

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of
Northwestern Bell Telephone Company,
Omaha, Nebraska, for Authority to
Adjust the Rates and Charges for
Telephone Service Furnished by it in
the State of Nebraska.

) Application No. C-376

) GRANTED

) Entered: August 9, 1983

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

OPINION AND FINDINGS

BY THE COMMISSION:

By its application filed March 22, 1983, Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, Omaha, Nebraska, seeks authority to adjust its rates and charges for telephone service furnished by it in the State of Nebraska.

Notice of the filing was published on March 24, 1983, pursuant to the provisions of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. The Commission sent a letter of notification to all mayors, community clubs and newspapers in the area served by Northwestern Bell advising that the application had been filed. Twelve letters of protest opposing the application were received from throughout the state.

Pursuant to notice required by law, a public hearing was held on the application at 10:00 a.m. on July 22, 1983 in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Nebraska, with appearances as set forth above.

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

GENERAL

1. The Applicant is a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Iowa with its general operating headquarters at Omaha, Nebraska. It is a common carrier furnishing general communications services in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, and in Nebraska under the jurisdiction of this Commission.
2. Applicant furnishes local and long distance service at 95 telephone exchanges in Nebraska serving 743,069 company-owned telephones and provides long distance connections to 360 exchanges of other telephone companies in the state.
3. The rates and charges of the Applicant now in effect were approved by this Commission in its Order entered January 11, 1983 in Application No. C-227.
4. Effective October 1, 1982, revised Average Schedules used for settlement with certain independent companies were implemented nationwide. The annual settlement increase to these Average Schedule independent companies in Nebraska increased Northwestern Bell's costs by \$254,494.
5. Effective December 1, 1982, the Nebraska Public Service Commission granted higher depreciation rates for independent companies in Nebraska settling on an Individual Cost basis. The increased expenses of these Individual Cost companies to be reimbursed through the settlement process increased Northwestern Bell's costs by \$870,000 annually due to this depreciation change.
6. Applicant alleges that its intrastate earnings and rate of return have been adversely effected by these increased settlements. Applicant seeks to increase rates in a revised amount to produce additional revenue of \$1,124,000 to offset these increased settlements.

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BASIC SERVICE

7. The company proposes an increase of all the basic flat rates by an amount of \$.26- \$.27 per month for all residence individual lines, residence party lines and business individual lines as set forth on the attached schedule.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-376 be and it is hereby granted and the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company be and is hereby authorized to revise its rates and charges, as shown on the attached schedule to produce additional annual revenue of \$1,124,000.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 9th day of August, 1983.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Harold D. Simpson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Terrence L. Kubicsek
Executive Secretary

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Dwaine D. Gay