

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission     ) Application No. NUSF-18  
on its own motion, seeking to        )  
determine access costs for            ) ORDER CLOSING DOCKET  
ALLTEL.                                 )  
  ) Entered: December 16, 2003

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

The Commission, on its own motion, opened this proceeding on October 14, 1999, to evaluate the proposed access rates contained in year three of ALLTEL's C-1628 Transition Plan. As set forth in C-1628, non-rural carriers were required to remove all subsidies by the end of the three-year transition period. ALLTEL was required to remove all implicit subsidies by September 1, 2001. As such, the Commission opened this proceeding to begin to determine if ALLTEL has proposed to remove all implicit subsidies in the transition plan that it had filed with the Commission.

Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on October 15, 1999. On December 2, 1999, ALLTEL, AT&T and a group of rural independent companies filed comments in response to the Commission's request.

Upon consideration of the information filed in this proceeding and being fully informed in the premises, the Commission finds that the above-captioned proceeding should be closed. A review of ALLTEL's Transition Plan and most recent access tariff filing, demonstrates that ALLTEL's intrastate access charges are reasonably similar to its interstate access charges. Even though the Commission has not performed a case study on ALLTEL's access rates to determine whether all implicit subsidies have been removed, the Commission finds that, for the present time, it will follow the FCC's guidance in this area, and like its past practice for other carriers, the Commission will consider implicit subsidies to have been removed so long as the carrier's intrastate access rates are reasonably similar to interstate rates. On its own motion, or upon the filing of an access complaint, the Commission may have cause to review ALLTEL's access rates at a future date to determine whether further access charge reforms should be implemented by ALLTEL.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned docket should be and it is hereby closed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 16th day of December 2003.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director