

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of the Nebraska )  
Telecommunications Association for )  
Investigation and Review of Processes and )  
Procedures Regarding the Nebraska )  
Universal Service Fund: Application to the )  
Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program (NEBP) )  
Received from Cambridge Telephone )  
Company )

Application No. NUSF-77.08



DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JAMES THOMAS SHOEMAKER IN SUPPORT OF  
APPLICATION

**Q. Please state your name.**

A. My name is James Thomas Shoemaker.

**Q. Please state your position with and the name of your current employer and provide a summary of your duties.**

A. My current position is that of Executive Vice President and Chief Regulatory Officer of Cambridge Telephone Company ("Cambridge"). As part of my duties, I ensure that all operations comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulations and represent Cambridge to regulatory agencies, legislative bodies, and industry associations. In my position with Cambridge, I am expected to: manage all activities of Cambridge, either directly or through subordinate managers, including negotiation of interconnection agreements with other carriers; provide reports to the Board of Directors; manage the profit and loss responsibilities for Cambridge; interpret and implement policies; plan, direct, coordinate, and oversee all of Cambridge's lines of business; and determine objectives, establish operating procedures, and ensure the success of Cambridge within guidelines and authority established by the Board.

**Q. Prior to assuming your current positions what was your employment background?**

A. Prior to coming to Cambridge 12 years ago, I spent time in both the golf industry and the retail sales space. I was an assistant golf professional for a semi private golf course in Gilbert, Arizona. In the 12 years I have been with the company I have held many positions within the company from outside sales and retail sales, to project management of wire line and wireless deployments. Most recently I have been in charge of Cambridge's fiber to the home build which we completed in 2009.

**Q. Please describe the Applicant and its business.**

A. Cambridge is a common carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"). Cambridge holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by this Commission and operates general telecommunications businesses in Nebraska. As of December 31, 2012, Cambridge served 972 access lines. Cambridge focuses on providing high speed internet and advanced telephone services to its customers in rural Nebraska

**Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

A. My testimony is provided to support the application filed by Cambridge for funding from the Nebraska Broadband Fund ("Application").

**Q. Can you please generally describe the Application?**

A. Cambridge applied for funding for multiple projects. Cambridge filed application outlines for each project. Of these projects, I would like to provide specific information regarding the following projects: Cambridge RCSA12C and Cambridge RCSA3.

### **Cambridge RCSA12C**

The location to be served is a very rural location in the Northwest portion of Cambridge's exchange. It includes adding in 4 new customers in our most remote areas of Cambridge's exchange. This addition of network ties into Cambridge's existing network that was deployed in 2009.

This construction will commence in an underserved area in rural areas northwest of Cambridge. Currently the project area has a fixed wireless platform that is limited due to the terrain that surrounds these homes. The additional network will bring these remote subscribers our most advanced services.

The construction of mainline facilities and drops to the home with Fiber to the Premise will be the initial phase of the project. We will also install electronics for operating both voice and broadband services into the area. This area of our exchange has limited services that are available to them. Pinpoint Communications has a WiMax product that is limited by its terrain, as it is hilly and tough to reach the homes of these customers.

### **Cambridge RCSA3**

The location to be served is a rural location in the southern portion of Cambridge's exchange. It includes adding in nine new customers in our most remote areas of Cambridge's exchange. This addition of network ties into Cambridge's existing network that was deployed in 2009.

This construction will commence in an underserved area in the rural southern portion of Cambridge. Currently the project has a fixed wireless platform that is limited due to terrain and quality of service. The additional network will bring these remote subscribers our most advanced services via Fiber to the Home.

The construction of mainline facilities and drops to the home with Fiber to the Premise will be the initial phase of the project. We will also install electronics for operating both voice and broadband services into the area. This area of our exchange has limited services that are available to them. Arapahoe Telephone Company has an unlicensed wireless product that is limited by the locations terrain as well as the speeds that customers are growing accustomed to in our other locations with Fiber.

**Q. What is the estimate of the potential new broadband subscribers that would be created by the Application?**

A. The rural area addressed by Application would provide service to roughly 13 homes in rural Nebraska.

**Q. Are there additional details and supporting information in the Application?**

A. Yes. These details are contained in the Application filed with the Commission. Additionally, Staff requested and was provided additional information.

**Q. Do you support the Staff recommendation regarding the Application?**

A. Yes. I appreciate the Staff's recommendation to approve the Application and believe that the Commission should adopt the Staff's recommendation regarding the Application.

**Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

A. Yes.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013, the original, five copies, and an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading was delivered to:

**Nebraska Public Service Commission**  
Shana Knutson  
1200 N Street, Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
[Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov](mailto:Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov)



---

James A. Overcash