

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of) Application No. C-204
Northwestern Bell Telephone Company,)
Omaha, Nebraska, for approval of tariff) GRANTED AS MODIFIED
sheets of its General Exchange and)
Intrastate Private Line Tariffs.) Entered: August 10, 1982

APPEARANCES: For the applicant
Richard L. Johnson, Attorney
100 South 19th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

For the protestants, Answer Omaha
Inc., et. al.
Lavern Holdeman, Attorney
1610 South 70th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
and
Dennis Muncy, Attorney
306 West Church Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

For the protestant, Bishop Clarkson
Memorial Hospital
Andrew Grimm, Attorney
10050 Regency Circle
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

OPINION AND FINDINGS

BY THE COMMISSION:

By its application filed December 2, 1981, the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, Omaha, Nebraska, seeks approval of tariff sheets of its General Exchange and Intrastate Private Line Tariffs.

Notice of the filing of the application was published pursuant to the provisions of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. Protests to the application were filed by Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital, Accurate Answering Service, Telephone Answering Bureau, Inc., dba Physicians Bureau, United States Secretary of Defense, Wells Fargo Alarm Services, American District Telegraph Company, Security International, Inc., and Energy Management and Control, Inc.

Petitions to Intervene were filed by American Answering Service Inc., Answer Omaha, Inc., D. J. Roth, City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Hall County Civil Defense and Adams County Civil Preparedness Agency.

Attached to the application and incorporated herein by reference are copies of 313 proposed tariff sheets.

Pursuant to notice required by law public hearing was held on the application on May 19, 1982 in the 8th Floor Conference Room of the Omaha Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam, Omaha, Nebraska, with appearances as set forth above.

Applicant and certain of the protestants (Answer Omaha, Inc., American Answering Services, Accurate Answering Service, Telephone Answering Bureau, dba Physicians Bureau, American District Telegraph Company, Energy management and Control, Inc., Security International, Inc., and Wells Fargo Alarm Services, a Division of Baker Industries, Inc.) have entered into a stipulation which settles certain of the issues between applicant and those protestants. The stipulation was accepted by the Commission and made a part of the record.

Upon consideration of the application, the stipulation, 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. It is engaged in furnishing communications service for hire in Nebraska intrastate commerce and is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
2. Applicant seeks to revise its tariffs to restructure it's Private Line Tariff and portions of it's General Exchange Tariff under which channel services are provided. Private line terminal equipment will not be affected by the application.
3. The tariff pages filed as Exhibit A to the application would restructure the charges, with increases and decreases for individual customers. The overall effect would neither increase or decrease revenues. Applicant's witnesses testified that revenues from private line service did not cover the cost of providing the service. It was applicant's intent that, once the rates were restructured, increased rates would be requested in subsequent applications.
4. The stipulation between applicant and the protesting alarm companies and answering services provides that the proposed rate changes would occur in three steps: certain rate changes would occur six months after the date of the Commission's order, the second step would occur one year later, and the third increase would occur two years after the first. At the end of the phase-in period these elements will be at a level which will be approximately 100% of their cost.
5. Other protestants who testified were representatives of hospitals who were concerned about increases for circuits connecting the buildings of hospital complexes.
6. We are of the opinion that it is in the public interest that the terms of the stipulation with respect to phase-in be applied to all intra-exchange private line circuits and that the proposed tariffs be modified accordingly.
7. As modified herein, the application is fair and reasonable, is in the public interest and should be granted as modified.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-204 be and it is hereby granted as modified and the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company be and it is hereby authorized to revise its tariff as set forth in the opinion and findings herein, effective six months from the date of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicant file appropriate revised tariff sheets with the Commission.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 10th day of August, 1982.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Harold W. Simpson
Chairman

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Duane D. Gay

ATTEST:

Terrence L. Kubicek
Executive Secretary