

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

<p>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 received from CenturyLink.</p>	<p>Application No. NUSF-77.09</p>
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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ANN PROCKISH**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**CENTURYLINK**

**September 27, 2013**

1                   **BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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5   **Q.    Please state your name, title, and business address.**

6    A.    My name is Ann Prockish. I am employed by CenturyLink as Director – State  
7           Regulatory Operations. My business address is 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe,  
8           Louisiana 71203.

9   **Q.    On whose behalf are you testifying?**

10   A.    I am testifying on behalf of United Telephone Company of the West, Inc. d/b/a  
11           Centurylink and Qwest Corporation, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink QC (collectively  
12           “CenturyLink”).

13   **Q.    Please describe your educational background and business experience.**

14   A.    I graduated in 1987 from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln with Bachelor of  
15           Science degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting. I  
16           received a Master of Business Administration degree from Kansas State  
17           University in 1995.

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19           I have over 25 years of business experience in a variety of positions, with 16 years  
20           in telecommunications. My career in the telecommunications industry began in  
21           February 1997 as a Revenues Analyst with Sprint Corporation. I have held a  
22           variety of positions of increasing responsibility since that time, including Analyst  
23           – State Analysis and Reporting, Senior Administrator – State Analysis and

1 Reporting, Manager – State Analysis and Reporting, and Manager – State  
2 Regulatory. In these positions I was responsible for a variety of state regulatory  
3 and financial matters, including Universal Service Funding (“USF”) and Eligible  
4 Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”). I was promoted to Director, State  
5 Regulatory Operations in 2009 at the time of the Embarq/CenturyTel merger. In  
6 my current position I am responsible for the development and implementation of  
7 regulatory and legislative policy and strategy for eight states, including Nebraska.

8 **Q. Have you testified before this Commission or any other regulatory agency?**

9 A. Yes, I have testified before this Commission and the South Carolina Public  
10 Service Commission on a number of USF matters.

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

12 A. The purpose of my testimony is to discuss CenturyLink’s applications for NUSF-  
13 77 support and recommend the Commission approve these applications.

14 **Q. How many applications for NUSF-77 support did CenturyLink submit this  
15 year?**

16 A. CenturyLink submitted 16 applications for broadband deployment projects across  
17 the state. The applications varied in size, both in dollar amounts and number of  
18 customers impacted. All of the applications, however, will deploy broadband  
19 service to customers at minimum speeds of 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.  
20 In the proposed project areas, many customers cannot obtain broadband service  
21 from any provider at these speeds currently.

22 **Q. Would CenturyLink be deploying broadband service to these areas without  
23 NUSF-77 support?**

1 A. No. These projects would have been too costly on a per subscriber basis, and  
2 therefore uneconomic to CenturyLink, without the assistance provided through  
3 the NUSF-77 program. If the Commission chooses not to approve one or all of  
4 CenturyLink's applications, or approves funding at a lower level, CenturyLink  
5 will not be able to deploy broadband service to the areas shown in these  
6 applications.

7 **Q. Were there other projects that CenturyLink also considered, but did not**  
8 **submit applications for?**

9 A. Yes, CenturyLink considered a number of potential projects for NUSF-77 support  
10 this year. However, many of those projects continued to be uneconomic for  
11 CenturyLink even with NUSF-77 support. The projects for which CenturyLink  
12 submitted an NUSF-77 application are projects that are economic for CenturyLink  
13 to undertake when the 75% match from the NEBP program is taken into account.

14 **Q. Please describe CenturyLink's applications.**

15 A. CenturyLink submitted applications for NUSF-77 funding for projects in Alliance,  
16 Chadron, Gering, Kimball, Lexington, North Platte, Ogallala, Omaha, and West  
17 Point. For some of these cities, applications for more than one project were  
18 submitted. In each of the applications, CenturyLink provided the number of  
19 households that would benefit from the project, including the number of  
20 households that are currently unserved or underserved. For each of the  
21 applications, CenturyLink will deploy broadband at minimum speeds of 4 Mbps  
22 download and 1 Mbps upload.

1 **Q. Are any of the projects for which CenturyLink requested NUSF-77 funding**  
2 **eligible for CAF support?**

3 A. CenturyLink did not request CAF Phase I support for any of the 16 projects for  
4 which it requested NUSF-77 support. These projects would not have been  
5 economic for CenturyLink under the rules of the CAF Phase I program.  
6 CenturyLink does not know if any of the projects would have qualified for CAF  
7 Phase II support, as the FCC has not yet released information regarding the census  
8 blocks that will be eligible for funding under CAF Phase II.

9 **Q. What is your recommendation?**

10 A. CenturyLink supports the Commission's efforts to deploy broadband to unserved  
11 and underserved areas of the state through the Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program.  
12 While all of the applications the Commission received for support from this  
13 program appear worthy, the Commission has developed an objective methodology  
14 for reviewing and scoring the applications to determine which applications should  
15 be funded at this time. CenturyLink believes that in this case, the Commission  
16 should adopt Staff's recommendations.

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

18 A. Yes.