

**Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company
Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program
Grant Application
Walthill, Nebraska**

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**Submitted to the Nebraska Public Service Commission
March 1, 2013**

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company
Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program
Walthill, Nebraska Application

Application Checklist Item #1:

“A listing of all companies associated with the proposed broadband project that will provide the broadband or voice component of the service to consumers, including a main point of contact for all companies. (This requirement does not refer to vendors such as construction companies or equipment providers.)”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company (“ENTC”) is the incumbent local exchange carrier that will be responsible for managing the implementation of the project submitted through this application and will be providing the facilities for the proposed broadband project. ENTC will be providing the voice component of the service to the consumers in the proposed project area.

HunTel.net, is the Internet service provider (“ISP”) that will be providing the broadband services over Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company’s facilities.

The mailing addresses for these companies are:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company
PO Box 400
1638 Lincoln Street
Blair, NE 68008

HunTel.net, Inc.
PO Box 400
1638 Lincoln Street
Blair, NE 68008

The main point of contact for this project is:

Joe Jetensky
Director of Regulated Operations
Office Telephone Number: [REDACTED]
Email: jjetensky@americanbb.com

Application Checklist Item #2:

“A description of the proposed broadband project plan for which NEBP funding is being requested including download and upload speed capabilities which can be provided using the proposed infrastructure. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.”

Narrative:

In this application, Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company (“ENTC”) proposes to construct broadband infrastructure in the rural, underserved areas near Walthill, Nebraska in northeastern Nebraska. The Village of Walthill is located within the Omaha Reservation boundaries of the Omaha Tribe. ENTC has determined that the proposed project service area, as depicted in the map submitted with this application, is underserved because it lacks access to broadband service at the 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload speed capabilities that the Nebraska Public Service Commission has set as the speed threshold definition of broadband service.

The National Broadband Plan acknowledged that service providers face unique challenges in serving areas that contain low population density and Tribal lands due to the remote and rural nature of those areas. ENTC proposes to deploy broadband service to the Walthill area and bridge the digital divide that rural and Tribal residents now experience in this area by increasing the broadband speeds and access to broadband availability. The targeted support for broadband capital improvement projects provided by Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program (“NEBP”) will assist ENTC in bringing broadband service at the 4/1 Mbps speed capability to the Walthill area. With the deployment of broadband, the Walthill area will have access to the benefits of Internet connectivity, including distance educational opportunities, job training, medical and social programs.

To more efficiently deploy broadband service, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The financial support provided by the NEBP will [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Application Checklist Item #3:

“A description of which areas are “unserved” or “underserved” in accordance with the Commission’s definition.”

Narrative:

The proposed project service area is an underserved, rural area in ENTC’s Walthill, Nebraska exchange. The proposed project service area consists [REDACTED] in the Walthill exchange. There are [REDACTED] households in the proposed project area. A map depicting the proposed project service area is included with this application. ENTC considers the proposed project area underserved because the households in this area do not have access to broadband service that provides 4Mbps download and 1Mbps upload capability.

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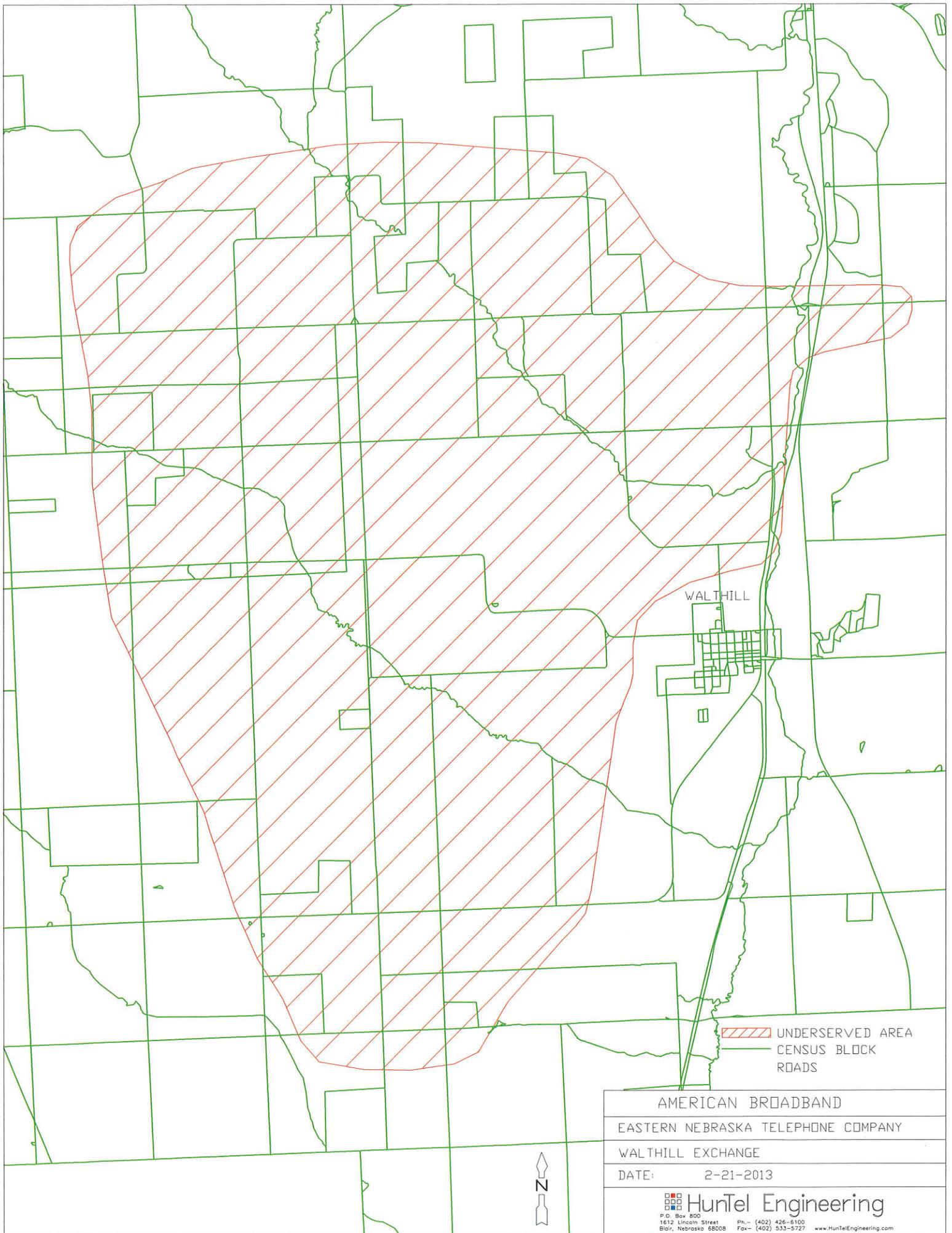
Application Checklist Item #4:

“An electronic map of all geographic locations where broadband facilities would be deployed under the proposed project which shall include 2010 Census Block boundaries of service area, by project, along with a demonstration that the area is currently unserved or underserved. The map must demonstrate coverage in 2010 census blocks. (The map must show proposed project locations and does not need to depict the applicant’s other service territory.)”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company has provided electronic maps in an editable ESRI format. A PDF printout of the map detailing the proposed project service area is also included with this application.

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WALTHILL

UNDERSERVED AREA
CENSUS BLOCK
ROADS

AMERICAN BROADBAND	
EASTERN NEBRASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY	
WALTHILL EXCHANGE	
DATE:	2-21-2013
 HunTel Engineering	
<small>P.O. Box 800 1612 Lincoln Street Blair, Nebraska 68008</small>	
<small>Ph-- (402) 426-6100 Fax-- (402) 533-5727 www.HunTelEngineering.com</small>	

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Application Checklist Item #5:

“An estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers.”

Narrative:

In order to determine an estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers, Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company utilized the mapping and engineering plans for the proposed project area to determine how many households in the proposed project area would gain access to increased speed capabilities and broadband availability.

An estimate of the number of households which will have access to broadband service at the 4/1 Mbps speed level in the proposed project service area is included in the table below:

	Walthill
Underserved	
Totals	

Application Checklist Item #6:

“A schedule for broadband deployment with commitment to complete the build-out within 24 months of approval of the application. The schedule should describe milestones in project completion increments of 25 percent, and the estimated date by which the milestones will be completed.”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company has estimated the major milestones and completion dates for the Walthill project. However, because the actual construction schedule is contingent upon the application approval process and timeline, ENTC submits that the estimated completion dates are fluid, and while ENTC intends to have the Walthill project completed in late 2013, construction on the project could flow into early 2014. In developing the project milestone schedule, ENTC has presumed that the approval notifications would be made in mid-2013.

Additional information regarding the project milestones or estimated completion dates will be provided to the Commission upon request.

PROJECT MILESTONES SCHEDULE

Milestone	Estimated Completion Date
Hardware Selection/Ordering	June 2013
Outside Plant Construction/Equipment Configuration & Installation	August 2013
System Turn-up/Testing	October 2013
Service Implementation	November 2013

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Application Checklist Item #7:

“A proposed budget, showing total project costs, in electronic format, with a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment.”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company has included a proposed budget, showing total project costs, including a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment. ENTC has provided the budget and depreciation schedule in an electronic, Excel Spreadsheet format and has included a print out of the budget and depreciation schedule in this application.

Summary totals from the proposed project budget, along with a summary of the depreciation schedule, are provided below:

Description	Gross Investment	Depreciable Life	Depreciation Per Year
Electronics			
Plant			
Total Capital Budget			
ENTC Matching Amount (25%)			

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company commits to using the NEBP broadband support only for the purposes intended and which have been approved by the Commission through the application process.

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Application Checklist Item #8:

“Proposed retail pricing, including both monthly recurring costs and nonrecurring costs for the new broadband service(s) to be offered.”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company is committed to offering voice and broadband service at reasonably comparable rates for comparable services in urban areas.

In the table below, ENTC details the recurring pricing of the broadband services offered through this project, as well as any nonrecurring costs associated with the broadband service to be offered through the proposed project.

Recurring Monthly Prices		
Bundle Package	Residential Price	Business Price
Nonrecurring Prices		
Broadband Activation Charge		
Customer Modem (CPE)		
*Nonrecurring charges are often waived or discounted during marketing of broadband services		

Application Checklist Item #9:

“A description of the applicant’s commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company is committed to providing the supported broadband service upon completion of the deployment to all household within the proposed project service area for a period of no less than five years.

The proposed project area is within Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company’s incumbent local exchange service area, and as the Carrier of Last Resort, ENTC is committed to offering a voice grade service to all customers within the proposed project service area, including access to emergency services.

The funding requested in the application will

[REDACTED]

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Application Checklist Item #10:

“A description of the applicant’s commitment to provide broadband data to the Commission and its vendors for the duration of the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program so that this broadband coverage area can be depicted on the Commission’s state broadband data inventory map and on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA’s) national broadband map.”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company has been and will continue to be committed to providing its broadband data to the Nebraska Public Service Commission and to its vendors for the duration of the State Broadband Data and Development Program.

As a successful applicant to the Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program, ENTC will continue to provide all required mapping data to the Commission and its vendors for its existing and new service areas so Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company’s broadband service coverage areas will be depicted on the Nebraska Broadband Map and on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s National Broadband Map.

Application Checklist Item #11:

“A description of the applicant’s financial qualifications, which may be filed on a confidential basis, to meet the commitments made in the application.”

Narrative:

The Commission has indicated that for companies filing Annual Report Form M, the information contained in Form M would be sufficient to meet the application requirement.

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company’s Annual Report Form M illustrates the company’s financial position and is on file with the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

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Application Checklist Item #12:

“If the applicant does not have a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunications services in Nebraska, a demonstration of the applicant’s financial, technical, and managerial competence.”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company is an established rural, incumbent local exchange carrier operating in Nebraska and holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunications services in the State of Nebraska.

ENTC commits to abide by all applicable Commission rules, regulations and orders.

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Application Checklist Item #13:

“A description of the applicant’s financial match which will be used to meet the commitments made in the application. Applicant shall submit a proposed budget for the entire project cost.”

Narrative:

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company’s proposed budget for the entire project costs has been included with the application.

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ENTC commits to provide project invoices as required based upon the completion milestones identified in NUSF 77 P.O. No. 5. ENTC further commits to fulfilling all reporting and audit requirements adopted by the Commission for oversight of the NEBP program.

A summary of the total project cost and match amount is included below:

Total Capital Budget	Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company 25% Match	NPSC 75% Grant Request
[REDACTED]		

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Application Checklist Item #14:

“An affidavit from the Applicant attesting to the truth and accuracy of all information included in the application.”

Narrative:

Included with this application is an Affidavit of George J. Mack, President and General Manager of Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company attesting to the truth and accuracy of all information included in this application.

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