

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application)	Application No. C-58
of Northwestern Bell Telephone)	
Company of Omaha, Nebraska for)	DENIED
approval of tariff sheets of its)	
General Exchange Tariff.)	Entered: January 8, 1981

APPEARANCES: For the applicant
Richard L. Johnson, Attorney
100 South 19th Street
Omaha, Nebraska

OPINION AND FINDINGS

BY THE COMMISSION:

By its application filed August 6, 1980, the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, Omaha, Nebraska, seeks approval of tariff sheets of its General Exchange Tariff.

Notice of the filing of the application was published pursuant to the provisions of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. No protest to the application was received.

Pursuant to notice required by law, public hearing was held on the application on November 18, 1980, at 2:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Nebraska, with appearance as set forth above.

Upon consideration of the application, the evidence adduced at the hearing and being fully advised, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that:

1. Applicant is an Iowa corporation duly authorized to do business in the State of Nebraska with its principal place of business at Omaha, Nebraska. It is engaged in the communications business as a common carrier and is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

2. Attached to the application and incorporated herein by reference are copies of the following proposed tariff sheets of applicant's General Exchange Tariff:

First Revised Sheet 5, Index	Third Revised Sheet 1, Section 26
Twelfth Revised Sheet 3, Section 15	Original Sheets 2 and 3, Section 26
Ninth Revised Sheet 4, Section 15	

3. Applicant seeks to introduce Local Operator Assistance charging to make available operator assistance for completion of local calls and to charge therefor. Rates proposed are \$.25 for calls billed to a credit card or special billing number; \$.65 for all other operator station-to-station calls; and \$1.60 for operator person-to-person calls.

4. Applicant's witness testified that Local Operator Assistance was a service that was demanded by the traveling public and would be used primarily from payphones and hotel/motel guest phones. Applicant indicated that its operators now receive over two million calls annually requesting local operator assistance. Most of these calls are made by customers unable to dial a local call, customers requesting an emergency number or customers who have misdialed. Applicant would not charge for these kinds of calls under its proposal. Only 640,000 calls would fall in the category for which a charge would be made, and with the institution of a charge, applicant estimates that this number would decrease to about 104,000 calls per year. The estimated annual revenue from the proposed service would be \$29,000.

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5. Applicant indicated that it did not propose to apply the charge to those of its subscribers who were unable to dial calls because of a handicap. In order to accomplish this, those customers would have to identify themselves and a record would have to be maintained by the telephone company. It would appear that the cost of notifying its customers and of establishing and maintaining records of handicapped customers would exceed the revenues expected from the proposed charges.

6. The application is not in the public interest and should be denied.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-58 be and it is hereby denied.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this eighth day of January, 1981.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Harold D. Simpson

Chairman

ATTEST

Terence L. Kuback

Executive Secretary

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING: