

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 Pierce Telephone Company )

Application No. NUSF-77.15



DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DONN SWEDENBURG IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION

**Q. Please state your name.**

A. Donn Swedenburg.

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

A. I am a designer at RVW, Inc. My duties include design of FTTP, DLC, and wireless broadband systems. I work as a consultant to Pierce Telephone Company ("Pierce") and was involved in the preparation of Pierce's application in this proceeding.

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

A. Pierce is a common carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"). Pierce holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by this Commission and operates general telecommunications businesses in Nebraska. As of December 31, 2011, Pierce served approximately 1,450 access lines.

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

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

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

A. Pierce proposed to build a WiMax standard, 3.65 GHz wireless broadband distribution system primarily in the Pierce service area as shown on the maps submitted with the Application. Pierce believes that the area to be served by the Application is underserved. The project to be deployed is for broadband service that will meet or exceed the 4/1 broadband definition.

The system proposed is designed to provide service to rural areas. Considerable effort was expended in attempting to identify census blocks which are now receiving broadband service as defined by the Commission, and to exclude such areas from this application. When other service providers demonstrated the current availability of broadband service and identified overlapping census blocks to Pierce's application, those census blocks were removed from Pierce's Application.

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

A. The rural area addressed by the Application contains 2,563 households in rural Nebraska.

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

A. Yes. All details required by the Commission for inclusion in a Nebraska Broadband Program application are contained in the Application filed by Pierce with the Commission. Also, the Commission's 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:

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and a copy of the foregoing pleading was sent via first class U.S. mail and electronic mail to:

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