

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public)
Service Commission, on its Own Motion)
to Administer the Nebraska Universal)
Service Fund Broadband Program:)
Application to the Nebraska Broadband)
Program Received from United States)
Cellular Corporation.)

Application No. NUSF-92. _____

**PETITION OF UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION REQUESTING
SUPPORT FROM THE NEBRASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND
BROADBAND PROGRAM**

United States Cellular Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “USCC or U.S. Cellular”) by and through its counsel hereby submits this Petition to the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to receive support from the Nebraska Broadband Program (“NEBP”). This Petition is being submitted pursuant to the Order entered in NUSF-92, Progression Order No. 11 on July 28, 2020.

USCC respectfully files this Petition requesting NEBP support to construct eight (8) new towers that will bring wireless broadband to areas in rural Nebraska that are presently unserved or underserved. The locations are identified on the map attached hereto as *Public Exhibit 1* and would improve service near the towns of **Adams, Beaver Crossing, Cedar Rapids, Dorchester, Niobrara, Stamford, Tobias, and Wynot**. The approximate longitude and latitude coordinates of the sites are confidential and are included in *Confidential Exhibit 2*.

In support of its Petition, USCC submits the following:

1. APPLICANT

The companies associated with this Petition are United States Cellular Corporation, d/b/a U.S. Cellular and its FCC licensed operation entities USCOC Nebraska/Kansas LLC and

USCOC of Greater Iowa Inc. which will provide the broadband service to consumers proposed by this Petition. U.S. Cellular operates in predominantly rural states, including Nebraska. Its federal license does not include the panhandle of western Nebraska, but encompasses the remainder of the state. U.S. Cellular has been certified as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) annually by the Commission since 2007. The point of contact for this Petition is:

Stephanie Cassioppi
United States Cellular Corporation
8410 W. Bryn Mawr
Chicago, IL 60631-3486
(773)399-7940
stephanie.cassioppi@USCellular.com

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

USCC’s Petition consists of bringing improved wireless broadband service via eight (8) new towers distributed across the U.S. Cellular service area in the state, as shown in *Public Exhibit 1*. Each project is separate and can be funded at the Commission’s discretion. U.S. Cellular commits to meeting or exceeding broadband speeds required by the program at each location. The locations identified in this application are not in U.S. Cellular’s current build plan. These locations need improved broadband service, but absent NEBP support, will not be prioritized for building.

3. “UNSERVED” AND “UNDERSERVED” ANALYSIS

U.S. Cellular identified “served” areas by researching publicly available network coverage maps. As a result of its review, USCC believes all the projects herein are located in underserved and/or unserved areas.

4. POLYGON SHAPE FILES

Confidential Exhibit 3 provides the polygon shape files showing households where broadband coverage will be delivered via the above-named towers. This exhibit is confidential and is being submitted electronically.

5. HOUSEHOLD AND TRAFFIC COUNT DATA

Confidential Exhibit 2 contains information on traffic count data and household density. In addition, *Confidential Exhibit 4* provides census blocks and household coverage information for each site. Both are confidential and being submitted electronically.

6. DEPLOYMENT TIMELINE

U.S. Cellular commits to completing construction within 24 months from the date of Commission approval. Should any unforeseen consequences occur, such as delays experienced due to weather, flooding, zoning or site acquisition, U.S. Cellular commits to keeping the Commission informed and to seek approval for extensions that exceed 24-months.

7. BUDGET

The proposed budget is included as a part of the aforementioned *Confidential Exhibit 2*. The budget includes estimated costs for construction of new towers.

8. LIST OF EQUIPMENT

The list of equipment to be purchased and used in the construction and deployment of any sites awarded funding is contained in *Confidential Exhibit 2*. U.S. Cellular has never used Chinese equipment, such as Huawei in its network and will not do so going forward.

9. RETAIL PRICING AND RATES

Up-to-date retail pricing for U.S. Cellular can be found on U.S. Cellular's website at <http://www.uscellular.com>. Customers have the option to purchase a wireless modem for use on laptops, but a modem is not required to receive broadband service on wireless phones or tablets. USCC does not charge a subscriber line charge.

10. SERVICE COMMITMENT

USCC commits to offering broadband service to all households within the coverage area for at least five (5) years.

11. FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL COMPETENCE

Originally formed as TDS Cellular Communications Company in 1983, the company changed its name to United States Cellular Corporation on January 26, 1984. The company is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. USCC's is led by an experienced leadership team consisting of the following:

- Laurent Therivel, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Douglas W. Chambers, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
- Michael S. Irizarry, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer
- John C. Gockley, Senior Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs

U.S. Cellular uses a state-of-the art mobile switching center in Omaha which has a full power back-up system for redundancy. Field teams are based in Nebraska enabling quick dispatch of personnel if on-site repair is required. U.S. Cellular's financial qualifications, including its audited financial statements can be accessed at www.investors.ucellular.com

12. FINANCIAL MATCH

While a financial match is voluntary, U.S. Cellular has identified two sites where a match is feasible. U.S. Cellular will provide a twenty-five percent (25%) match to lower the

NUSF costs of tower construction at Dorchester and a ten percent (10%) match to lower the NUSF costs of tower construction at Adams. Full funding is requested at the remaining sites, as these rural locations are not economically feasible to build without complete support from the NEBP.

13. TRUTH AND ACCURACY AFFIDAVIT

An Affidavit attesting to the accuracy of this information is attached as *Public Exhibit 5*.

14. FURTHER SATISFACTION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In further support of its Petition U.S. Cellular states:

- a. USCC offers a voice grade service to customers and commits to continue to do so;
- b. USCC offers access to emergency services throughout its service area and commits to continue to do so;
- c. USCC commits to offering broadband service to all households within the coverage area for at least five (5) years;
- d. USCCSC commits to offer its services at reasonably comparable rates for comparable services in urban areas;
- e. USCC commits to provide broadband mapping data to the Commission and its vendors as requested;
- f. USCC commits to use support from the NEBP only for the purposes intended and which have been approved by the Commission;
- g. USCC commits to fulfill all reporting and audit requirements by the Commission related to the NEBP program; and
- h. USCC commits to abide by all applicable Commission Rules, Regulations and Orders, including requirements established in NUSF-92, as well as in in prior Dedicated Wireless Fund Orders pertaining to infrastructure sharing, roaming, Phase II 911 capability and reporting requirements.

Conclusion

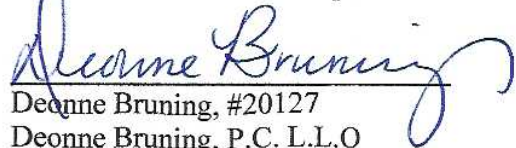
Constructing towers at the proposed locations will improve public safety and economic viability in rural areas where broadband wireless service is presently inadequate.

USCC's Petition meets the criteria and objectives of the NEBP and furthers the goal of making broadband service available statewide as set forth in the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act. USCC respectfully requests the Commission enter an Order approving support for the projects described herein.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of September 2020.

United States Cellular Corporation

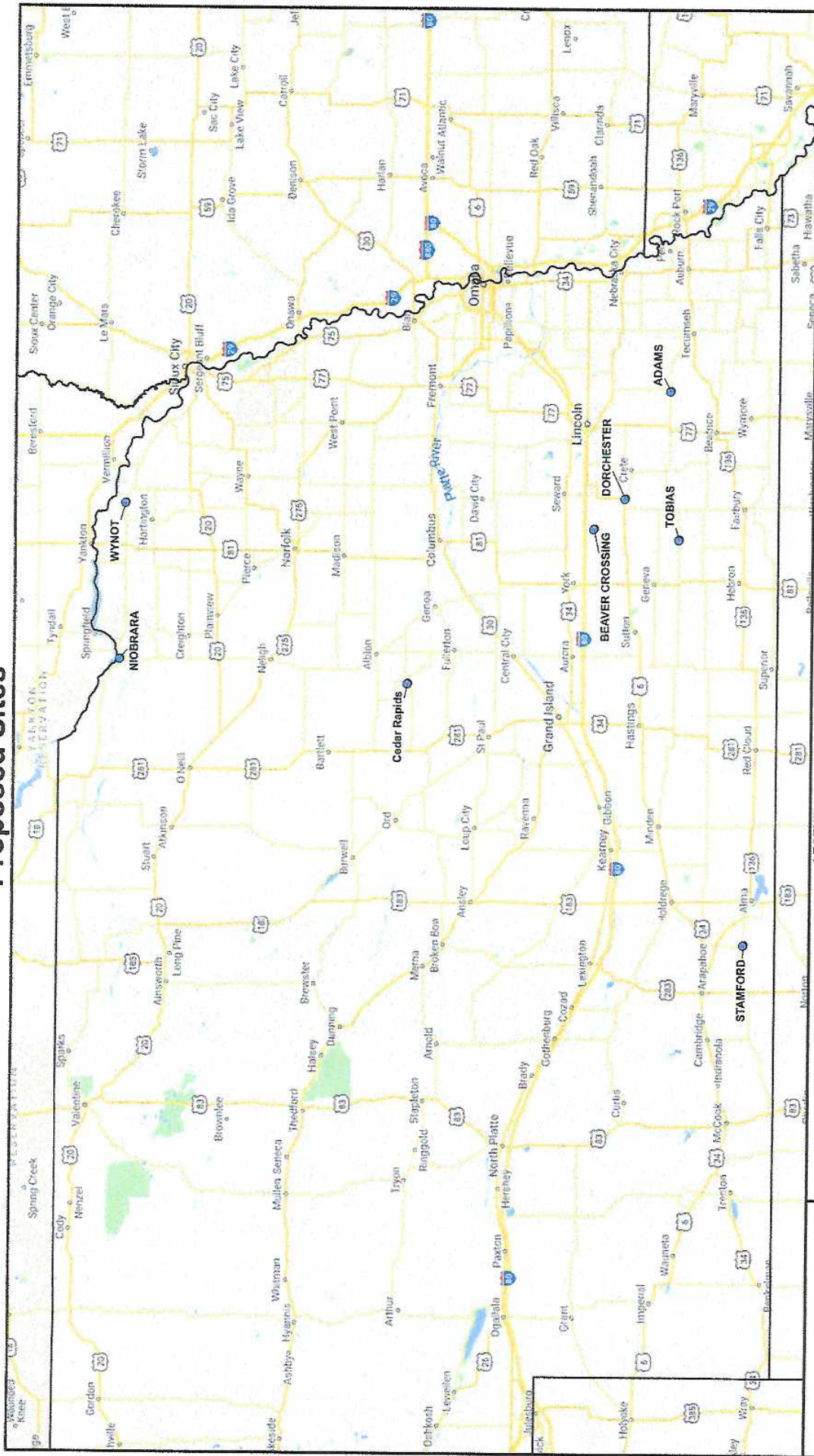
By:



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Public Exhibit 1

Proposed Sites



Notes:

LEGEND

- Proposed Sites



GIS Services
Data · Analytics · Mapping

Fig. 1

CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT 2
BUDGET, LONG/LAT COORDINATES,
TRAFFIC COUNTS

CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT 3
SHAPE FILES

CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT 4
CENSUS BLOCKS

(ALL SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY)

AFFIDAVIT OF UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION

Nebraska Broadband Program

NUSF-92

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF COOK) ss.
DUPAGE)

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, state as follows:

- 1. I am the Senior Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, of United States Cellular Corporation, FCC service area number 379019.
2. I have read the foregoing Application seeking funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program and state the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

[Handwritten signature]
John C. Gockley

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 25th day of September, 2020.

[Handwritten signature] Notary Public
Cook County, Illinois
DuPage

My Commission Expires 10-30-21

