

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-131
Public Service Commission, on) Progression Order No. 3
its own motion, to establish)
reverse auction procedures and) ORDER ISSUING FINAL
requirements.) AUCTION AWARD
)
) Entered: February 11, 2025

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") initiated this proceeding on June 29, 2021, to establish reverse auction procedures and requirements in order to carry out Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-330. Following the receipt of comments from interested parties and a hearing in this matter, the Commission entered an order setting forth the procedures for an upcoming auction ("Second 2024 Auction"), announcing qualified bidders, and adopting a procedural schedule ("June 25 Order"). The Commission then held the Second 2024 Auction, which commenced on July 29, 2024.

On September 24, 2024, the Commission entered an order issuing the initial auction results for the Second 2024 Auction ("Sept. 24 Order"). Among the initial awardees was Consolidated Telephone Company ("Consolidated").

Pursuant to the Sept. 24 Order, each of the winning bidders was required to submit a Post-Auction Commitment Form for each project they will complete pursuant to the Second 2024 Auction. As part of the Post-Auction Commitment Form, winning bidders were required to submit documentation including a business plan for the proposed network, a detailed description of the project funding, documentation regarding the carrier's Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Plan offerings, and attestations as to the carrier's compliance with eligible telecommunications carrier requirements and ability to serve all customers within the project area at the speeds required by the auction. The Post-Auction Commitment Form was required to be submitted on or before October 25, 2024. Auction participants who did not submit audited financial statements in the Pre-Auction Application were required to submit audited financial statements and an opinion letter with the Post-Auction Commitment Form.

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On November 19, 2024, the Commission issued final awards for most participants. However, at the time of that order, Consolidated had not yet submitted audited financial statements. Consolidated requested additional time to obtain audited financial statements, and was granted leave until February 28, 2025 to file them.

Consolidated has timely submitted its required audited financial statements. Commission staff has reviewed the submission and has determined that Consolidated meets the requirements for the issuance of its awards in the Second 2024 Auction. The awards set forth in the Sept. 24 Order in this docket for Consolidated will therefore proceed.

With the issuance of these final awards, the Commission finds that no remaining awards remain to be issued in the Second 2024 Reverse Auction, pursuant to docket NUSF-131, Progression Order No. 3. This auction is therefore closed.

O R D E R


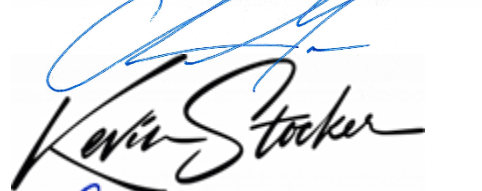

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the awards previously set forth in this docket for Consolidated Telephone Company in the Second 2024 Reverse Auction shall be issued, and the Second 2024 Reverse Auction shall be closed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each winning bidder in this auction shall continue to comply with the Second 2024 Reverse Auction requirements, including project completion and speed testing requirements, as set forth in previous orders in this docket.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 11th day of February, 2025.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:


Chair

ATTEST:


Executive Director