

February 24, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SECOND NEBRASKA INTERNET ENHANCEMENT GRANT (NIEF)
APPROVED FOR FINAL PAYMENT BY PSC IN CHEYENNE COUNTY**

LINCOLN – The second of five projects that made up the initial grants from the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund (NIEF) has been completed, and the Public Service Commission authorized final payment at its weekly meeting February 22.

Cheyenne County in the Nebraska Panhandle received a grant allocation of \$50,000 on January 11, 2005, to provide access to local high-speed broadband internet service for the county's rural residents,

Commissioner Jerry Vap of McCook, who represents Cheyenne County on the Commission, said use of the grant by Cheyenne County was what the Legislature had in mind when it created the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund. "Cheyenne County and NIEF teamed together to make broadband Internet possible for rural residents," Vap said. "Without the grant, many Cheyenne County residents would still be without total access to this form of high speed Internet."

The City of Chappell was the first to complete work funded by a NIEF grant. Other grants were awarded to Box Butte County, Dawes County, and the Nemaha County Development Alliance based in Auburn. The completion of those projects is pending.

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