Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program

Company: Skywave Wireless, Inc.

Project: Snyder Village

Document: Challenge Response

11/17/2021

Skywave has received the formal challenge filed by Great Plains Communications for the Bridge Program project located in Snyder, NE.

The commission should consider rejecting the challenge for the following reasons:

- Skywave believes the spirit of BRIDGE program should encourage fiber deployments and encourage competition in service areas. These items together give end users the most desirable service and pricing for internet services. This service area is currently only served by Great Plains as a wireline provider. Communities that are unfortunate enough to be in this situation are commonly faced with high prices and/or poor service. Allowing a challenge such as this will only prolong the probability of these circumstances.
- The challenge application is incomplete. The requested construction map in Attachment I was not included. A timeline was not included, only an anticipated completion date with an exclusion for equipment availbility in Attachment J. The brevity of the application indicates that this infrastructure upgrade likely is not a pre-planned project, but a reaction to Skywave's application to provide services in the challenger's existing service area.
- Allowing challenges from parties that are planning to implement upgrades to coaxial/copper plants should be viewed with skepticism. Many of these copper plants are past the original intended useful lifespan. This characteristic tends to cause problems for some subscribers in certain areas of the plant, due to line quality or plant architecture. These subscribers may experience poor or unusable service, contrary to the providers expression of speeds available in the area.

Please consider these statements in your and decision and be assured that if Skywave is awarded the assistance for this project, the people of this community will be the winners.

Ryan Kuester
General Manager
Skywave Wireless, Inc.