

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the application of)	Application No. C-90
Western Union Telegraph Company,)	
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, for)	GRANTED
authority to revise certain pages)	
of its Tariff NPSC No. 1.)	Entered: January 14, 1981

APPEARANCES: For the applicant
 Robert N. Green, Attorney
 Western Union Telegraph Company
 1828 L Street, N. W.
 Suite 1001
 Washington, D.C. 20036

OPINION AND FINDINGS

BY THE COMMISSION:

By its application filed October 23, 1980, The Western Union Telegraph Company, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, seeks authority to revise certain pages of its Tariff NPSC No. 1.

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 filed.

Pursuant to notice required by law, public hearing was held on the application on December 15, 1980, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Nebraska, with appearance as set forth above. One witness appeared, namely, James J. Reilly, who is employed by the applicant as Director-Hearings and Jurisdictional Matters. Mr. Reilly presented testimony and related exhibits and was subjected to cross-examination.

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 a common carrier furnishing telegraph service in the State of Nebraska.

2. Attached to the application and incorporated herein by reference are proposed tariff sheets which provide for the following rate changes:

Telegram	Present	Proposed
Basic (15 words or less)	\$4.75	\$6.00
Each additional word:		
16-50	.12	.20
Over 50	.08	.20
<u>Overnight Telegram</u>		
Basic (100 words or less)	4.00	--
Each additional word over 100	.03	--
Basic (50 words or less)		5.50
Each additional word over 50		.12
<u>Public Opinion Message</u>		
Basic (15 words or less)	2.00	--
Basic (20 words or less)	--	3.50
<u>Physical Delivery Charge</u> (within listed delivery limits)	3.00	5.00
<u>Telephone Acceptance Charge</u>	.20	--

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. C-90

Page two

3. The new rates are necessitated by significantly higher costs which Western Union has incurred in recent years, which have caused its return on investment in intrastate services to fall in 1979 to 1.7% (post-tax). In Nebraska, the applicant's post-tax return on intrastate services for the same period was 0.4%, which, when adjusted for known changes (including, inter alia, increased costs associated with the next step in the company's contract with its labor unions), is reduced to negative 0.7%.

4. The proposed rates are projected to produce additional annual revenues in Nebraska of approximately \$10,368, which will serve to improve the company's return on its Nebraska operations from post-tax negative 0.7% (adjusted) to 0.1%, which is clearly not excessive.

5. The rates proposed in this case are already in effect for interstate purposes, the Federal Communications Commission having permitted these rates to go into effect for interstate purposes as of September 1, 1980. The company is presently undertaking to revise the rates for equivalent intrastate services in all states where it operates. Tariff revisions comparable to those proposed herein have been submitted in all states which regulate its public message services (approximately 43 such states).

6. The application is fair and reasonable and in the public interest, and should be granted.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-90 be and it is hereby granted and Western Union Telegraph Company be and it is hereby authorized to revise Tariff NPSC No. 1 to include the sheets referred to in the Opinion and Findings, such new sheets to become effective immediately upon filing by the applicant.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 14th day of January, 1981.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Harold D. Simpson
Chairman

ATTEST:

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Terence L. Kubicek
Secretary

Jack Romans
Duane D. Gay