BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of Rodeo Telephone Company Inc. Burwell, Nebraska, for authority to amend certain Depreciation Rates and Amortize Extra-Ordinary Retirement. Application No. C-303

GRANTED

Entered: November 23, 1982

OPINION AND FINDINGS

BY THE COMMISSION:

By its Application filed October 1, 1982, the Rodeo Telephone Inc., Burwell, Nebraska, seeks authority to amend certain depreciation rates and amortize extra-ordinary retirement.

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

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

- 1. Applicant is a Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Nebraska. Its principal office is located at Burwell, Nebraska. It is engaged in the telephone business as a common carrier serving approximately 2,470 subscribers through exchanges located at Burwell, Erickson, North Loup, Scotia and Taylor, Nebraska.
- 2. Applicant proposed a 20% depreciation rate to apply on its investment in Station Apparatus Account 231. Applying the proposed depreciation rates to the balance in Account 231 at June 30, 1982, results in an annual increase in depreciation expense of \$32,453.
- 3. A reduction in customer premises equipment service life will be accelerated by deregulation, competition and obsolence in addition to physical wear and tear. The deregulation of customer premises equipment after January 1, 1983 means that no new investment will be added to accounts 231 and 234. Accordingly, the average service life of the embedded customer premises equipment will get older and the remaining life will become shorter, thereby requiring increased depreciation rates.
- 4. Applicant also seeks to amortize its extra-ordinary retirement of central office equipment in the amount of \$416,351.56 over five years beginning July 1, 1982.
 - 5. The Application is fair and reasonable and should be granted.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-303 be and it is hereby granted and the Rodeo Telephone Company Inc. is authorized to increase its depreciation rate to 20% on its investment carried in Account 231, effective December 1, 1982.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicant is hereby authorized to amortize extraordinary retirements in the amount of \$416,351.56 over five years beginning July 1, 1982.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 23rd day of November, 1982.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

ATTEST:

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Executive Secretary