

July 12, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON COMPLAINTS
IN QWEST'S VALENTINE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission will conduct a public hearing on a complaint filed by two Departments in the Commission against Qwest alleging service quality violations in Qwest's Valentine exchange. The hearing will be at 3 p.m. (CT), July 20, at the Holiday Inn Express in Valentine. Fifth District Commissioner Jerry Vap of McCook will serve as chairman of the hearing.

A formal service quality complaint was filed by Gene Hand, director of the Commission's Telecommunications Department, and Jeff Pursley, director of the Commission's Universal Service Fund Department, following an increase in the number of complaints received by the Commission in a 12-month period from the Valentine area. The complaint asks the Commission to levy administrative fines against Qwest and further seeks reductions in Nebraska Universal Service Fund monies received by Qwest to provide phone service in rural, high cost areas.

The Valentine exchange serves about 1,230 square miles and includes Valentine and the village of Sparks.

The hearing, which will be open to the public, will include testimony from Commission staff, the public and witnesses that Qwest may call. The Commission will deliberate on the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing and will issue an opinion and order with its decision on the matter at a later date.

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