

September 11, 2009

Nebraska PSC Announces Lifeline Awareness Week
STAY CONNECTED WITH TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

LINCOLN – Many state utility commissions throughout the country, including the Nebraska Public Service Commission, are participating in National Lifeline Awareness Week, September 14-20. Last July, the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) passed a resolution sponsored by Nebraska Commissioner Anne Boyle, of Omaha, Chair of the NARUC Consumer Affairs Committee, establishing “National Lifeline Awareness Week” to be held annually the first full week following Labor Day.

The Nebraska Commission will join many other states to promote the Lifeline and Link Up Assistance Program. The program in Nebraska is the Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program (NTAP) and offers discounts to residents for access to basic local telephone service.

Boyle said, “In these difficult economic times, assistance is needed now more than ever. Staying connected to local resources and emergency services can improve and possibly save many lives. State utility commissions are fully engaged in this effort to raise the awareness of this important program.”

Under the Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program, NTAP program, administered by the Commission, telephone customers who participate in Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing (HUD, Section 8 or USDA), Low Income Energy Assistance or Children’s Medicaid are entitled to receive a basic telephone service discount of \$10 to a maximum of \$13.50 per month. Link-Up provides a 50 percent reduction for landline telephone service installation charges, up to a maximum of \$30, for qualifying households that do not currently have telephone service. Federal rules allow one phone to a household.

To apply to participate in the Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program at 1-800-526-0017 (in state only) or 471-3101 (in Lincoln).