

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 Great Plains)
Communications, Inc.)

Application No. NUSF-77.13



DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MIKE HUGGENBERGER IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION

Q. Please state your name.

A. My name is Mike Huggenberger.

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

A. I am the Senior Director – Technology and Engineering Services for Great Plains Communications, Inc. (“Great Plains”). My duties include managing the following engineering support staffs: Information Technologies, IP Engineering, CATV Engineering, Central Office Engineering, and the Network Operations Center.

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

A. I have been an IT and networking professional for 41 years. I have held various technical and managerial positions with three Fortune 500 companies in the Omaha area: Mutual of Omaha, CenturyLink (US WEST), and ConAgra. I have been employed at Great Plains since June, 2000. I have a master’s degree in Computer Systems Management from Creighton University and a master’s degree in Interdisciplinary Telecommunications from the University of Colorado. I am a certified business

continuity planner and I have been an adjunct professor at the College of St. Mary in Omaha for the past 15 years.

Q. Please describe the Applicant and its business.

A. Great Plains is a Nebraska corporation and a common carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"). Great Plains holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by this Commission and operates general telecommunications businesses in Nebraska. As of December 31, 2010, Great Plains served 25,124 access lines. As of December 31, 2012, Great Plains served 23,017 access lines. We currently provide broadband internet services to approximately 13,500 customers

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

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

Q. Can you please generally describe the Application?

A. Great Plains applied for the following projects:

1. Wisner
2. Imperial
3. Creighton
4. Huntley – Ragan
5. Nenzel
6. Clinton

Of these projects, I would like to provide specific information regarding the following projects: Imperial, Nenzel, and Clinton.

#2 - Imperial Project

The Imperial wireline project proposes to expand Great Plains' DSL service availability to 145 customers (103 unserved and 32 underserved) in the rural areas outside Imperial. The project represents an efficient maximization of existing facilities, while providing a scalable solution that can be expanded in the future when Great Plains is in a position to upgrade local loop facilities. The Imperial project consists of replacing multiple existing fiber-fed, but not currently broadband-capable DLC sites with fifteen nodes of Adtran broadband DLC equipment, as well as new Adtran equipment in the Imperial central office. No additional fiber infrastructure is required. In addition to the rural areas outside Imperial, the small communities of Champion and Enders would also be served. Each of the new sites will require placement of a new cabinet to house the Adtran, power, and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for all customer locations served by the project. The new Adtran equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least "5/1" available to all customers. Some of these locations will be capable of upgrades to FTTx by the future addition of cards in the existing frames and fiber loops placed to the customers.

#5 - Nenzel Project

The Nenzel wireline project proposes to expand Great Plains' DSL service availability to 20 unserved customers in the rural community of Nenzel, west of Cody in north-central Nebraska. The Nenzel project consists of placing one new node of Adtran broadband DLC equipment in an existing hut located just outside Nenzel, as well as new Adtran equipment in the Cody central office. Since existing fiber backbone cable is already located near this hut, no additional fiber cable placement will be required. The hut will

be used to house the Adtran equipment, power, and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project, and the new Adtran equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers. This location will be capable of upgrades to FTTx by the future addition of cards in the existing frames and fiber loops placed to the customers.

#6 - Clinton Project

The Clinton wireline project proposes to expand Great Plains’ DSL service availability to approximately 15 unserved customers in the rural area west of Gordon in northwest Nebraska, including the rural community of Clinton. The Clinton project consists of placing one new node of Adtran broadband DLC equipment, as well as new Adtran equipment in the Gordon central office. The new site will require placement of new fiber cable off an existing backbone cable and a new cabinet to house the Adtran DLC, power and associated equipment. The existing copper loops will be retained for customer locations served by the project. The new Adtran equipment will provide both voice and broadband, with speeds of at least “5/1” available to all customers, and this location will be capable of upgrades to FTTx by the future addition of cards in the existing frames and fiber loops placed to the customers.

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

A. The areas addressed by the Application would provide service to 180 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.

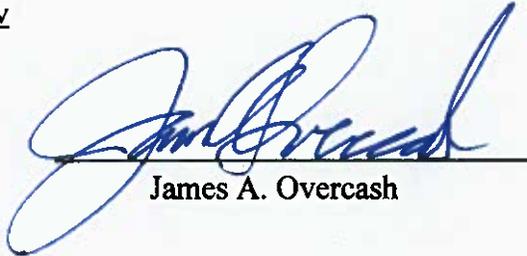
Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

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James A. Overcash