiscal year to provide local service in the corresponding territories in Nebraska:

<b>Carrier</b>	<b>Territory to be Served</b>	<b>Granted Authority</b>
@link Networks, Inc.	Qwest, Sprint/United	01/04/00
Advanced TelCom Group, Inc.	Statewide	08/15/00
BlueStar Networks, Inc.	Qwest, Citizens, ALLTEL, Sprint/United	03/14/00
CI <sup>2</sup> , Inc.	Qwest, ALLTEL, Citizens	12/15/99
CCCNE, Inc., d/b/a Connect!	Qwest	03/14/00
Central Nebraska Telephone & Equipment, Inc.	Statewide	11/04/99

<b>Carrier</b>	<b>Territory to be Served</b>	<b>Granted Authority</b>
Comm South Companies, Inc.	Qwest, Citizens, ALLTEL, Sprint/United	05/02/00
Community Internet Systems, Inc.	Statewide	05/31/00
Computer Business Sciences, Inc.	Statewide	11/04/99
Concert Communications Sales, LLC	Qwest, ALLTEL, Citizens, Sprint/United	08/10/99
DIECA Communications, Inc., d/b/a Covad Communications Company	ALLTEL, Qwest	06/14/00
Eschelon Telecom, Inc.	Statewide	08/01/00
Global Crossing Telemanagement, Inc.	Qwest, Citizens	01/04/00
Integra Telecom of Nebraska, Inc.	Qwest, Citizens, ALLTEL, Sprint/United	03/28/00
KMC Telecom IV, Inc.	ALLTEL, Citizens, Sprint/United, Qwest	03/28/00
KMC Telecom V, Inc.	Statewide	09/12/00
MVX.COM Communications, Inc.	Statewide	07/18/00
Maxcess, Inc.	Statewide	08/01/00
Maverix.net, Inc.	Statewide	09/12/00
NET-tel Corporation	Qwest, Citizens, Sprint/United	09/29/99
Nebraska Supercomm, LLC	Statewide	10/26/99
New Edge Networks, Inc.	Statewide	12/21/99
New Path Holdings, Inc.	Statewide	05/24/00
NorthPoint Communications, Inc.	Statewide	05/16/00
NOW Communications, Inc.	Statewide	06/29/00
OneStar Long Distance, Inc.	Statewide	07/11/00
Panhandle Networx, LLC	Statewide	10/19/99

<b>Carrier</b>	<b>Territory to be Served</b>	<b>Granted Authority</b>
Pathnet, Inc.	Statewide	12/21/99
Rhythms Links, Inc.	Statewide	09/08/99
Tin Can Communications, LLC	Qwest, Citizens, Sprint/United, ALLTEL	03/14/00
Universal Access, Inc.	Statewide	07/11/00
Utilicorp Communications Services, Inc.	Statewide, except Arapahoe, Benkelman, Cozad, Henderson and Wauneta	08/29/00

There are currently 67 carriers who have received certificates of public convenience and necessity to provide competitive local exchange services in Nebraska. However, not all 67 carriers are currently offering local service in Nebraska.

## **B. Interconnection Agreements**

Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, a company wanting to compete with a local exchange carrier (LEC) needs to enter into an interconnection agreement with the LEC in whose territory it wishes to offer service. A company may reach an interconnection agreement with a LEC in one of three ways: 1) It may voluntarily negotiate an interconnection agreement; 2) Request adoption of a Commission-approved interconnection agreement in accordance with Section 252(i) of the Act; or 3) Ask for mediation or arbitration if voluntary negotiations are not successful at reaching a mutually-acceptable interconnection agreement. All interconnection agreements that have been approved by the Commission can be found on the Commission's web site at <http://www.nol.org/home/NPSC>. The agreements are divided into the following three sections: 1) voluntarily-negotiated interconnection agreements; 2) Section 252(i) interconnection agreements; and 3) arbitrated interconnection agreements.

## **3. Outage Reports**

Reports are required to be filed with the Commission by LECs when service outages are experienced. The report provides the date and time of the outage, the geographic area affected, the cause of the outage, if known, and an estimate of the access lines affected. Within five days, a final report is filed showing the number of customer trouble reports received related to the outage and the

corrective action taken. The following tables show the number of service outages and causes, as well as the total number of outages and access lines affected during the past four years.

	<b>Cable Cuts</b>	<b>Telephone Equipment Malfunction</b>	<b>Weather</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
<b>1996-1997</b>	40	33	8	6	0	12
<b>1997-1998</b>	98	33	12	4	4	13
<b>1998-1999</b>	90	43	6	3	3	11
<b>1999-2000</b>	62	17	4	9	11	21

	<b>Total Service Outages</b>	<b>Total Affected Access Lines</b>	<b>Average Number of Access Lines Affected per Outage</b>
<b>1996-1997</b>	99	244,899	2,474
<b>1997-1998</b>	164	199,900	1,219
<b>1998-1999</b>	156	225,248	1,444
<b>1999-2000</b>	124	276,261	2,228

## **4. Telecommunications Relay Services**

Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) is a telephone transmission service that provides the ability for a person who has a hearing or speech impairment to engage in communication by wire or radio with a hearing person in a manner that is functionally equivalent to someone without such a disability. Such a definition includes services that enable two-way communication between an individual who uses a TTY (text telephone) or other non-voice terminal device and an individual who does not have such a device. Communications Assistants (CAs) transmit (relay) written communication from a text telephone or other non-voice terminal device to a person using a standard telephone. The person using the standard telephone speaks to the CA who transmits the message to the hearing impaired individual. The relay is funded through a monthly surcharge on all access lines, including cellular lines. The monthly surcharge was \$.10 cents per access line in 1993 and 1994. It was \$.07 cents in 1995, 1996 and 1997. In 1998, the surcharge was reduced to \$.06 cents and was reduced to its current level of \$.05 cents in 1999 and 2000.

In 1995, the Legislature created the Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program which enables qualifying deaf, hard-of-hearing and/or speech impaired low income citizens to obtain specialized telecommunications equipment at reduced rates. Funded by the relay surcharge, expensive telecommunications equipment, such as text telephones, amplifiers and signaling devices have been made available to low income, deaf, hard-of-hearing and/or speech impaired consumers. Since inception of the program in April 1996, \$352,161 has been spent on specialized telecommunications equipment for low income individuals. 629 households have been served during this same period.

### **Recent Developments in Telecommunications Relay Services - State Level**

- Effective with the 1999 Nebraska legislative session, LB 359 resulted in the income guidelines being eliminated for the Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program. Individuals applying for the program now have only to provide a professional's certification of the individual's impairment.
- Hamilton Telecommunications installed Turbocode on June 17, 2000. Turbocode is an enhanced transmission protocol that sends and receives as fast as you type versus the older Baudot code. The older Baudot code has a maximum 60 words per minute with no allowances for interruptions. Turbocode technology allows the CA to transmit over 100 words per minute. There are currently 13 state relays that provide Turbocode to their consumers.
- As a result of *CC Docket 98-67, FCC 00-56, In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, the following services will be made available on or before December 21, 2000:

1. The Hamilton relay center will begin providing 60 wpm typing service as part of its relay service;
  2. Speech-to-Speech will be provided through Hamilton's Wisconsin Relay Center; and
  3. Spanish-to-Spanish will also be provided through Hamilton's Wisconsin Relay Center.
- 711 issues are being explored to encourage greater utilization of the relay for all users. 711 is an abbreviated dialing arrangement to facilitate more efficient access to the state relay facility. Compliance for statewide implementation is required by October 1, 2001.

### **Recent Developments in Telecommunications Relay Services - Federal Level**

1. *Update on Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking CC Docket 98-67, FCC No. 00-56 released March 6, 2000 (TRS Order), In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities. (See also Order On Reconsideration, CC Docket 98-67, FCC No. 00-200 released June 5, 2000. This order amended the effective dates for compliance with most of the amended rules adopted in the TRS Order).*

In January 1997, the FCC released a *Notice of Inquiry* (NOI) on the quality of TRS service. Selected highlights of the Order are as follows:

- The definition of TRS now extends to STS (Speech-to-Speech), VRS (Video Relay Services) and non-English language relay services. Non-English relay is defined as TRS that allows persons with hearing or speech disabilities who use languages other than English, to communicate with voice telephone users in a shared language other than English, through a CA who is fluent in that language;
- Common carriers provide STS and interstate Spanish (Spanish-to-Spanish) relay services by March 1, 2001. STS is an improved TRS service that utilizes specially-trained CAs who understand the speech patterns of persons with speech disabilities to relay or "voice" for persons with such disabilities;
- VRS is not required, but encouraged by permitting recovery of intrastate and interstate calls from the interstate TRS fund. VRS is defined as a TRS service that allows people with hearing or speech disabilities who use sign language to communicate with voice telephone users through video equipment. The link allows the CA to view and interpret the party's signed conversation and relay the conversation back and forth with a voice caller;
- Modifications to the speed-of-answer requirement now require the measurement on a daily basis and the 10-second speed-of-answer time frame must begin when a call initially arrives at the TRS provider's network. Abandoned calls shall be included in the speed-of-answer calculation;

- A minimum typing speed of 60 wpm is required for CAs to speed the transmission of calls using TTYs. The FCC record noted that TRS providers can also employ technology such as speech recognition or auto-correct software to otherwise attain the 60 wpm equivalence;
- Additional rules governing STS calls include maintaining frequently called numbers and information by the relay beyond the duration of the call;
- The Commission's informal complaint process for TRS complaints be adopted;
- States and interstate TRS providers maintain a log of consumer complaints that allege a violation of the minimum standards and annually report to the FCC the number of complaints received;

In the *Further Notice* (TRS Order), comment was also sought on:

- Establishment of a national education campaign to increase awareness of TRS among all callers, not just those with disabilities;
- Whether a separate nationwide 800 number for STS relay service be provided and;
- Whether TRS providers should have access to Signaling System #7 (SS7) technology to better handle emergency calls, be compatible with Caller ID and to improve billing and delivery of relay services.

With the exception of effective dates explicitly referenced above, compliance to the amendments to this Order are by December 21, 2000.

2. *Second Report and Order CC Docket 92-105; FCC No. 00-257* released August 9, 2000 *The Use of N11 Codes and Other Abbreviated Dialing Arrangements.*

The FCC amended its regulations to require all providers of telephone service in the United States to provide toll-free access to telecommunications relay services by dialing 711. 711 must access all types of relay services in accordance with the Commission's minimum service-quality standards for TRS. Compliance for wireline, wireless and payphone providers with this order is required by October 1, 2001.

The following table displays statistics that reflect the operation of the Nebraska Relay System since its inception January 1, 1991.

**Nebraska Relay System  
Usage Statistics**

Month	Calls	Minutes	Converted Minutes	Average Minutes Per Call	Monthly Cost		Surcharge Revenue at \$.05	Surcharge Revenue at \$.06	Surcharge Revenue at \$.07	Surcharge Revenue at \$.08	Surcharge Revenue at \$.10
					TRS Program	Equipment Program					
Jan 91	5,243	33,453	33,453	6.38	\$44,081				\$51,213		
Feb	5,112	36,197	40,075	7.08	47,380				52,678		
Mar	5,530	38,219	38,219	6.91	49,803				52,849		
Apr	5,260	40,144	41,482	7.63	49,427				53,182		
May	6,119	42,362	42,362	6.92	47,173				52,414		
Jun	5,758	41,066	42,435	7.13	52,608				54,239		
Jul	5,931	42,505	42,505	7.17	47,167				53,761		
Aug	6,639	45,908	45,908	6.91	50,565				53,689		
Sep	6,472	47,169	48,741	7.29	51,953				54,052		
Oct	7,178	50,058	50,058	6.97	54,755				54,163		
Nov	7,628	50,684	52,373	6.64	55,135				54,277		
Dec	6,954	43,785	43,785	6.30	48,287				54,385		
Jan 92	7,514	53,218	53,218	7.08	54,922					\$60,829	
Feb	7,310	50,862	54,370	6.96	52,450					62,179	
Mar	8,665	57,264	57,264	6.61	60,178					62,535	
Apr	8,635	56,624	58,511	6.56	59,734					62,803	
May	9,085	58,115	58,115	6.40	61,255					62,919	
Jun	9,321	63,053	65,155	6.76	66,340					62,909	
Jul	9,618	62,667	62,667	6.52	67,178					63,241	
Aug	10,238	64,494	64,494	6.30	66,550					63,387	
Sep	9,385	64,989	67,155	6.92	68,473					65,134	
Oct	9,577	65,928	65,928	6.88	69,493					65,839	
Nov	9,114	65,319	67,496	7.17	68,795					66,071	
Dec	9,519	67,768	67,768	7.12	71,275					66,283	
Jan 93	10,373	78,957	78,957	7.61	78,515						\$84,850
Feb	9,514	71,133	78,754	7.48	70,843						83,572
Mar	11,442	85,048	85,048	7.43	82,381						83,912
Apr	11,196	78,965	81,597	7.05	78,670						84,307
May	10,801	72,888	72,888	6.75	72,273						84,581
Jun	10,408	74,576	77,062	7.17	74,291						84,905
Jul	10,755	75,559	75,559	7.03	71,799						85,169
Aug	10,986	77,727	77,727	7.08	63,599						85,375
Sep	10,947	78,905	81,535	7.21	64,254						86,103
Oct	11,597	84,077	84,077	7.25	67,821						88,176
Nov	11,623	84,359	87,171	7.26	66,414						88,632

Dec	12,003	85,532	85,532	7.13	70,025							89,458
Jan 94	9,450	90,178	90,178	9.54	73,453							90,409
Feb	11,774	82,179	90,984	6.98	67,930							91,061
Mar	13,104	90,363	90,363	6.90	74,945							91,595
Apr	13,230	91,737	94,795	6.93	74,286							92,166
May	14,067	94,585	94,585	6.72	75,698							93,673
Jun	13,316	87,503	90,420	6.57	71,225							93,160
Jul	13,114	86,723	86,723	6.61	69,641							93,966
Aug	14,215	94,426	94,426	6.64	77,204							94,465
Sep	13,128	87,909	90,839	6.70	72,104							95,368
Oct	13,460	86,032	86,032	6.39	69,272							95,725
Nov	14,605	90,868	93,897	6.22	73,582							96,697
Dec	15,461	101,593	101,593	6.57	76,226							97,093
Jan 95	15,096	103,226	103,226	6.84	76,197				73,780			
Feb	12,900	85,937	95,144	6.66	63,587				69,815			
Mar	15,563	104,597	104,597	6.72	76,410				70,824			
Apr	14,896	99,780	103,106	6.70	75,568				70,873			
May	16,714	108,346	108,346	6.48	77,773				71,473			
Jun	16,130	103,240	106,682	6.40	76,026				72,180			
Jul	15,851	101,543	101,543	6.41	75,001				72,638			

**Nebraska Relay System  
Usage Statistics**

Month	Calls	Minutes	Converted Minutes	Average Minutes Per Call	Monthly Cost		Surcharge Revenue at \$.05	Surcharge Revenue at \$.06	Surcharge Revenue at \$.07	Surcharge Revenue at \$.08	Surcharge Revenue at \$.10
					TRS Program	Equipment Program					
Aug	16,049	103,802	103,802	6.47	\$76,723				\$72,997		
Sep	14,611	92,501	95,584	6.33	70,201				73,508		
Oct	14,905	95,463	95,463	6.40	72,556				74,112		
Nov	15,274	96,948	100,180	6.35	73,683				74,444		
Dec	14,780	98,677	98,677	6.68	75,011				75,614		
Jan 96	16,71	116,64	116,640	6.98	84,926				76,432		

	3	0									
Feb	15,227	105,033	116,286	6.90	78,921				77,104		
Mar	17,025	117,286	117,286	6.89	83,194				79,152		
Apr	17,016	112,339	116,084	6.60	79,178	\$ 3,229			78,459		
May	17,302	117,276	117,276	6.78	82,911	13,525			79,056		
Jun	16,638	112,724	116,482	6.78	81,091	7,641			79,784		
Jul	17,290	113,706	113,706	6.58	79,184	19,448			80,262		
Aug	17,574	114,690	114,690	6.53	80,845	10,994			81,509		
Sep	16,747	111,173	114,878	6.64	80,414	2,465			81,206		
Oct	17,765	116,725	116,725	6.57	81,708	3,898			81,456		
Nov	16,729	113,255	117,030	6.77	82,134	6,954			82,193		
Dec	16,736	112,816	112,816	6.74	79,204	9,017			84,028		
Jan 97	18,846	128,819	128,819	6.84	92,336	0			84,598		
Feb	17,606	123,677	136,928	7.02	88,666	7,033			85,146		
Mar	18,657	125,025	125,025	6.70	88,726	4,728			85,710		
Apr	17,979	119,541	123,525	6.65	84,762	8,857			86,492		
May	17,841	120,129	120,129	6.73	93,268	2,442			82,756		
Jun	19,781	131,689	136,079	6.66	100,864	3,349			87,524		
Jul	19,321	133,714	133,714	6.92	77,779	9,048			87,927		
Aug	20,182	134,831	134,831	6.68	79,903	4,390			88,326		
Sep	19,056	121,306	125,350	6.37	70,291	1,692			89,483		
Oct	19,582	126,834	126,834	6.48	73,830	1,412			89,598		
Nov	18,717	122,245	126,320	6.53	70,646	2,157			90,400		
Dec	19,295	125,655	125,655	6.51	73,128	2,937			91,040		
Jan 98	19,182	124,389	124,389	6.48	73,607	2,180		\$81,084			
Feb	17,105	111,317	123,244	6.51	65,438	951		78,671			

Mar	20,712	137,052	137,052	6.62	79,940	4,986		79,603			
Apr	18,662	117,377	121,290	6.29	65,872	2,011		80,797			
May	17,831	110,088	110,088	6.17	62,894	2,804		81,037			
Jun	18,419	119,269	123,244	6.48	68,129	1,082		81,524			
Jul	18,930	123,015	123,015	6.50	68,606	3,300		82,038			
Aug	18,938	126,101	126,101	6.66	72,002	1,119		82,480			
Sep	18,052	117,064	120,966	6.48	67,150	6,311		82,826			
Oct	18,864	119,203	119,203	6.32	67,746	1,505		83,265			
Nov	17,722	114,304	118,114	6.45	65,028	4,455		83,333			
Dec	18,065	119,099	119,099	6.59	67,336	1,244		83,934			
Jan 99	18,028	119,766	119,766	6.64	68,363	3,563	\$72,500				
Feb	17,829	116,366	128,834	6.53	67,292	5,282	72,902				
Mar	19,203	128,518	128,518	6.69	75,648	108	72,650				
Apr	18,267	116,614	120,502	6.38	68,127	7,296	72,959				
May	18,481	118,266	118,266	6.40	68,090	1,575	73,616				
Jun	19,269	124,745	128,903	6.47	71,052	202	73,566				
Jul	17,353	114,593	114,593	6.60	71,346	5,368	73,638				
Aug	18,180	116,089	116,089	6.39	70,007	215	74,425				
Sep	15,761	101,582	104,968	6.45	64,882	34,426	74,557				
Oct	16,018	102,192	102,192	6.38	66,084	33,249	74,840				
Nov	15,620	101,250	104,625	6.48	63,902	65,685	75,149				
Dec	18,840	116,445	116,445	6.18	66,258	28,728	76,063				
Jan 00	18,726	117,845	117,845	6.29	66,887	8,577	77,303				
Feb	17,529	111,299	118,975	6.35	69,032	989	76,194				
Mar	19,650	130,069	130,069	6.62	74,419	622	76,849				
Apr	17,14	107,24	110,816	6.25	60,078	86	77,314				

	7	2								
May	18,205	113,954	113,954	6.26	63,055	0	77,196			
Jun	17,582	109,246	112,888	6.21	62,378	0	77,979			

## 5. Extended Area Service

Extended Area Service (EAS) allows customers in one exchange to place calls to and receive calls from another exchange without paying long distance charges. The Commission recently amended its rules and regulations relating to EAS and is awaiting approval of such changes from the Governor. Some of the major changes to the current rules include:

- ! A petition seeking to establish EAS must contain the signatures of 25 percent of an exchange’s accounts or 750, whichever is less. Under the old rules, signatures from 15 percent of an exchange’s customers or 750 were needed.
- ! To determine if sufficient traffic exists to establish EAS, certain criteria must be met in at least two of the three most recent months for which data is available. The old rules provided that the criteria must be met in all three months.
- ! The new rules allow for a telephone company to file an Optional Enhanced Area Calling Plan (OEACP).
- ! Informational meetings must be held in the petitioning exchange to inform the public of the proposed rates for EAS and to assess the public’s interest in receiving EAS.
- ! Following an unsuccessful attempt at implementing EAS, additional attempts are barred for 12 months, rather than 24 months as stated in the old rules.
- ! When put to a vote, EAS must receive the support of more than 50 percent of those voting. The previous rule required support from more than 50 percent of the customers eligible to vote.

Since July 1999, EAS petitions have been filed by residents of the following communities:

Petitioning Exchange	Community Requested in the EAS Petition
Mead	Fremont
Miller	Kearney
Center	Creighton
Center	Verdigre

Of the four petitions filed with the Commission, three were dismissed (one at the request of the petitioning exchange, one after introduction of an enhanced local calling plan and one because the criteria was not met) and one is still pending.

## 6. 911/E-911 Information

The increased use of wireless users necessitates the need for emergency service providers to identify locations of these users to respond in a timely manner. Currently, most 911 emergency service agencies cannot identify the geographic location or telephone number of the wireless caller. This is a potentially dangerous occurrence if the 911 dispatcher cannot reestablish contact with the calling party to facilitate the service.

The FCC's enhanced 911 (E-911) rules are intended to improve the effectiveness and reliability of wireless 911 services. Wireless carriers are required to provide emergency dispatchers information on the location from which a call is made. The E-911 requirements are divided into two phases. Phase I requires carriers to deliver to the emergency center the telephone number of a wireless handset originating a 911 call, as well as the cell site or base station location receiving the 911 call, roughly giving an indication of the caller's location. Phase II requires the delivery of the latitude and longitude, known as Automatic Location Identification (ALI), to the dispatcher. The *E-911 Third Report and Order*, released September 1999, established Phase II deployment schedules.

As a result of the adopted *Fourth Memorandum Opinion and Order*, the FCC has adjusted its rules to facilitate nationwide deployment of enhanced wireless 911 services. Highlights of the rule modifications for wireless carriers using handset-based ALI solutions include the following:

- The Commission extends from March 1, 2001, to October 1, 2001, the date for carriers to begin selling and activating ALI-capable handsets;

The following rule adjustments for new handset activations:

- Eliminates the previous rule requiring phase-in that was triggered by a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) request;
- By December 31, 2001, at least 25 percent of all new handsets activated are to be ALI-capable;
- By June 30, 2002, 50 percent of all new handsets activated are to be ALI-capable;
- By December 31, 2002, and thereafter, 100 percent of all new digital handsets activated are to be ALI-capable.

The following rule adjustments for handset penetration:

- Extends from December 31, 2004, to December 31, 2005, the date for wireless carriers to reach full penetration of ALI-capable handsets for their subscriber bases;

- Modifies the operational definition of full penetration to “reasonable efforts” of 100 percent penetration by specifying that 95 percent of all handsets in a carrier’s subscriber base be ALI-capable.

In addition, on or before November 9, 2000, carriers are to file reports regarding their E-911 Phase II implementation plans. The carrier reports are designed to aid the FCC in monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation schedule, as well as coordinate efforts between carriers and other parties. Specifics of the reporting requirements are contained in *CC Docket No. 94-102*.

For carriers who chose to deploy a network-based solution, the carriers must provide Phase II service to 50 percent of callers within six months of a PSAP request and 100 percent to callers within 18 months of the PSAP request.

For further information on these issues contact Daniel Grosh at (202) 418-1310; TTY at (202) 418-7233, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Policy Division.

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Adams	ALLTEL		X	0.50	301.38	Beatrice	No
Alexandria	ALLTEL		X	0.50	80.75	Hebron	No
Ashland	ALLTEL		X	0.50	1,221.13	Wahoo	No
Auburn	ALLTEL		X	0.50	1,367.01	Auburn	No
Avoca	ALLTEL		X	1.00	227.46	Plattsmouth	No
Barneston	ALLTEL		X	0.50	93.47	Beatrice	No
Beatrice	ALLTEL		X	0.75	6,306.04	Beatrice	No
Beaver Crossing	ALLTEL		X	1.00	354.82	Seward	No
Bellwood	ALLTEL		X	1.00	410.21	David City	No
Benedict	ALLTEL		X	0.50	130.35	York	Yes
Bennet	ALLTEL		X	0.50	301.54	Lincoln	No
Bradshaw	ALLTEL		X	0.50	136.37	York	Yes
Brainard	ALLTEL		X	1.00	392.00	David City	No
Brock	ALLTEL		X	0.50	67.07	Auburn	No
Brownville	ALLTEL		X	0.50	93.23	Auburn	No
Bruning	ALLTEL		X	0.50	152.99	Hebron	No
Bruno	ALLTEL		X	1.00	204.15	David City	No
Burchard	ALLTEL		X	0.60	111.78	Tecumseh	Yes
Burr	ALLTEL		X	0.50	54.73	Nebraska City	No
Carleton	ALLTEL		X	0.50	64.69	Hebron	No
Cedar Bluffs	ALLTEL		X	0.50	251.22	Wahoo	No
Ceresco	ALLTEL		X	0.50	287.38	Wahoo	No
Clatonia	ALLTEL		X	0.50	155.14	Beatrice	No
Clay Center	ALLTEL		X	0.50	330.23	Clay Center	No
Colon	ALLTEL		X	0.50	66.13	Wahoo	No
Cook	ALLTEL		X	0.50	160.85	Tecumseh	No
Cordova	ALLTEL		X	1.00	128.77	Seward	No
Cortland	ALLTEL		X	0.50	181.09	Beatrice	No
Crab Orchard	ALLTEL		X	0.50	36.64	Tecumseh	No
Crete	ALLTEL		X	0.50	1,656.07	Crete	No
Davenport	ALLTEL		X	0.50	167.63	Hebron	No
Davey	ALLTEL		X	0.50	193.79	Lincoln	No
David City	ALLTEL		X	1.00	1,945.61	David City	No
Dawson	ALLTEL		X	0.50	105.27	Tecumseh	Yes
Daykin	ALLTEL		X	1.00	223.73	Fairbury	No
Denton	ALLTEL		X	0.50	210.17	Lincoln	No
Deweese	ALLTEL		X	0.50	62.65	Clay Center	No

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
DeWitt	ALLTEL		X	0.50	238.55	Wilber	Yes
Dorchester	ALLTEL		X	0.50	222.16	Wilber	Yes
Douglas	ALLTEL		X	0.50	104.03	Nebraska City	No
DuBois	ALLTEL		X	0.60	87.53	Tecumseh	Yes
Dunbar	ALLTEL		X	0.50	138.38	Nebraska City	No
Dwight	ALLTEL		X	1.00	200.31	David City	No
Eagle	ALLTEL		X	0.50	429.77	Lincoln	No
Edgar	ALLTEL		X	0.50	195.03	Clay Center	No
Elmwood	ALLTEL		X	1.00	514.42	Plattsmouth	No
Exeter	ALLTEL		X	0.75	367.22	Geneva	No
Fairbury	ALLTEL		X	1.00	3,245.47	Fairbury	No
Fairfield	ALLTEL		X	0.50	166.76	Clay Center	No
Fairmont	ALLTEL		X	0.75	323.59	Geneva	No
Filley	ALLTEL		X	0.50	129.07	Beatrice	No
Firth	ALLTEL		X	0.50	229.43	Lincoln	No
Friend	ALLTEL		X	0.50	414.45	Wilber	Yes
Garland	ALLTEL		X	1.00	255.62	Seward	No
Geneva	ALLTEL		X	0.75	1,384.53	Geneva	No
Glenvil	ALLTEL		X	0.50	163.47	Clay Center	No
Grafton	ALLTEL		X	0.75	105.44	Geneva	No
Greenwood	ALLTEL		X	0.50	150.36	Lincoln	No
Gresham	ALLTEL		X	0.50	128.35	York	Yes
Guide Rock	ALLTEL	X		0.00	0.00	Guide Rock	No
Hallam	ALLTEL		X	0.50	109.39	Lincoln	No
Hansen	ALLTEL		X	0.50	150.88	Hastings	Yes
Hardy	ALLTEL		X	0.50	65.90	Nelson	No
Harvard	ALLTEI		X	0.50	271.82	Clay Center	No
Hastings	ALLTEL		X	0.50	7,376.71	Hastings	Yes
Hebron	ALLTEL		X	0.50	683.73	Hebron	No
Hickman	ALLTEL		X	0.50	399.86	Lincoln	No
Humboldt	ALLTEL		X	0.50	425.01	Tecumseh	Yes
Ithaca	ALLTEL		X	0.50	75.65	Wahoo	No
Jansen	ALLTEL		X	1.00	158.84	Fairbury	No
Johnson	ALLTEL		X	0.50	177.89	Auburn	No
Julian	ALLTEL		X	0.50	39.48	Auburn	No
Juniata	ALLTEL		X	0.50	307.94	Hastings	Yes
Kenesaw	ALLTEL		X	0.50	251.78	Hastings	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Liberty	ALLTEL		X	0.50	83.93	Beatrice	No
Lincoln	ALLTEL		X	0.50	67,748.05	Lincoln	No
Louisville	ALLTEL		X	1.00	1,283.16	Plattsmouth	No
Malcolm	ALLTEL		X	0.50	247.05	Lincoln	No
Martell	ALLTEL		X	0.50	161.01	Lincoln	No
McCool Junction	ALLTEL		X	0.50	204.05	York	No
Mead	ALLTEL		X	0.50	225.52	Wahoo	No
Milford	ALLTEL		X	1.00	1,486.05	Seward	No
Milligan	ALLTEL		X	0.75	222.51	Geneva	No
Murdock	ALLTEL		X	1.00	307.11	Plattsmouth	No
Murray	ALLTEL		X	1.00	1,310.99	Plattsmouth	No
Nebraska City	ALLTEL		X	0.50	2,427.88	Nebraska City	No
Nehawka	ALLTEL		X	1.00	254.33	Plattsmouth	No
Nelson	ALLTEL		X	0.50	304.60	Nelson	No
Nemaha	ALLTEL		X	0.50	66.59	Auburn	No
Octavia	ALLTEL		X	1.00	111.18	David City	No
Ohiova	ALLTEL		X	0.75	114.89	Geneva	No
Ong	ALLTEL		X	0.50	38.63	Clay Center	No
Osceola	ALLTEL	X		0.50	422.10	Osceola	No
Otoe	ALLTEL		X	0.50	67.76	Nebraska City	No
Palmyra	ALLTEL		X	0.50	271.04	Nebraska City	No
Panama	ALLTEL		X	0.50	124.14	Lincoln	No
Pawnee City	ALLTEL		X	0.60	500.33	Tecumseh	Yes
Peru	ALLTEL		X	0.50	275.88	Auburn	No
Pickrell	ALLTEL		X	0.50	187.57	Beatrice	No
Plattsmouth	ALLTEL		X	1.00	4,992.52	Plattsmouth	No
Pleasant Dale	ALLTEL		X	0.50	133.97	Lincoln	No
Plymouth	ALLTEL		X	1.00	436.80	Fairbury	Yes
Polk	ALLTEL	X		0.50	191.17	Osceola	No
Raymond	ALLTEL		X	0.50	202.39	Lincoln	No
Rising City	ALLTEL		X	1.00	321.07	David City	No
Ruskin	ALLTEL		X	0.50	75.66	Nelson	No
S. Barneston, KS	ALLTEL		X	0.50	3.18	Beatrice	No
S. Liberty, KS	ALLTEL		X	0.50	13.18	Beatrice	No
S. Superior, KS	ALLTEL		X	0.50	1.91	Nelson	No
S. Hardy, KS	ALLTEL		X	0.50	24.41	Nelson	No
Seward	ALLTEL		X	1.00	4,143.39	Seward	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Shelby	ALLTEL	X		0.50	277.41	Osceola	No
Shickley	ALLTEL		X	0.75	267.60	Geneva	No
Steele City	ALLTEL		X	1.00	87.17	Fairbury	No
Steinauer	ALLTEL		X	0.60	69.79	Nelson	Yes
Sterling	ALLTEL		X	0.50	237.47	Tecumseh	No
Stromsburg	ALLTEL	X		0.50	483.43	Osceola	No
Superior	ALLTEL		X	0.50	838.15	Nelson	No
Surprise	ALLTEL		X	1.00	92.97	David City	No
Sutton	ALLTEL		X	0.50	554.47	Clay Center	No
Swanton	ALLTEL		X	0.50	53.01	Wilber	Yes
Syracuse	ALLTEL		X	0.50	697.63	Nebraska City	No
Table Rock	ALLTEL		X	0.60	154.95	Tecumseh	Yes
Talmage	ALLTEL		X	0.50	111.18	Nebraska City	No
Tamora	ALLTEL		X	1.00	203.16	Seward	No
Tecumseh	ALLTEL		X	0.50	711.94	Tecumseh	No
Tobias	ALLTEL		X	0.50	74.22	Wilber	No
Unadilla	ALLTEL		X	0.50	146.02	Nebraska City	No
Union	ALLTEL		X	1.00	412.68	Plattsmouth	No
Utica	ALLTEL		X	1.00	564.66	Seward	No
Valparaiso	ALLTEL		X	0.50	246.23	Lincoln	No
Waco	ALLTEL		X	0.50	198.54	York	Yes
Wahoo	ALLTEL		X	0.50	1,360.28	Wahoo	No
Waverly	ALLTEL		X	0.50	634.62	Lincoln	No
Weeping Water	ALLTEL		X	1.00	914.62	Plattsmouth	No
Western	ALLTEL		X	0.50	122.89	Wilber	Yes
Wilber	ALLTEL		X	0.50	608.66	Wilber	Yes
Wymore	ALLTEL		X	0.50	592.07	Beatrice	Yes
York	ALLTEL		X	0.50	2,931.40	York	Yes
Yutan	ALLTEL		X	0.50	394.90	Wahoo	No
Bellevue	ALLTEL-CLEC		X	1.00	498.64	Sarpy County	Yes
Fremont	ALLTEL-CLEC		X	0.50	9.37	Dodge County	Yes
Grand Island	ALLTEL-CLEC		X	0.50	657.97	Hall County	Yes
Omaha	ALLTEL-CLEC		X	0.50	1,912.13	Douglas Co.	Yes
Arapahoe	Arapahoe	X		1.00	863.00	Beaver City	Yes
Brule	Arapahoe	X		1.00	353.00	Ogallala	Yes
Farnum	Arapahoe	X		0.50	102.00	Curtis	Yes
Hendley	Arapahoe	X		1.00	52.00	Beaver City	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Holbrook	Arapahoe	X		1.00	233.00	Beaver City	Yes
Loomis	Arapahoe		X	1.00	365.00	Holdrege	Yes
Overton	Arapahoe		X	1.00	540.00	Lexington	Yes
Arlington-City	Arlington		X	0.75	464.25	Arlington	Yes
Arlington-Rural	Arlington		X	1.00	489.00	Arlington	Yes
Omaha	AT&T Local		X	0.50	4,870.60	Dodge Co.	Yes
Benkelman	Benkelman	X		0.00	0.00	Benkelman	No
Blair-426 City	Blair		X	0.75	3,006.75	Blair	Yes
Blair-426 Rural	Blair		X	1.00	1,304.00	Blair	Yes
Blair-533 City	Blair		X	0.75	620.25	Blair	Yes
Blair-533 Rural	Blair		X	1.00	320.00	Blair	Yes
Ft. Calhoun-City	Blair		X	0.75	375.00	Blair	Yes
Ft. Calhoun-Rural	Blair		X	1.00	497.00	Blair	Yes
Kennard-City	Blair		X	0.75	123.75	Blair	Yes
Kennard-Rural	Blair		X	1.00	178.00	Blair	Yes
No. Summerfield	Blue Valley		X	0.00	0.00	Marysville, KS	Yes
Bartley	Cambridge	X		0.00	0.00	Bartley	No
Cambridge	Cambridge		X	1.00	1,131.00	Beaver City	Yes
Clarks	Clarks		X	1.00	463.00	Central City	Yes
Staplehurst	Clarks		X	1.00	286.00	Seward	Yes
Ulysses	Clarks		X	1.00	241.00	David City	Yes
Anselmo	Consolidated	X		0.50	117.30	Broken Bow	Yes
Arthur	Consolidated	X		0.60	138.72	Ogallala	Yes
Ashby	Consolidated	X		1.00	83.18	Ogallala	Yes
Bingham	Consolidated	X		1.00	44.79	Ogallala	Yes
Brewster	Consolidated	X		0.75	87.22	Taylor	No
Brownlee	Consolidated	X		0.50	41.40	Theford	Yes
Dunning	Consolidated	X		0.75	115.36	Taylor	No
Halsey	Consolidated	X		0.50	52.23	Theford	Yes
Hyannis	Consolidated	X		1.00	377.53	Ogallala	Yes
Merna	Consolidated	X		0.50	217.85	Broken Bow	No
Mullen	Consolidated	X		0.75	397.58	Taylor	Yes
Purdum	Consolidated	X		0.75	78.78	Taylor	No
Seneca	Consolidated	X		0.50	32.53	Theford	Yes
Theford	Consolidated	X		0.50	168.55	Theford	Yes
Whitman	Consolidated	X		1.00	134.38	Ogallala	Yes
Madrid	Consolidated	X		0.00	0.00	Grant	No

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Maywood	Consolidated		X	1.00	328.62	Curtis	Yes
Paxton	Consolidated		X	1.00	556.71	Ogallala	No
Wallace	Consolidated		X	0.50	164.80	North Platte	No
Wellfleet	Consolidated		X	1.00	121.54	Curtis	Yes
Omaha	Cox NE Telecom		X	0.50/1.00	20,304.00	Omaha	Yes
Cozad	Cozad		X	0.50	1,500.00	Cozad	Yes
Curtis	Curtis		X	1.00	800.00	Curtis	Yes
Bushnell	Dalton		X	1.00	158.00	Kimball	No
Dalton	Dalton		X	1.00	362.00	Sidney	No
Dix	Dalton		X	1.00	209.00	Kimball	No
Gurley	Dalton		X	1.00	225.00	Sidney	No
Lodgepole	Dalton		X	1.00	330.00	Sidney	No
Diller	Diller		X	1.00	296.00	Fairbury	Yes
Harbine	Diller		X	1.00	125.00	Fairbury	Yes
Odell	Diller		X	0.50	214.50	Beatrice	Yes
Virginia	Diller		X	0.50	48.00	Beatrice	Yes
Belden	Eastern		X	1.00	110.00	Hartington	Yes
Carroll	Eastern	X		0.50	143.50	Wayne	Yes
Macy	Eastern	X		1.00	322.00	Macy	Yes
Meadow Grove	Eastern	X		1.00	325.00	Madison	Yes
Osmond	Eastern	X		1.00	649.00	Osmond	No
Rosalie	Eastern	X		1.00	139.00	Pender	Yes
Walthill	Eastern	X		1.00	551.00	Walthill	Yes
Winnebago	Eastern	X		1.00	561.00	Winnebago	Yes
Elsie	Elsie	X		0.00	0.00	Grant	Yes
Eustis	Eustis		X	1.00	524.00	Curtis	Yes
Alliance	FirsTel		X	1.00	461.50	Alliance	Yes
Bellevue	FirsTel		X	1.00	100.77	Bellevue	Yes
Bennington	FirsTel		X	0.50	16.00	Douglas Co.	Yes
Bridgeport	FirsTel	X		1.00	326.57	Bridgeport	Yes
Broken Bow	FirsTel		X	0.50	33.04	Broken Bow	Yes
Central City	FirsTel		X	0.50	54.65	Central City	Yes
Chadron	FirsTel		X	1.00	372.40	Chadron	Yes
Clarkson	FirsTel	X		1.00	142.65	Schuyler	Yes
Columbus	FirsTel		X	0.50	10.00	Columbus	No
Crawford/Whitney	FirsTel		X	1.00/.50	65.66	Chadron	Yes
Dakota City/So.	FirsTel		X	1.00	167.93	Dakota City	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
David City	FirsTel		X	1.00	1.00	David City	No
Dodge	FirsTel		X	0.50	10.00	Fremont	Yes
Elkhorn/Waterloo	FirsTel		X	0.50	31.28	Douglas Co.	Yes
Elwood	FirsTel		X	0.50	27.67	Lexington	Yes
Emerson	FirsTel		X	1.00	10.90	Dakota City	Yes
Fremont	FirsTel		X	0.50	57.87	Fremont	Yes
Fullerton	FirsTel	X		0.50	21.72	Fullerton	Yes
Gothenburg	FirsTel		X	0.50	89.31	Gothenburg	Yes
Grand Island/Alda	FirsTel		X	0.50	285.41	Grand Island	Yes
Gretna	FirsTel		X	1.00	4.00	Sarpy Co.	Yes
Harrison	FirsTel		X	0.50	227.56	Harrison	Yes
Holdrege	FirsTel	X		1.00	68.26	Holdrege	No
Howells	FirsTel	X		0.50	283.64	Schuyler	Yes
Humphrey/Creston	FirsTel		X	0.50	97.66	Columbus	Yes
Kearney	FirsTel	X		1.00	18.50	Kearney	Yes
Laurel	FirsTel		X	1.00	25.88	Laurel	Yes
LaVista/Papillion	FirsTel		X	1.00	142.50	Sarpy Co.	Yes
Lexington	FirsTel		X	0.50	336.19	Lexington	Yes
Lincoln	FirsTel		X	0.50	10.10	Lincoln	No
Loup City	FirsTel		X	0.75	5.50	Taylor	Yes
Lyons	FirsTel		X	0.50	5.38	Tekamah	Yes
McCook	FirsTel	X		0.00	0.00	McCook	No
Minden	FirsTel		X	1.00	63.64	Minden	Yes
Norfolk	FirsTel		X	1.00	1,703.46	Norfolk	Yes
North Platte	FirsTel		X	0.50	507.71	North Platte	Yes
Ogallala	FirsTel		X	1.00	379.57	Ogallala	Yes
Omaha(Boystown/	FirsTel		X	0.50	6,761.28	Douglas Co.	Yes
O'Neill	FirsTel	X		0.00	3.38	O'Neill	No
Plattsmouth	FirsTel		X	0.50	4.00	Plattsmouth	No
Ralston(Boystown/	FirsTel		X	0.50	8.50	Douglas Co.	Yes
Schuyler	FirsTel	X		0.50	1,042.01	Schuyler	No
Sidney	FirsTel	X		1.00	756.35	Sidney	Yes
Silver Creek	FirsTel	X		1.00	39.13	Central City	Yes
Tekamah	FirsTel		X	0.50	8.88	Tekamah	Yes
Valentine	FirsTel	X		0.50	12.00	Valentine	No
Valley	FirsTel		X	0.50	2.50	Douglas Co.	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Wakefield	FirsTel	X		0.50	5.00	Wayne	Yes
Wayne	FirsTel	X		0.50	163.09	Wayne	No
West Point	FirsTel	X		1.00	63.73	West Point	No
Wood River	FirsTel		X	0.50	11.62	Grand Island	Yes
Norman, Holstein, Roseland, Bladen, Lawrence, Blue Hill, Upland, Campbell.	Glenwood		X	1.00	2,393.00	Campbell	Yes
Funk	Glenwood		X	1.00	322.00	Holdrege	Yes
South Ardmore	Golden West	X		0.00	0.00	Hot Springs	No
White Clay	Golden West		X	0.50	25.00	Rushville	Yes
Archer	Great Plains	X		1.00	106.00	Central City	Yes
Arnold	Great Plains	X		0.50	351.50	Broken Bow	No
Bancroft	Great Plains		X	1.00	501.00	West Point	Yes
Beemer	Great Plains		X	1.00	575.00	West Point	Yes
Belgrade	Great Plains	X		0.50	74.50	Belgrade	No
Bloomfield (Knox Co.)	Great Plains	X		1.00	1,243.00	Center	Yes
Bloomfield (Cedar Co.)	Great Plains		X	1.00	1.00	Hartington	Yes
Byron & S.	Great Plains		X	0.50	120.00	Hebron	Yes
Callaway	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Callaway	No
Cedar Rapids	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Albion	No
Center	Great Plains	X		1.00	149.00	Center	Yes
Chapman	Great Plains	X		1.00	384.00	Central City	Yes
Chester/(Hubbell)	Great Plains		X	0.50	173.00	Hebron	Yes
Chester/(Reynolds)	Great Plains		X	0.50	79.00	Fairbury	Yes
Cody/N Cody	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Valentine	Yes
Cotesfield	Great Plains		X	1.00	103.00	Saint Paul	Yes
Creighton	Great Plains	X		1.00	1,050.00	Center	Yes
Crofton (Knox Co.)	Great Plains	X		1.00	840.00	Center	Yes
Crofton (Cedar Co.)	Great Plains		X	1.00	180.00	Hartington	Yes
Crookston/N Crookston(SD)	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Valentine	No
Culbertson	Great Plains	X		0.50	295.00	Trenton	No
Deshler	Great Plains		X	0.50	356.50	Hebron	Yes
Dodge	Great Plains		X	0.50	315.00	Fremont	Yes
Elgin	Great Plains		X	0.50	401.00	Neligh	Yes
Ewing	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	O'Neill	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Gordon/N Gordan (SD)	Great Plains	X		0.50	856.00	Rushville	No
Grant	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Grant	No
Hay Springs	Great Plains	X		0.50	310.00	Rushville	No
Hayes Center (7	Great Plains	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Hayes Center	No
Herman	Great Plains	X		0.75/1.00	413.25	Blair	Yes
Imperial	Great Plains	X		1.00	2,109.00	Imperial	No
Indianola/(Red Willow County)	Great Plains	N/A	N/A		0.00	Indianola	No
Indianola/(Frontier	Great Plains	X		1.00	55.00	Curtis	No
Kilgore/N Kilgore, (SD) (7 Digit)	Great Plains	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Kilgore	No
Merriman	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Merriman	No
Mirage Flats	Great Plains	X		0.50	81.00	Rushville	No
Niabrara	Great Plains	X		1.00	600.00	Center	Yes
Niobrara/Santee Res	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Center	Yes
North Bend	Great Plains		X	0.50	514.00	Fremont	Yes
Oakdale	Great Plains		X	0.50	109.00	Neligh	Yes
Oconto	Great Plains	X		0.50	104.00	Broken Bow	No
Oconto/(Eddyville)	Great Plains	X		0.50	48.00	Lexington	Yes
Page (7 Digit)	Great Plains	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Page	No
Palisade	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Palisade	No
Petersburg	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Albion	No
Ponca	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Ponca	No
Primrose (7 digit)	Great Plains	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Albion	No
Ragan	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Ragan-Minden	No
Ragan/(Huntley)	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Huntley-Alma	No
Red Cloud/ & S Red Cloud, KS	Great Plains		X	1.00	1,216.00	Campbell	Yes
Rushville	Great Plains	X		0.50	455.00	Rushville	No
Saint Edward	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	St. Edward	No
Scribner	Great Plains		X	0.50	402.00	Fremont	Yes
Snyder	Great Plains		X	0.50	181.00	Fremont	Yes
Spalding	Great Plains	X		0.75	387.75	Taylor	Yes
Stapleton	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Stapleton	No
Stratton	Great Plains	X		0.50	182.50	Trenton	No
Sutherland	Great Plains		X	0.50	448.00	North Platte	Yes
Trenton	Great Plains	X		0.50	287.00	Trenton	No

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Tryon	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Tryon	No
Venango	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Grant	No
West Venango, CO	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Grant	No
Verdigre	Great Plains	X		1.00	529.00	Center	Yes
Walnut	Great Plains	X		1.00	70.00	Center	Yes
Wausa/(Knox Co.)	Great Plains	X		1.00	551.00	Center	Yes
Wausa/(Cedar Co.)	Great Plains	X		1.00	100.00	Hartington	Yes
Wilcox	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Minden	No
Winnetoon	Great Plains	X		1.00	131.00	Center	Yes
Wisner	Great Plains		X	1.00	1,184.00	West Point	Yes
Wolbach (7 Digit)	Great Plains	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Wolbach	No
Woodlake (911 & 7 Digit)	Great Plains	X		0.00	0.00	Valentine	Yes
Wynot/(Fordyce)	Great Plains		X	1.00	692.00	Hartington	Yes
Wynot/(St. Helena)	Great Plains		X	1.00	0.00	Hartington	Yes
Albion	GTE-Midwest	X		0.00	0.00	Albion	No
Alma	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	1,018.00	Alma	No
Amherst	GTE-Midwest	X		0.65	126.00	Kearney	No
Battle Creek	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	904.00	Madison	No
Beaver City	GTE-Midwest		X	1.00	514.00	Beaver City	No
Bertrand	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	726.00	Holdrege	Yes
Bloomington	GTE-Midwest		X	1.00	142.00	Franklin	No
Brunswick	GTE-Midwest	X		0.50	108.00	Neligh	No
Columbus	GTE-Midwest		X	0.50	6,928.00	Columbus	No
Duncan	GTE-Midwest		X	0.00	0.00	Columbus	No
Edison	GTE-Midwest		X	1.00	152.00	Beaver City	No
Franklin	GTE-Midwest		X	1.00	859.00	Franklin	No
Genoa	GTE-Midwest	X		0.50	349.00	Fullerton	Yes
Greeley	GTE-Midwest	X		0.00	0.00	Taylor	No
Heartwell	GTE-Midwest		X	0.00	0.00	Minden	No
Hildreth	GTE-Midwest		X	1.00	370.00	Franklin	No
Kearney	GTE-Midwest	X		.65	12,357.00	Kearney	Yes
Kearney	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	316.00	Kearney	Yes
Leigh	GTE-Midwest		X	1.00	453.00	Colfax	No
Leigh	GTE-Midwest		X	0.50	9.00	Columbus	No
Lindsay	GTE-Midwest		X	0.50	148.00	Columbus	No
Madison	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	1,419.00	Madison	No

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Miller	GTE-Midwest	X		0.65	79.00	Franklin	No
Monroe	GTE-Midwest		X	0.50	12.00	Columbus	No
Naponee	GTE-Midwest		X	1.00	131.00	Franklin	No
Neligh	GTE-Midwest	X		0.50	692.00	Neligh	No
Newman Grove	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	151.00	Newman Grove	No
Orchard	GTE-Midwest	X		0.50	255.00	Neligh	No
Ord	GTE-Midwest	X		0.00	0.00	Ord	No
Orleans	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	388.00	Orleans	No
Palmer	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	519.00	Central City	No
Platte Center	GTE-Midwest		X	0.50	12.00	Columbus	No
Pleasanton	GTE-Midwest	X		0.65	237.00	Kearney	No
Republican City	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	321.00	Alma	No
Riverdale	GTE-Midwest	X		0.65	139.00	Kearney	No
Stamford	GTE-Midwest	X		1.00	180.00	Alma	No
Sumner	GTE-Midwest		X	0.50	116.00	Lexington	No
Tilden	GTE-Midwest	X		0.50	459.00	Neligh	No
Wilsonville	GTE-Midwest		X	1.00	137.00	Beaver City	No
Aurora	Hamilton		X	0.50	1,907.00	Aurora	No
Doniphan	Hamilton		X	0.50	429.00	Grand Island	Yes
Giltner	Hamilton		X	0.50	184.00	Aurora	No
Hamptom	Hamilton		X	0.50	223.00	Aurora	No
Hordville	Hamilton		X	0.50	75.50	Aurora	No
Marquette	Hamilton		X	0.50	177.50	Aurora	No
Phillips	Hamilton		X	0.50	239.00	Aurora	No
Stockham	Hamilton		X	0.50	44.50	Aurora	No
Trumbull	Hamilton		X	0.50	101.50	Aurora	No
Hartington	Hartington		X	1.00	1,640.34	Hartington	Yes
Danbury	Hartman		X	0.75	18.75	Oberlin, KS	No
Haigler (911 to 7 Digit @ firehouse)	Hartman	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Haigler	No
Lebanon (911 to 7 Digit @ firehouse)	Hartman	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Lebanon	No
Hemmingford	Hemmingford		X	0.50	532.50	Alliance	Yes
Henderson	Henderson Coop		X	0.50	535.00	York	Yes
Hershey	Hershey Coop		X	0.50	423.00	Hershey	Yes
Brady	Home Telephone		X	0.50	260.50	Gothenburg	Yes
Maxwell	Home Telephone		X	0.50	186.50	North Platte	Yes
Hooper	Hooper		X	1.00	85.00	Fremont	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Hooper & Uehling	Hooper		X	0.50	613.00	Fremont	Yes
Uehling	Hooper		X	0.50	7.00	Fremont	Yes
Uehling	Hooper		X	0.50	20.00	Fremont	Yes
North Mahaska	JBN Telephone		X	0.00	0.00	Washington	Yes
Keystone	Keystone-Arthur		X	1.00	210.00	Ogallala	Yes
Lemoyne	Keystone-Arthur		X	1.00	411.00	Ogallala	Yes
Chambers	K&M	X		0.50	236.50	Chambers	Yes
Chambers	K&M	X		1.00	14.00	Chambers	Yes
Inman	K&M	X		1.00	191.00	Inman	Yes
Omaha	McLeod USA		X	1.00	599.00	Omaha	Yes
Allen	NebCom, Inc.	X		0.50	311.00	Ponca	Yes
Bristow	NebCom, Inc.	X		1.00	97.00	O'Neill	Yes
Butte	NebCom, Inc.	X		1.00	357.00	O'Neill	Yes
Decatur	NebCom, Inc.		X	0.50	218.00	Tekamah	Yes
Long Pine (7 Digit)	NebCom, Inc.	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Ainsworth	No
North Bristow, SD (10 Digit)	NebCom, Inc.	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	O'Neill	Yes
Spencer	NebCom, Inc.	X		1.00	449.00	O'Neill	Yes
Stuart	NebCom, Inc.	X		1.00	553.00	O'Neill	Yes
Waterbury	NebCom, Inc.	X		0.50	99.00	Ponca	Yes
Winside	NebCom, Inc.	X		1.00	370.00	Wayne	Yes
Ansley	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	407.00	Taylor	Yes
Arcadia	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	247.00	Taylor	Yes
Ashton	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	142.00	Taylor	Yes
Boelus	Nebraska Central		X	1.00	195.00	St. Paul	Yes
Burwell	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	1,017.00	Taylor	Yes
Comstock	Nebraska Central	X		0.50	68.00	Broken Bow	Yes
Dannebrog	Nebraska Central		X	1.00	373.00	St. Paul	Yes
Elba	Nebraska Central		X	1.00	173.00	St. Paul	Yes
Ericson	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	152.00	Taylor	Yes
Gibbon	Nebraska Central	X		0.65	892.00	Kearney	Yes
Litchfield	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	204.00	Taylor	Yes
Mason City	Nebraska Central	X		0.50	98.00	Broken Bow	Yes
North Burwell	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	82.00	Taylor	Yes
North Loup	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	243.00	Taylor	Yes
Ravenna	Nebraska Central	X		0.65	790.00	Kearney	Yes
Rockville	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	68.00	Taylor	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Sargent	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	236.00	Broken Bow	Yes
Scotia	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	236.00	Taylor	Yes
Shelton	Nebraska Central	X		0.65	556.00	Kearney	Yes
Taylor	Nebraska Central	X		0.75	226.00	Taylor	Yes
Bartlett (7 Digit)	Northeast	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Bartlett	No
Clearwater	Northeast	X		0.50	252.00	Neligh	Yes
Coleridge	Northeast		X	1.00	538.00	Hartington	Yes
Craig	Northeast		X	0.50	155.00	Tekamah	Yes
Dixon/Concord	Northeast		X	1.00	329.00	Hartington	Yes
Jackson/Hubbard	Northeast		X	1.00	645.00	S. Sioux City	Yes
Linwood	Northeast		X	1.00	132.00	David City	Yes
Martinsburg	Northeast	X		1.00	94.00	Ponca	Yes
Morsebluff	Northeast		X	0.50	119.00	Wahoo	Yes
Newcastle	Northeast	X		1.00	345.00	Ponca	Yes
Obert/Maskell	Northeast		X	1.00	135.00	Hartington	Yes
Prague	Northeast		X	0.50	221.50	Wahoo	Yes
Weston/Malmo	Northeast		X	0.50	243.50	Wahoo	Yes
North Peetz	Peetz Coop		X	0.70	7.70	Sterling Hwy	Yes
Hoskins	Pierce	X		0.50	198.00	Norfolk	Yes
Pierce	Pierce	X		0.00	0.00	Pierce	No
Plainview	Plainview	X		0.50	585.00	Plainview	No
Bassett	Rock County	X		0.00	0.00	Bassett	No
Newport	Rock County	X		0.00	0.00	Bassett	No
Sodtown	Sodtown	X		0.65	60.45	Kearney	Yes
Falls City	Southeast		X	0.30	1,043.40	Falls City	No
Tri City	Southeast		X	0.30	186.90	Tri City	No
Stanton - City	Stanton	X		1.00	922.00	Madison	Yes
Stanton - Rural	Stanton	X		1.00	342.00	Madison	Yes
Johnstown (7 Digit)	Three River Telco	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	Ainsworth	No
Lynch (7 Digit)	Three River Telco	N/A	N/A	1.00	359.00	Lynch	No
Naper	Three River Telco	X		1.00	197.00	Naper	Yes
Springview	Three River Telco	X		0.00	0.00	Springview	Yes
Verdel	Three River Telco	X		1.00	122.00	Center	Yes
Bayard	United	X		1.00	996.00	Bridgeport	No
Broadwater	United	X		1.00	183.00	Bridgeport	No
Chappell	United		X	1.00	856.00	Ogallala	No
East Lyman	United		X	1.00	263.00	Gering	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Gering	United		X	1.00	4,895.00	Gering	No
Kimball	United	X		1.00	2,066.00	Kimball	No
Lewellen	United	X		1.00	376.00	Oshkosh	Yes
Minatare	United		X	1.00	1,312.00	Gering	Yes
Mitchell	United		X	1.00	1,535.00	Gering	Yes
Morrill	United		X	1.00	1,289.00	Gering	Yes
Oshkosh	United	X		1.00	943.00	Oshkosh	No
Potter	United	X		1.00	301.00	Sidney	No
Scottsbluff	United		X	1.00	12,586.00	Gering	Yes
Ainsworth	US West	X		0.00	0.00	Ainsworth	No
Alliance	US West		X	1.00	4,465.92	Alliance	Yes
Atkinson	US West	X		1.00	3,992.86	O'Neill	Yes
Atlanta	US West	X		0.00	0.00	Holdrege	Yes
Axtell	US West		X	1.00	482.43	Minden	Yes
Bellevue	US West		X	1.00	15,137.81	Bellevue	Yes
Bennington	US West		X	0.50	494.67	Douglas Co.	Yes
Big Springs	US West		X	0.50	219.83	Ogallala	Yes
Boystown/Omaha/ Ralston	US West		X	0.50	124,496.61	Douglas Co.	Yes
Bridgeport	US West	X		1.00	1,355.92	Bridgeport	Ye
Broken Bow	US West		X	0.50	1,469.21	Broken Bow	Yes
Cairo	US West		X	0.50	86.85	Grand Island	Yes
Central City	US West		X	0.50	3,223.75	Central City	Yes
Chadron	US West		X	1.00	3,566.36	Chadron	Yes
Clarkson	US West	X		1.00	1,763.97	Schuyler	Yes
Crawford/Whitney	US West		X	1.00	856.27	Chadron	Yes
Dakota City/S. Sioux City/Homer	US West		X	1.00	8,458.23	Dakota City	Yes
Elkhorn/Waterloo	US West		X	0.50	2,252.94	Douglas Co.	Yes
Elm Creek	US West		X	0.65	528.83	Kearney	Yes
Elwood	US West		X	0.50	582.46	Lexington	Yes
Emerson	US West		X	1.00	616.60	Dakota City	Yes
Farwell	US West		X	1.00	172.70	St. Paul	Yes
Fremont	US West		X	0.50	8,153.25	Fremont	Yes
Fullerton	US West	X		0.50	497.13	Fullerton	Yes
Gothenburg	US West		X	0.50	1,230.96	Gothenburg	Yes
Grand Island/Alda	US West		X	0.50	3,800.90	Grand Island	Yes
Gretna	US West		X	1.00	1,754.67	Sarpy Co.	Yes

### 911/E-911 Information

Exchange	Company	91 1	E- 911	Monthly Surcharge	Monthly Revenue	PSAP	Interlocal Agreement
Harrison	US West		X	0.50	245.66	Chadron	Yes
Holdrege	US West	X		1.00	9,750.40	Holdrege	No
Howells	US West	X		0.50	1,709.69	Schuyler	Yes
Humphrey/Creston	US West		X	0.50	514.33	Columbus	Yes
Laurel	US West		X	1.00	787.97	Laurel	Yes
LaVista/Papillion	US West		X	1.00	25,779.92	Sarpy Co.	Yes
Lexington	US West		X	0.50	2,529.38	Lexington	Yes
Loup City	US West		X	0.75	703.88	Taylor	Yes
Lyons	US West		X	0.50	418.25	Tekamah	Yes
McCook	US West	X		0.00	0.00	McCook	No
Millard	US West		X	1.00	16,216.13	Sarpy Co.	Yes
Minden	US West		X	1.00	2,078.65	Minden	Yes
Norfolk/Pilger	US West		X	1.00	15,889.83	Norfolk	Yes
North Platte	US West		X	0.50	7,730.63	North Platte	Yes
Oakland	US West		X	0.50	526.07	Tekamah	Yes
Ogallala	US West		X	1.00	3,874.08	Ogallala	Yes
O'Neill	US West	X		1.00	9,283.47	O'Neill	No
Oxford	US West		X	1.00	628.17	Beaver City	Yes
Pender	US West	X		0.50	348.75	Pender	No
Randolph	US West		X	1.00	836.86	Laurel	Yes
Schuyler	US West	X		1.00	8,182.09	Schuyler	No
Sidney	US West	X		1.00	4,426.25	Sidney	Yes
Silver Creek	US West		X	1.00	595.00	Central City	Yes
Springfield	US West		X	1.00	907.89	Sarpy Co.	Yes
St. Libory	US West		X	1.00	387.12	St. Paul	Yes
St. Paul	US West		X	1.00	1,522.26	St. Paul	Yes
Tekamah	US West		X	0.50	737.85	Tekamah	Yes
Valentine	US West	X		0.00	0.00	Valentine	No
Valley	US West		X	0.50	946.74	Douglas Co.	Yes
Wakefield	US West	X		0.50	493.67	Wayne	Yes
Wayne	US West	X		0.50	1,580.63	Wayne	No
West Point	US West	X		1.00	2,561.75	West Point	No
Wood River	US West		X	0.50	130.42	Grand Island	Yes
Wauneta	Wauneta	X		0.00	0.00	Imperial	No



## 7. Nebraska 402 Area Code Exhaust

On May 26, 1999, the Commission received information from the North American Number Plan Administrator that the number of assignable prefixes (otherwise known as NXX codes) available for area code 402 was in danger of being depleted in less than two years. The 402 area code covers the eastern third of the state and includes the cities of Omaha, Bellevue and Lincoln.

In June 1999, the Commission opened a docket to investigate this forecasted exhaust of assignable telephone numbers. As a result of that investigation, the Commission was made aware of several problems regarding the utilization and conservation of assignable telephone numbers and the current method for distribution of prefixes. The Commission found that employing number conservation methods could significantly delay the need for area code relief measures such as area code boundary changes, splitting the 402 area code or introducing an overlay of a new area code. These last two measures would result in consumer costs and frustrations since they would involve the introduction of 10-digit dialing within the 402 area code.

In September 1999, the Commission filed a petition with the FCC requesting authority to implement area code conservation methods within Nebraska, with special attention on the 402 area code. Specifically, the Commission requested authority to implement number pooling in thousands-block intervals, to reclaim unused exchange codes that have been distributed, and to audit number assignment and distribution activities of service providers. Thousands-block pooling provides that telephone carriers that require new numbers to assign would be given blocks of 1,000 numbers rather than the 10,000 block of numbers which they would normally be given.

In addition, on February 29, 2000, the Commission opened another docket to explore all possible methods for implementation of number conservation and find the methods which optimize the use of assignable telephone numbers in Nebraska.

On July 20, 2000, the FCC released an order granting to the Commission the requested delegation of authority, but did so on an interim basis. In the FCC order, the FCC granted conditional authority to the state for thousands-block number pooling and the authority to conduct audits of carriers' use of numbering resources. In addition, the FCC addressed the request of the states, including Nebraska, which had requested delegated authority to reclaim inactivated or unused thousands-blocks of NXX codes.

In accordance with that delegated authority, the Commission selected Neustar, Inc. as the interim state pooling administrator and scheduled an implementation meeting which was held in August 2000.

At the implementation meeting, a tentative calendar was established with the goal of implementing and completing the transition to thousands-block number pooling by December 1, 2000. Subsequently, a proposal was made by industry representatives whereby the industry would stipulate to certain specific

and voluntary number conservation measures in exchange for the Commission agreeing to delay the mandatory implementation of thousands-block pooling until February 17, 2001. The Commission later agreed to that stipulation.

At of this date, voluntary number reclamation has resulted in carriers returning over 300,000 numbers to the number administrator. These numbers are now available for reassignment as needed. Additionally, the requests for numbers have slowed significantly since the rate of utilization as shown in the first forecast in May 1999. The Commission believes that the number conservation plan which it adopted has been successful in delaying the need for costly and potentially confusing area code relief measures. The Commission will continue to implement number conservation methods and procedures.

# **Part III**

## **PART III**

### **Review of the Level of Rates of Local Exchange and Interexchange Companies**

This section of the report provides historical information on local rate changes and current local rates, along with a discussion of changes that have taken place in the long distance market. By request of certain local exchange companies, financial information, specifically the financial status of local exchange companies, has again been omitted from this report. As the local exchange market becomes more competitive, we acknowledge that some changes will need to be made in releasing information that could be used to gain a competitive advantage.

#### **1. Basic Local Rate Changes**

In January 1999, this Commission entered an order establishing terms under which the Nebraska Universal Service Fund would operate. One of the goals of the order was to create a more competitive environment for both local and long distance service in Nebraska. This meant that both local rates and access charges should be rebalanced to more closely reflect their actual costs. To comply with the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act, any subsidy for a service must also be explicit, rather than implicit in the rates.

The Commission adopted two target local rates to serve this purpose. Target local service rates of \$17.50 for residential service and \$27.50 for business service were established and all incumbent local telephone companies were to file rate plans to reach these rates over a period of four years. In addition, access charges were established to more closely mirror the rates used in the interstate jurisdiction. Generally, this meant that local rates needed to be increased and that access charges needed to be decreased.

The local rates in the following tables were filed as a result of the Commission's order and were effective as of September 1, 2000. The table also includes the rates an eligible Lifeline customer would be charged after the Lifeline credit has been applied to the local rate.

Two companies have filed reductions to their local business rates as a result of the re-pricing which was prompted by the Commission's Universal Service Order. Both Qwest and ALLTEL have implemented reductions for their business lines. Changes that have been implemented for the two companies are as follows:

Business 1 Party Rate	Effective 08/31/00	Effective 09/01/00
Qwest	\$37.55	\$32.84
ALLTEL	30.10	28.80

These reductions in the business rates were also extended to rates for pay telephones, PBX trunks, and other business offerings.

## Basic Local Rate Changes

### Local Exchange Companies

Company	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
ALLTEL	2	X	X	X						X		X
Arapahoe	X	X		X								
Arlington	X	X	X									
Benkelman	X	X	X	X	X			X				
Blair	X	X	X									
Cambridge	X	X		X							X	
Citizens	X	X			X							
Clarks	X	X		X								
Consolidated	X	X		X								
Consolidated Telco	X	X		X								
Cozad	X	X		X								
Curtis	X	X		X	X							
Dalton	X	X										
Diller	X	X		X								
Eastern	X	X	X									
Elsie	X	X										
Eustis	X	X		X								
Glenwood	X	X		X			X					
Great Plains	X	X		X							X	
Hamilton				X								
Hartington	X	X		X				X				
Hartman	X	X							1			
Hemingford	X	X										
Henderson	X	X										
Hershey	X	X										
Home	X	X		X								
Hooper	X	X		X								
K & M	X	X										
Keystone-Arthur	X	X		X								
NEBCOM	X											
Nebraska Central	X	X	X									
Northeast	X											
Pierce	X	X										
Plainview	X	X			X							X
Qwest		X			X							
Rock County	X	X	X									
Sodtown		X										
Southeast Nebraska	X	X										
Stanton	X	X										
Three River	X	X		X								
United		X										X
Waneta	X	X	X	X	X			X				

(1) Proposed increase withdrawn after protests from 5 percent of subscribers were received.

(2) Business line rate reduction only.

NEBRASKA LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS  
 BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Company	Exchange	Business	Residential	Lifeline Rate
AT&T	ALS	\$45.00	N/A	N/A
	BLS	35.40	N/A	N/A
ALLTEL		28.80	\$17.50	\$10.50
Aliant Midwest, dba	ALLTEL	37.00	16.00	9.00
Arapahoe Tel. Co.	Group 1	22.35	17.50	10.50
	Group 2	37.55	17.50	10.50
Arlington Tel. Co.		27.50	17.50	10.50
Benkelman Tel. Co.		23.60	17.50	10.50
Blair Tel. Co.		27.50	17.50	10.50
Cambridge Tel. Co.		26.80	17.50	10.50
Clarks Tel. Co.		27.50	17.50	10.50
Consolidated Telco	Dickens	24.00	15.50	10.15
	Madrid	24.00	15.00	9.65
	Maywood	25.50	16.50	9.50
	Paxton	24.00	15.00	9.65
	Wallace	24.00	15.00	9.65
	Wellfleet	25.00	16.50	9.50
Consolidated Tel. Co	Anselmo	19.50	12.10	12.10
	Arthur	25.00	15.00	9.65
	Ashby	25.00	19.25	12.25
	Bingham	25.00	19.25	12.25
	Brewster	19.50	12.10	12.10
	Brownlee	25.00	19.25	12.25
	Dunning	19.50	12.10	12.10
	Halsey	19.50	12.10	12.10
	Hyannis	19.50	13.00	10.26
	Merna	19.50	12.10	12.10
	Mullen	19.50	12.10	12.10
	Purdum	18.50	12.10	12.10
	Seneca	19.50	12.10	12.10
	Theford	19.50	12.10	12.10
	Whitman	25.00	19.25	12.25

NEBRASKA LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS  
 BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Company	Exchange	Business	Residential	Lifeline Rate
Cox Communications	(A) Flat Rate	\$35.00	\$17.65	\$ 10.65
	Addl. Line	35.00	16.35	N/A
	(B) Comb. Ser.	35.00	15.89	8.89
	Second Line	35.00	7.89	N/A
	Addl. Line	35.00	15.89	N/A
Cozad Tel. Co.		18.50	11.80	11.80
Curtis Tel. Co.		27.50	17.50	10.50
Dalton Tel. Co.	Bushnell	19.50	14.00	10.06
	Dalton	17.50	11.50	11.50
	Dix	19.50	14.00	10.06
	Gurley	17.50	11.50	11.50
	Lodgepole	17.50	11.50	11.50
Diller Tel. Co.		16.38	16.38	9.38
EZ Phone Connections		43.45	49.95	N/A
Eastern Neb. Tel. Co.		27.50	17.50	10.50
Elsie		18.59	15.21	9.86
Eustis Telephone Exchange	Non-Rural	17.55	10.95	10.95
	Rural	21.95	15.20	9.85
Firstel, n/k/a Ionex		Mirror Qwest Rate	Mirror Qwest Rate	N/A
GTE, n/k/a Citizens		27.50	17.50	10.50
Glenwood Tel. Membership Corporation		22.53	14.60	9.25
Great Plains Communications	Schedule A	24.20	17.50	10.50
	Schedule B	27.50	17.50	10.50
Hamilton Tel. Co.		10.75	10.75	10.75
Hartington Tel. Co.		27.50	17.50	10.50
Hartman Tel. Exchange		16.05	14.80	9.45
Hemingford Cooperative		24.93	16.90	9.90
Henderson Cooperative		16.90	16.90	9.90
Hershey Cooperative		17.50	17.50	10.50

**NEBRASKA LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS  
BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES**

Company	Exchange	Business	Residential	Lifeline Rate
Home Tel. Co. of Nebraska	Area-Rural Rural - \$.50 per month per mile (limit 7 miles out = \$3.50)	\$15.85	9.85	9.85
Hooper Tel. Co. of Neb.		17.50	11.50	11.50
K&M Tel. Co.		17.50	17.50	10.50
Keystone-Arthur Tel. Co.		22.50	17.50	10.50
NT&T	Group 1 Group 2 Group 3 Group 4 Group 5 Group 6	32.84 27.50 28.80 28.80 28.80 28.80	18.15 17.50 17.50 17.50 17.50 17.50	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A
NebCom	Allen/Waterbury, Butte, Decatur, Long Pine, Spencer/Bristow, Stuart, Winside	27.50	17.50	10.50
Neb. Central Tel. Co.	Group 1 Group 2 Group 3	23.00 23.00 27.50	16.00 16.00 16.90	9.00 9.00 9.90
Northeast Neb. Tel. Co.	Bartlett, Clearwater, Coleridge, Craig, Dixon, Jackson, Linwood/ Morse Bluffs, Martinsburg, Newcastle, Obert, Prague, Weston	14.25	9.25	9.25
Pierce Tel. Co., Inc.		20.45	17.50	10.50
Plainview Tel. Co.		27.50	17.50	10.50
Qwest, f/k/a US West	First Line Each Add'l Line	32.84 32.84	18.15 16.35	11.15 N/A
Company	Exchange	Business	Residential	Lifeline Rate
Rock County Tel. Co.		\$27.50	\$17.50	\$10.50

**NEBRASKA LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS**  
**BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES**

Sodtown		9.25	9.25	9.25
Southeast Neb. Tel. Co.		27.50	17.50	10.50
Sprint Comm. Co., LP		40.00	N/A	N/A
Stanton Tel. Co., Inc.	First Line	27.50	17.50	10.50
	Each Addl. Line	27.50	14.35	N/A
TCG		42.55	N/A	N/A
Teligent		32.00	N/A	N/A
Three River Telco		22.35	17.50	10.50
United Tel. Co. of the West		27.50	17.50	10.50
Wauneta Tel. Co.		23.60	17.50	10.50

<b>Company</b>	<b>Exchange Groupings</b>
Arapahoe Telephone Company:	
Group 1: Arapahoe, Hendley, Holbrook	
Group 2: Brule, Farnam, Loomis, Overton	
Great Plains Communications:	
Schedule A: Archer, Arnold, Bancroft, Beemer, Bloomfield, Bryan, Callaway, Center, Chapman, Chester/Hubbell/Reynolds, Cotesfield, Creighton, Crofton, Deshler, Dodge, Elgin, Ewing, Grant, Hay Springs, Hayes Center, Herman, Huntley/Ragan, Imperial, Indianola, Kilgore, Merriman, Mirage Flats, Niobrara, North Bend, Oakdale, Oconto, Page, Palisade, Petersburg, Ponca, Red Cloud/Riverton, St. Edward, Scribner, Snyder, Stapleton, Sutherland, Tryon, Venango, Verdigre, Walnut, Wausa, Wilcox, Winnetoon, Wisner, Wolbach, Wood Lake, Wynot	
Schedule B: Cedar Rapids, Cody, Crookston, Culbertson, Gordon, Rushville, Stratton, Spalding, Trenton	
Nebraska Central Telephone Company:	
Group 1: Ansley, Arcadia, Comstock, Gibbon, Sargent, Shelton	
Group 2: Burwell, Erickson, North Loup, Scotia, Taylor, N. Burwell	
Group 3: Ashton, Boelus, Dannebrog, Elba, Litchfield, Mason City, Ravenna, Rockville	

## **2. Financial Statistics**

The financial information related to local exchange company earnings is not being reported for 1999. Competition is being introduced into this market and company-specific data may reveal competitively-sensitive information. The annual reports filed by local exchange companies remain available at the Commission.

## **3. Long Distance Telephone Rates/Access Charges**

### **A. Competition in the Long Distance Market**

The Commission has authorized just under 300 long distance carriers to compete in the Nebraska market. One of the goals of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act was to provide for customer choice. This has been carried out by the Commission in the long distance market. Not only do carriers compete for interLATA service, but they now can compete for calls made within each LATA.

The choice of long distance carriers has brought about an increase in the solicitation of customers by long distance companies. As a result, the Commission has received an increase in the number of customers who have allegedly been slammed (change of their long distance carrier without authorization). Commission staff works with the customer and long distance company to assure that the customer is served by its carrier of choice and to re-rate any calls which were made at a rate higher than the customer's preferred carrier's rates.

In 1999, the Legislature responded to the challenge of slamming by passing the Telephone Consumer Slamming Prevention Act (Slamming Act). The Slamming Act prohibits certain practices, requires separate notification of a carrier change and empowers the Commission to investigate slamming complaints and to impose a \$2,000 fine on violating carriers.

During the year 2000, the Commission developed and sent to the Governor slamming rules and regulations. Since that time, the FCC has released new slamming rules and procedures which, among other provisions, eliminate carrier-to-carrier resolution of slamming claims and provide that consumers who are slammed receive an absolution of charges levied by the unauthorized carrier within 30 days from the date of an unauthorized change. In addition, the new rules provide that states must notify the FCC if they intend to administer the investigation and enforcement of slamming complaints rather than leaving enforcement to the FCC.

The Commission has already notified the FCC that it has elected to administer the resolution and enforcement of slamming complaints. To that end, the Commission has developed internal processes and is developing amended rules to enable it to aggressively challenge carriers who engage in the practice of changing customers' carriers, or imposing unnecessary charges, without the consent or authorization of the telephone subscriber.

## **B. Access Charges and Long Distance Company Pricing**

The implementation of the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) resulted in re-pricing of both local service rates and access charges. The result of changes made on September 1, 1999, was a reduction in the access charges which are paid to the local companies by long distance carriers. The loss of this revenue to the local companies is being replaced by local rate increases and payments from the Universal Service Fund. However, the reduced expenses that long distance carriers have experienced are being reflected in reduced toll rates to the customers of Nebraska (See Part VI).

A requirement of the Commission's NUSF order was that all long distance companies who have lower costs as a result of the access charge reduction file lower long distance rates and flow-through this reduction to their customers. This phase of the Commission's order is now being analyzed to determine if the new rates reflect the full reduction received by the long distance carriers. The result should be that in-state long distance rates will compare more favorably to those rates that long distance carriers charge for interstate calls.

Long distance companies have also implemented new billing practices which have caused concern for customers with little or no long distance usage. Some companies have implemented "minimum monthly billing" practices where the customer is billed a flat amount monthly (\$3.00, for example), even if no long distance calls were made. This charge is intended to cover the billing costs incurred by the long distance carrier.

AT&T has introduced "threshold billing" to its customers which allows for quarterly billing. Under the plan, a customer would not be billed monthly if its long distance charges are less than \$30.00 for any one month, or less than \$30.00 for two months in a row. On the third month, regardless of the AT&T charges, all charges would appear on the monthly bill. AT&T points out that the program gives customers a higher level of customer service and satisfaction, as well as helping AT&T reduce its cost and keep its rates competitive. If a customer does not wish to participate in the program, the customer may call AT&T and be removed from it.

## **4. Long Distance Carriers**

There are just under 300 long distance companies certificated to operate in the state. Long distance companies may offer any combination of pre-subscribed 1+ services, operator services, calling cards, debit cards and 800/888 services. Most companies serve both residential and business customers; however, some focus solely on providing service to payphones and inmate facilities.

## 5. Sample Telephone Bill

The following is a sample residential telephone bill and a brief explanation of the various elements which would appear on a bill.

### Explanation of Individual Charges

1. *“Basic Residence Line.”* The monthly rate for providing service to the home and includes local calling within the exchange.
2. *“Extended Area Service.”* The monthly charge for provision of local calling to other exchanges in addition to customer’s serving exchange.
3. *“Number Portability Charge.”* A charge set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to cover a part of the costs of facility upgrades necessary to allow customers to retain their telephone number when changing from one local service provider to another.
4. *“Federal Access Charge (Federal Subscriber Line Charge).”* A charge set by the FCC to cover part of a local telephone company’s cost of operating and maintaining its local telephone network.
5. *“Telecommunications Dual-Party Relay Fund (Nebraska Relay Fund).”* A charge set by the Nebraska Public Service Commission to provide a statewide network to allow communication between hearing and/or speech impaired customers and individuals without such disabilities.
6. *“911 Service Surcharge.”* A charge assessed by the city or county to provide funding to operate emergency service centers. Typically this charge is between \$.50 and \$1.00 per month.
7. *“Nebraska Universal Service.”* A charge set by the Nebraska Public Service Commission to provide funds to local exchange carriers (LECs) to assist in the provision of services to high-cost customers. This charge is 6.95 percent of the in-state portion of the bill.
8. *“Federal Tax (Excise Tax).”* A three percent tax which funds general government operations and will appear on both the local and long distance portion of the bill.
9. *“State Tax (Sales Tax).”* The state sales tax, which is five percent of the in-state portion of the bill to fund general government obligations. This tax will appear on both the local and long distance portion of the bill.
10. *“City Tax (Sales Tax, If Applicable).”* The rate varies by city, but the funds will go towards general municipal obligations.
11. *“City Tax (Occupation or Franchise Tax, If Applicable).”* The percentage (varies by city) assessed by the city to the telephone company for the right to do business.
12. *“Universal Connectivity Charge.”* (Rate varies with each long distance company.) Charges assessed to the long distance company to support low income consumers, consumers in high-cost areas, and support for schools, libraries, and rural health care providers.

**SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE BILL**  
(Local Portion of the Bill)

Explanation	Amount	Total
<b>SERVICE AND EQUIPMENT MONTHLY CHARGES</b>		
Local Charges:		
(1) Basic Residence Line		
(2) Extended Area Service	\$17.50	
(3) Number Portability	2.50	
<b>TOTAL SERVICE AND EQUIPMENT CHARGES</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>\$20.43</b>
 <b>FEDERAL SUBSCRIBER LINE CHARGE</b>		
(4) Federal Access Charge		
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL SUBSCRIBER LINE CHARGE</b>	<b>4.35</b>	<b>\$4.35</b>
 <b>GOVERNMENT SURCHARGES AND TAXES</b>		
(5) Telecommunications Dual-Party Relay Fund		
(6) 911 Service Surcharge	0.05	
(7) Nebraska Universal Service	0.50	
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT SURCHARGES</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>1.94</b>
 <b>TAX CHARGES</b>		
(8) Federal (Excise Tax)		
(9) State (Sales Tax)	0.72	
(10) City (Sales Tax, If Applicable)	1.24	
(11) City (Occupation Tax, If Applicable)	0.37	
<b>TOTAL TAXES</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>3.25</b>
 <b>TOTAL CHARGES</b>		 <b>\$29.94</b>

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**SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE BILL**  
(Long Distance Portion of Bill)  
Long Distance Credits and Charges

(12) 1. Universal Connectivity Charge	\$0.99	
(7) 2. Nebraska Universal Service	0.19	
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL CHARGES</b>		<b>\$1.18</b>

**LONG DISTANCE CALLS**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Min.</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	07/2	0854P	To North Platte	308-534-6000	3	\$0.45
2	1	0900	To Omaha	402-422-5789	15	2.25
3	07/2	A	To Des Moines, IA	515-555-1010	10	1.50
	5	0730P	TOTAL CALLS			\$4.20
	07/3					
	0					

	TAX CHARGES	
(8)	Federal (Excise Tax)	0.13
(9)	State (Sales Tax)	0.14
	TOTAL TAXES	\$0.27
	TOTAL LONG DISTANCE CREDITS AND CHARGES	\$5.65

# Part IV

## PART IV

### Recommendations for the 2001 Legislative Session

At print time for this report, the Commission had not fully finalized its list of legislative recommendations for the 2001 Legislative Session. We further note that the recommendations listed do not mean that the Commission will initiate a legislative draft, rather the state statute directing this list of recommendations is intended to alert legislators of possible legislative issues that may be addressed during the next Session. Among the issues that have been discussed as legislative issues are:

- ! Changing the content requirements of the Annual Report to the Legislature. The Commission will also request that the language of §86-804 be amended to allow for the electronic filing and delivery of the annual report.
- ! Public entity access into telecommunications. The issue will be whether public entities such as power districts or municipalities should be allowed to compete in the telecommunications market and, if allowed, under what conditions or restrictions should such entities be placed when entering the telecommunications market. It should be noted that the Legislature is currently conducting an interim study of this issue.
- ! Wireless access charges. The Legislature should address giving the Commission authority over wireless access charges in order for the Nebraska Universal Service Fund to meet its legislative objectives under the state's Universal Service Fund Act.
- ! Clarifying legislative direction through LB1285 [2000]. There has been some discussion that parts of the law enacted by the passage of LB1285 in the 2000 Legislative Session, which gave the Commission fining authority and amended the avenues of appeal, may need legislative clarification.

# Part V

## PART V

### Applications and Tariffs

The Commission received a total of 261 applications during the period of July 1, 1999, to June 30, 2000. Once again this year, much of the activity centered around the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and its goal of promoting competition in the local market. During this period, 35 additional carriers applied for local authority and 55 requests for approval of interconnection agreements were received. Following is a summary of the applications received during this period.

Type of Application	Number Filed
Local Certification	35
Reseller Certification	65
Amend Certification	67
Cease and Desist	3
Boundary/LEC	5
Boundary/Customer	7
Depreciation	1
Rate Increase/LEC	2
Loan	2
Commission Initiated	6
EAS	4
Interconnection	55
Other	9
TOTAL	261

There were 544 tariff changes filed with the Commission during this period. Individual applications and tariff filings can be obtained upon request.

# Part VI

## **PART VI**

### **Nebraska Universal Service Fund**

In 1997, the Legislature passed LB686 which authorized the Commission to create the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). The goal of the NUSF is, in conjunction with federal universal service funds, to ensure that all Nebraskans have comparable access to telecommunications services at affordable prices. In 1999, the Legislature passed LB514 which: 1) Eliminated the sunset provision contained in LB 686; 2) Granted the Commission the authority to fund the NUSF through a surcharge; and 3) Exempted persons receiving support from the Lifeline program from any NUSF surcharge.

On July 1, 1999, the Commission implemented the NUSF with a surcharge of 6.95 percent on in-state retail telecommunications revenue. The Commission determined assessable services through the use of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Federal Universal Service definition in order to minimize any additional work for telecommunications providers. In accordance with the Legislative mandate, the Commission exempted persons receiving support from the Lifeline program. Further, the Commission has adopted a plan to maximize the amount of federal Lifeline support. The Commission has also enforced the requirement that long distance companies pass on access charge reductions to consumers.

The Commission projected that the NUSF surcharge would generate \$48.7 million during the July 1999 through June 2000 fiscal year. To date, the NUSF has collected \$49.6 million for this fiscal year, a variance of approximately 1.8 percent. This variance is due to unexpectedly large payments during September, October and November of 1999. The Commission projected that the NUSF would pay out \$31 million from September 1999 through June 2000. During this period, \$24.6 million was actually paid to telecommunication providers, a variance of 20 percent. This variance was due to less access subsidy needing to be replaced than projected (\$-2.2 million); requests for additional funds included in projections have not yet been approved (\$-3.6 million); NUSF payment growth mechanism not yet implemented (\$-0.5 million); and lower Lifeline penetration (\$-0.3 million). As a result, the balance in the NUSF as of June 2000 was \$27.8 million compared to the original estimation of \$19.8 million.

Initially, the NUSF was designed to replace, where necessary, implicit subsidies contained in telecommunication services prices that have been used to keep basic local exchange rates affordable in all areas of the state. Given that these subsidies have existed for many decades, in order to limit undue shock to consumers, the Commission adopted a phased approach to removing these implicit subsidies. In addition to the \$43 million in subsidies that have already been removed, \$20.1 million in subsidies will be removed over the next three years. Further, the Commission estimates an additional \$25 million in subsidies that may be removed over the next seven years.

Last year, the FCC determined that Qwest and ALLTEL did not require any federal universal service support to build a network capable of supporting advanced services. The FCC found that Nebraska could fund the estimated \$65 million per year itself. This is \$11 million a year more than was projected by the Commission. Also, in addition to the \$3.6 million of additional funding requested, requests for an

additional \$4 million are also pending before the Commission. Of these potential \$18.6 million, the NUSF could fund approximately \$8 million. These additional funding needs do not include the cost of a network capable of supporting advanced services for the other local service providers in the state, which could require additional support of \$50 million per year or more.

## **Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Plan**

### **Lifeline Program**

The Commission adopted a policy to maximize the amount of federal support for the Nebraska Lifeline Program.

On May 8, 1997, the FCC released its *Report and Order on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC Order No. 97-157* (Order) which restructured both the Link-Up and Lifeline programs. On October 15, 1997 the Commission opened a docket to establish for the first time, a Lifeline program and redefine the existing Nebraska Link-Up program in accordance with the FCC's order. The Lifeline program is a retail local service offering for which qualifying low-income consumers pay reduced monthly charges.

Effective July 1, 2000, the FCC increased the base Lifeline support from \$3.50 to \$4.35. Additional federal support of \$1.75 through Commission-approved reduction in intrastate rates is also provided. This results in the federal non-matching support of \$6.10. The Commission's Docket No. C-1645 was established to provide the additional support through intrastate rates. Additional federal Lifeline matching support in an amount equal to one-half of the amount of any state Lifeline support, up to \$1.75 maximum federal support, will be made available to the carrier providing Lifeline service to a qualifying consumer upon state commission approval. Thus, the federal Lifeline support amount shall not exceed \$7.85 per qualifying low-income consumer. As of July 1, 2000, the Nebraska Lifeline program utilizes the maximum federal support of \$7.85 plus state Universal Service Fund support of \$3.50 for a maximum of \$11.35.

To qualify to receive Lifeline service, a consumer must participate in one of the following programs:

- ! Medicaid;
- ! Food Stamps;
- ! Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- ! Federal Public Housing Assistance; or
- ! Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

## **Additional Federal Lifeline and Link-Up Support for Qualifying Low-Income Consumers Living On Tribal Lands**

As a result of the *Twelfth Report and Order, CC Docket 96-45, In the Matters of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas . . .*, certain changes were made to the Lifeline Program.

Support is now available to low-income consumers living on tribal lands of up to an additional \$25.00 per month, for each qualifying consumer. For Nebraska, this could result in a combined federal and state support of up to \$36.35 (\$11.35 support for non-tribal support plus \$25.00 tribal support). Note that the result of the increased support cannot bring the basic local residential rate (including mileage, zonal, or other non-discretionary charges for basic residential service) below \$1.00 per month.

For the Link-Up Program, up to \$100 of federal support for consumers living on tribal lands can also be used to reduce the initial connection charges and line extension charges. The rationale for the higher federal support involves facility-based charges for line extensions or construction of facilities to begin service.

Eligibility criteria for consumers living on tribal areas is based on participation in at least one of the following federal assistance programs:

- ! Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance;
- ! Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families;
- ! Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard); or
- ! National School Lunch Program's free lunch program.

### **Link-Up Program**

The Link-Up Program's eligibility requirements mirror the requirements for Lifeline assistance. The Link-Up Program provides for a credit to the consumer for the carrier's customary connection charges for establishing service for a single telecommunications connection at a consumer's principal place of residence. The reduction is one-half of the customary connection charges or \$30.00, whichever is less, and provides for a deferred schedule for payment of the charges for establishing service for which the consumer does not pay interest. The interest charges that are not assessed shall be for connection charges of up to \$200.00 that are deferred for a period not to exceed one year, but exclude security deposits.

The Link-Up Program also allows a consumer to receive the benefit of Link-Up support for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which the Link-Up assistance was provided previously.

### **Nebraska Lifeline/Link-Up Implementation**

As of June 30, 2000, the Commission has received 20,256 applications from subscribers since the program's inception in January 1, 1998, of which 2,062 received the additional benefits of Link-Up assistance. There was an increase of 4,607 applications for the fiscal year 1999-2000 as compared to the previous fiscal year 1998-1999, with an increase of 829 customers receiving the benefits of the Link-Up Program for the fiscal year 1999-2000 as compared to the previous fiscal year.

Lifeline consumers receive the benefits of the \$7.85 maximum federal support and a waiver of toll-blocking charges in addition to the state Lifeline support. Additionally, the federal charge for local number portability does not apply to Lifeline customers.

### **Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Reimbursement**

Carriers providing reduced local rates submit reimbursement for their discounted service through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). FCC Form 497 titled "Lifeline and Link-Up Worksheet" is utilized for reimbursement. Claims for providing Lifeline and Link-Up support are submitted on this form. Additionally, the incremental cost of providing Toll-Limitation Services (TLS) are paid to the local exchange carrier through USAC.