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May 8, 2019

Mr. Michael Hybl
Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 "N" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508C

RE: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Requests

Dear Mr. Hybl:

Windstream Nebraska, Inc. hereby submits the attached application for broadband funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) for a Fixed Wireless project to serve the Southern area of Panama, NE ILEC Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place equipment at two sites, one remote Base Station approximately 3.5 miles south of the Panama Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office. The Panama remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Panama Central Office.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julie Munroe

Enclosures



WINSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – Panama EXCHANGE RLO3

Checklist Item No. 1:

A description of the proposed broadband project including download/upload speed capabilities which can be provided and a description of the proposed network infrastructure to be deployed. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

Windstream's Response:

Windstream submits the following project for the Commission's consideration of NUSF-99 broadband funding, to be constructed upon funding approval, using funding available from the 2017 funding allocation.

- Fixed Wireless to serve the Southern area of Panama, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Panama is currently connected with interoffice fiber facilities. Customers within reach of the office are qualified for 4Mbps down / 1Mbps upload broadband or better (up to 100Mbps), depending on the copper loop length from the equipment. This project intends to address those customers in the Southern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and therefore have no broadband or limited broadband availability (less than 25Mbps providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at two sites, one remote Base Station approximately 3.5 miles south of the Panama Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office.
- The Panama remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Panama Central Office.

These network upgrades will enable a network capable of minimum speeds of 10Mbps download and 1Mbps upload for all impacted customers and depending upon the distance from the remote Base Station, the majority of customers will have speeds of 25Mbps and up to 100Mbps available.

Windstream projects the total deployment costs for this project is \$125,135, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$62,568, the difference between the total project costs and the requested funding is because Windstream is not seeking funding for the areas funded by the FCC's Connect America Fund Phase 2 program. Windstream is requesting that the funding for this project be applied against the remaining 2017 funds allotted to Windstream.

Attached Checklist Item #6 provides a listing of the retail pricing for the broadband services Windstream will be offering in the proposed service areas. This price list is consistent with Windstream pricing for similar services in other Nebraska exchanges.

Checklist Item No. 7:

The company's commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Windstream Response:

If approved for funding, Windstream commits to offer broadband service to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Checklist Item No. 8:

An affidavit from the company attesting 1) (a) that the area of the proposed project is a CAF II eligible area and have not refused CAF II funding, or (b) that the area of the proposed project is ineligible for CAF II funding. 2) That the company has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the area of the proposed project. 3) The truth and accuracy of all information included in the project filing.

Windstream Response:

The Affidavit of Brad Brannon is provided in Attached Checklist Item #8.

CHECK LIST #2 CENSUS BLOCKS - Panama Exchange RL03

Criteria for Determining NUSF Eligibility for Census Blocks In Priority Order for Projects Using Fixed Wireless Technology:

- 1) If Census Block is CAF 2 - Not Eligible
- 2) If Census Block has Wireline Competitor with at least 10/1 broadband - Not Eligible
- 3) If Census Block Wireline Competitor is a Neighboring ILEC Sharing Service in the Census Block - Eligible
- 4) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor with at least 10/1 Broadband but Does Not Provide Voice - Eligible
- 5) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor that receives federal USF - Eligible
- 6) If proposal is for a wireline solution, then Fixed Wireless census blocks are counted - Eligible

Census Blocks	CAF 2 and Form 477 Status	Is Wireline Competitor a Neighboring ILEC?	Does Fixed Wireless Competitor Qualify as Competitor? *	NUSF Eligibility	Summary	# Census Blocks	%
310679646001000	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	30	50%
310679646001002	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	30	50%
310679646001004	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	0	0%
310679646001006	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	0	0%
310679646001074	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	60	100%
311090104003130	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104003138	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311090104005000	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005001	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005002	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005003	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005016	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005019	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005020	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005022	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005026	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005063	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005065	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005066	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005069	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005070	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005071	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005072	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005074	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104005112	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001175	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001182	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001185	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001189	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001190	CAF2			CAF2			
310679646001001	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310679646001003	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310679646001005	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310679646001073	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003131	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005004	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005005	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005017	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005018	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005021	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005023	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005024	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005025	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005027	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005064	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005067	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005068	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005073	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104005111	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001186	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001187	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001188	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001248	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001249	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001250	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001251	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001259	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001260	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001264	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001372	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			

Footnotes:

* There are three Fixed Wireless providers per Form 477 data that provide broadband in these census blocks. Below is a table explaining why each of these providers should not be considered a valid competitor for purposes of reviewing whether each of the above census blocks should be NE BB Eligible:

Name as Used on FCC Form 477	Do they Provide Voice Service?*	Speed equal to at least 10/1?	Is Provider Unsubsidized?***	NUSF Eligibility?
Future Technologies	N	Y - 20/5	Y	NE BB Eligible
Skybeam Acquisition Corporation	Y	N - 5/1	N	NE BB Eligible
Diode Cable Company	N	Y - 12/2	Y	NE BB Eligible

Footnotes for Table:

* Windstream has contacted each of these providers' call centers and Future Technologies and Diode Cable Company said that voice services are NOT offered with fixed wireless internet service and Skybeam Acquisition Corp said they do provide voice service.

** Skybeam Acquisition Corporation receives \$21,813 per month in Federal USF support for Nebraska per the 2nd Quarter 2019 USAC Report

Check List #3 Subscribers - Panama Exchange RL03

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Panama	130

Estimated Broadband Take Rate 50%
New Broadband Subscribers 65

50% Take Rate assumption is likely low since broadband is generally not available due to long loop lengths

Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Panama Exchange RL03

Proposed Schedule:

Engineering design & approval	30 Calendar Days
Site Acquisition, permitting & material acquisition	90 to 120 Calendar Days
Equipment deployment, testing, and turn-up	30 Calendar Days

Notes:

If multiple sites are involved, work activities will be conducted concurrently, so that total time for the project is 150 to 180 days

Schedule is subject to seasonal limitations regarding when construction can commence or be completed.

Check List #5 Budget & Depreciation - Panama Exchange RL03

Budget

Remote Sites

Item	Labor	Material	Item Total	Quantity	Mat Total	Grand Total	Notes
Site Survey	\$1,065	\$0	\$1,065	1	\$0	\$1,065	
Fiber Buildout	\$2,100	\$900	\$3,000	1	\$900	\$3,000	Placement of 300 ft of fiber cable
Desktop Planning	\$18	\$0	\$18	83	\$0	\$1,494	
Site Engineering	\$3,635	\$0	\$3,635	1	\$0	\$3,635	
Site Acquisition	\$7,100	\$0	\$7,100	1	\$0	\$7,100	
Power Make Ready	\$7,995	\$0	\$7,995	1	\$0	\$7,995	
95' AGL Wood Pole	\$0	\$23,800	\$23,800	1	\$23,800	\$23,800	
Base Station	\$4,433	\$5,513	\$9,946	4	\$22,054	\$39,784	5 GHz PtMP radio
PtP Radio	\$7,125	\$8,825	\$15,950	0	\$0	\$0	Assuming 18 GHz radio - Link Budget Calculation pending
Site Work	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	1	\$15,000	\$20,000	Placeholder for fiber + electricity work + pole mounted cabinet
Cabinet/PoE Switch	\$0	\$13,500	\$13,500	1	\$13,500	\$13,500	Pole-mounted
Total					\$75,254	\$121,373	

Tax \$75,254 5.00% \$3,763

Grand Total \$125,135

Excluded

ROW \$0
 IDC \$75,254 5.00% \$3,763

Total Project Costs \$125,135
% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2 50.0%
Requested Funding Amount \$62,568

Depreciation Lives

Life in Years

Fixed Wireless Assets 45
 Poles 33

Check List #6 Pricing - Panama Exchange RL03

Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$60	\$10 off for 12 months	\$50
50Mb		\$70	\$10 off for 12 months	\$60
100Mb		\$80	\$10 off for 12 months	\$70
1 Gbps		\$90	\$20 off for 12 months	\$70

Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$70	\$10 off for 12 months	\$60
50Mb		\$80	\$10 off for 12 months	\$70
100Mb		\$90	\$10 off for 12 months	\$80
1 Gbps		\$100	\$20 off for 12 months	\$80

\$50 Activation Fee and Free Professional Installation

AFFIDAVIT OF BRAD BRANNON

I, Brad Brannon, being first duly sworn upon oath, state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Windstream as the Vice President Consumer & Small Business - Business Intelligence. In that capacity, I am personally familiar with the company's network structure in Nebraska.
2. I have reviewed the foregoing project filing and certify that (a) the areas of the proposed project are CAF II eligible areas and have not refused CAF II funding, or the areas of the proposed project are ineligible for CAF II funding; (b) Windstream has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the areas of the proposed project that we are requesting funding; and (c) all information included in the project filing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Brad Brannon

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

:SS

COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 14th day of May, 2019
by Brad Brannon



Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

1/17/2024

