

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,)
on its own motion, to provide) Application No. 911-007.1
for and fund intertandem)
trunking across the State of) Order
Nebraska for use in provision of)
wireless enhanced 911 service.) Entered: January 11, 2005

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission has been responsible for the administration of the Wireless E911 Fund since passage of the Wireless Enhanced 911 Services Act in 2001 Session of the Nebraska Legislature. The Commission and its staff have been actively assisting public safety answering points (PSAPs) and wireless carriers with implementation of wireless E911. In its role as facilitator among PSAPs, local exchange carriers, and wireless carriers, the Commission has become aware of a need to transfer Phase I E911 wireless calls among different PSAPs.

Due to the mobile nature of wireless phones, a call to 911 is sometimes routed to the wrong PSAP. A call from a cell phone could transmit through a carrier's cell tower and be transferred to a PSAP that is not actually the closest PSAP to the caller. While wireless carriers have made efforts to minimize the occurrence of such a scenario, a need still exists for PSAPs to be able to transfer a wireless call to a PSAP that is able to more quickly direct emergency services to the caller.

Currently, the Alltel LATA PSAPs and the Qwest LATA PSAPs cannot fully transfer wireless 911 calls to other PSAPs. With Phase I wireless enhanced 911, the PSAP receiving a 911 call receives a call-back number and cell site information. Without intertandem trunking, the call-back number and cell site information cannot be transferred to another PSAP. Transfer of such Phase I information is crucial in locating the person making the 911 call.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

In the interest of carrying out the intent and purposes of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act (Act), the Commission finds that it should fund intertandem trunking across the state. The Act provides in part, "The commission shall have any powers necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of the act."¹

¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-465(3) (Reissue 2002).

Furthermore, "The commission shall determine the most efficient method for providing enhanced wireless 911 service."²

The Commission proposed to connect tandems in two stages in the October 28, 2003 order in this docket. The first stage connected the Qwest tandems of Norfolk; Grand Island; Sioux City, Iowa; and Des Moines. The second stage will connect the Qwest tandem located in Council Bluffs, Iowa to the Alltel tandem located in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Commission anticipates that the third stage will be to connect Sprint's tandem in Scottsbluff to the Qwest tandem in Grand Island.

The total costs to Alltel of providing intertandem trunking described above are \$77,979.00. These costs shall be paid by the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund over a five (5) year period on a monthly basis at a monthly recurring charge of \$1299.65 paid to Alltel. The Commission reserves the right to accelerate the payment schedule.

Additionally, \$19,352.39 shall be paid to Qwest for its portion of costs of providing intertandem trunking.

All costs of Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) surcharges and any legitimate government-imposed taxes or surcharges assessed on enhanced wireless 911 charges should also be paid.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Commission staff pursue construction of intertandem trunking across the state as described in this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon invoice from Alltel and Qwest, costs of intertandem trunking that comport with this order shall be paid by the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that any government-imposed taxes or surcharges assessed on enhanced wireless 911 charges shall be paid.

² Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-464 (Reissue 2002).

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 11th day of
January, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director