

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-28
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion seeking to)
conduct an investigation of) PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER
intrastate access charges for)
rural ILECs)
)
) Entered: June 11, 2002

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

On April 23, 2002, the commission entered its Order Initiating Docket in the above-captioned matter. The purpose of this docket is to investigate the issues identified in the Order relating to the current rural ILEC access charge structure and rates.

The Order Initiating Docket at paragraph 9 set a pre-hearing conference on June 4, 2002 for the purposes stated in Rule 020 of the Rules of Commission Procedure, and to establish a schedule for submission of pre-filed testimony and reply testimony, for the hearing on this matter and for the submission of post-hearing briefs and proposed orders.

The prehearing conference was held in accordance with that order. The following parties appeared through their respective legal counsel: Qwest, Sprint, Western Wireless, AT&T, Cox, NICE-BSC and the rural independent companies (RIC). This prehearing conference order records the actions taken at the conference.

1. Schedule: The following schedule shall be established and shall govern the Commission's consideration of this docket:
 - a. Parties shall have until **July 29, 2002** to prepare and file with the Commission and serve on the other parties (i) the pre-filed testimony of any witness that the party intends to call at the hearing of the matter, and (ii) the exhibits that the party intends to offer at the hearing, except for rebuttal exhibits.
 - b. Parties shall have to and including **August 28, 2002** to prepare and file with the Commission and serve on the other parties (i) the pre-filed reply testimony of any witness that the party intends

will provide rebuttal testimony at the hearing of this matter, and (ii) rebuttal exhibits that the party intends to offer at the hearing.

- c. Parties shall have to and including **September 9, 2002** to file and serve on other parties any prehearing motions.
 - d. The hearing on this matter will be held on **September 16, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room. **September 17, 2002** will be reserved in case it is needed.
2. Hearing Procedure: The hearing will be held in the Commission's formal format. Witnesses will be sworn-in. In order for the Commission to permit the development of a complete record in this matter, cross-examination shall be allowed by all parties. Cross-examination shall be limited to a total of **90 minutes for each party**. Each attorney must allocate his or her time amongst the number of witnesses testifying at the hearing and can use no more than 90 minutes for cross-examination during the entire hearing. The Commission will make a determination as to whether an outside court reporter will be used for the hearing. The exact timeline for filing post-hearing briefs will be determined at the hearing.
3. Issues to be Addressed: The issues to be addressed at the hearing of this matter are those identified in the Order Initiating Docket. In the event that any party desires to propose any further issue(s) for the Commission's consideration in this docket, such issue(s) shall be addressed in that party's pre-filed direct testimony.
4. Additional Issues: Any additional matters that may arise prior to the date of the hearing that the parties wish for the Commission to address may be brought before the Commission for resolution at a subsequent prehearing conference.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer that the proceedings regarding the above-captioned matter shall be

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conducted in conformity with the foregoing paragraphs of this
Prehearing Conference Order.

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 11th day of
June, 2002.

By: _____
Hearing Officer