

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service) Application No. NUSF-92.19
Commission, on its own motion, seeking to)
administer the Nebraska Universal Service) **NOTICE OF SERVICE**
Fund's Broadband Program: Application to)
the Nebraska Broadband Program Received)
from CenturyLink.)

**NOTICE OF FILING OF PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF ANN PROCKISH ON BEHALF OF UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY
OF THE WEST, INC d/b/a/ CENTURYLINK AND QWEST CORPORATION, INC.,
d/b/a CENTURYLINK QC (collectively "CENTURYLINK")**

COMES NOW CenturyLink and hereby gives notice of service of the filing of the Direct Testimony of Ann Prockish in the above matters. A copy of same is attached hereto and has been served on all interested parties as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2015.

UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF THE
WEST, INC d/b/a/ CENTURYLINK AND
QWEST CORPORATION, INC., d/b/a
CENTURYLINK QC (collectively
"CENTURYLINK")

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 16th day of June, 2015, a true and correct copy of the Notice of Filing of Direct Testimony of Ann Prockish of Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC and United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a/ CenturyLink was provided to the following interested persons by either First Class Mail or by electronic mail indicated as follows:

By electronic mail and hand-delivery delivery

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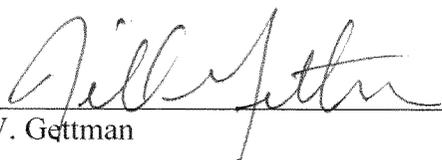
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Jill V. Gettman

1 **BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

2 **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ANN PROCKISH IN NUSF-92.19**

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4

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

6 A. My name is Ann Prockish. I am employed by CenturyLink as Regulatory and
7 Legislative Affairs Director. My business address is 1314 Douglas Street, 13th
8 Floor, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

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

10 A. I am testifying on behalf of Qwest Corporation, Inc., d/b/a CenturyLink QC
11 ("CenturyLink").

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

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

17

18 I have over 25 years of business experience in a variety of positions, with 18 years
19 in telecommunications. My career in the telecommunications industry began in
20 February 1997 as a Revenues Analyst with Sprint Corporation. I have held a
21 variety of positions of increasing responsibility since that time, including Analyst
22 – State Analysis and Reporting, Senior Administrator – State Analysis and
23 Reporting, Manager – State Analysis and Reporting, and Manager – State

1 Regulatory. In these positions I was responsible for a variety of state regulatory
2 and financial matters, including Universal Service Funding (“USF”) and Eligible
3 Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”). I was promoted to Director, State
4 Regulatory Operations in 2009 at the time of the Embarq/CenturyTel merger. In
5 August, 2014, I accepted the position of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs
6 Director for Nebraska. In my current position I am responsible for the advocacy,
7 development, and implementation of regulatory and legislative policy and strategy
8 for Nebraska.

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

10 A. Yes, I have testified before this Commission and the South Carolina Public
11 Service Commission on a number of USF matters. I have also testified before the
12 Wyoming Public Service Commission on deregulation.

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

14 A. The purpose of my testimony is to discuss CenturyLink’s applications for NUSF-
15 92 support and recommend the Commission approve the application for the
16 Valley project.

17 **Q. How many applications for NUSF-92 support did CenturyLink submit this
18 year?**

19 A. CenturyLink submitted three applications for broadband deployment projects. All
20 of the applications would deploy broadband service to customers at minimum
21 speeds of 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. In the proposed project areas,
22 many customers cannot obtain broadband service from any provider at these
23 speeds currently. CenturyLink subsequently withdrew two of the applications, for

1 Bennington and Elkhorn, leaving only the Valley application for Commission
2 consideration.

3 **Q. Would CenturyLink be deploying broadband service to this area without**
4 **NUSF-92 support?**

5 A. No. The Valley project would have been too costly on a per subscriber basis, and
6 therefore uneconomic to CenturyLink, without the assistance provided through
7 the NUSF-92 program. If the Commission chooses not to approve this
8 application, or approves funding at a lower level, CenturyLink will not be able to
9 deploy broadband service to the areas shown in this application.

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

12 A. Yes, CenturyLink considered a number of potential projects for NUSF-92 support
13 this year. However, many of those projects continued to be uneconomic for
14 CenturyLink even with NUSF-92 support. The projects for which CenturyLink
15 submitted an NUSF-92 application are projects that are economic for CenturyLink
16 to undertake when the 75% match from the NEBP program is taken into account.

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

18 A. CenturyLink submitted applications for NUSF-92 funding for projects in
19 Bennington, Elkhorn, and Valley. In each of the applications, CenturyLink
20 provided the number of households that would benefit from the project, including
21 the number of households that are currently unserved or underserved. For each of
22 the applications, CenturyLink will deploy broadband at minimum speeds of 4

1 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. As I previously mentioned, CenturyLink
2 subsequently withdrew the Bennington and Elkhorn applications.

3 **Q. Are any of the projects for which CenturyLink requested NUSF-92 funding**
4 **eligible for CAF support?**

5 A. CenturyLink did not request CAF Phase I support for any of the projects for
6 which it requested NUSF-92 support. These projects would not have been
7 economic for CenturyLink under the rules of the CAF Phase I program. In
8 addition, none of these projects are qualified to receive CAF Phase II support.

9 **Q. Did Staff recommend approval of CenturyLink's applications?**

10 A. CenturyLink withdrew the Bennington application prior to the issuance of Staff's
11 recommendation, so this project was never considered for approval by Staff. The
12 Elkhorn application was recommended for approval by Staff; however subsequent
13 to the issuance of Staff's recommendation CenturyLink chose to withdraw the
14 Elkhorn application, leaving only the Valley application for Commission
15 consideration. While the Elkhorn application meets the criteria for support, in
16 recognition of the limitations on funding and as matter of prioritization to meet
17 customer demands, we determined to defer the Elkhorn application at this time.
18 We fully expect that Staff will recommend approval of the Valley application.

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

20 A. CenturyLink supports the Commission's efforts to deploy broadband to unserved
21 and underserved areas of the state through the Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program.
22 While all of the applications the Commission received for support from this
23 program appear worthy, the Commission has developed an objective methodology

1 for reviewing and scoring the applications to determine which applications should
2 be funded at this time. CenturyLink recommends the Commission approve its
3 Valley application for NUSF-92 funding.

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

5 A. Yes.