

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. C-2831/PI-67
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to in-) ORDER INITIATING DOCKET AND
vestigate telecommunications) SEEKING COMMENT
infrastructure development in)
Nebraska.) Entered: November 5, 2002

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission), on its own motion, initiates this docket to investigate telecommunications infrastructure development in Nebraska. In this investigation, the Commission seeks to measure the availability of services and technologies provided by local telecommunications carriers (LECs) to consumers throughout Nebraska. Specifically, the declaration of policy in the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) Act provides that "quality telecommunications and information services should be available at just, reasonable and affordable rates" and "access to advanced telecommunications and information services should be provided in all regions of the state."¹ Moreover, section 706 of the Telecommunications Act directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and state commissions to encourage deployment of advanced telecommunications capability. In order to measure whether access to basic and advanced telecommunications and information services are available, the Commission seeks information on the following:

1. What are the true measures of the availability to quality telecommunications and information services?
2. In the Commission's opinion, responses to the following questions should provide needed information to further our investigation. To the extent necessary, the Commission may serve interrogatories on carriers not filing answers/comments so that our investigation will result in the Commission receiving complete and accurate information.
 - a. How many of your loops would support the FCC's definition of broadband?
 - b. What type of switches including manufacturer, model and technology (analog, digital or packet-based)

¹ *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 86-1404 (Reissue 1999).

have you deployed in your local network? What switching upgrades have you made in the last three years? What switching upgrades do you plan to implement within the next five years?

c. What vertical services are being offered in each of your exchanges? What percentage of your customers subscribes to each of the optional services?

d. Is DSL offered in each of your exchanges if not why not? How many of the loops served are DSL capable? What rates are charged for DSL services? What percentage of your customers subscribes to DSL in each exchange?

e. Is local dial-up access to the Internet available in your exchanges?

f. In each exchange, are DS1, DS3 or T1 lines available? If so, how many circuits are in service?

Example:

Exchange	DS1	Number of Circuits	DS3	Number of Circuits	T1	Number of Circuits
Lincoln	Yes	20,000	No	N/A	Yes	300

g. Are each of your interexchange facilities connected with fiber? How much of the existing interexchange fiber is lit fiber and providing services?

h. Within each exchange, how many miles of fiber have you deployed in loop plant? How much of the existing loop fiber is lit fiber and providing services? (If placed but unlit please provide specifics.)

h. What network upgrades (i.e. new technologies and services) have you implemented within the last five years? (Excluding those you referenced above.)

Interested parties should file comments/answers to the above questions on or before **December 13, 2002**. Parties should file one original, five paper copies and one electronic copy with the Commission in Word or WordPerfect format. The Commission will consider the information filed and may schedule a workshop to discuss the availability of telecommunications and information services throughout Nebraska.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above captioned investigation of telecommunications infrastructure development in Nebraska be, and it is hereby opened.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that interested parties should file comments in the form of answers to the questions posed, on or before **December 13, 2002**, in the manner prescribed herein.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 5th day of November, 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director