

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of)	Application No. C-458
General Telephone Company of the Midwest,)	
Columbus, Nebraska, for Authority to File)	GRANTED IN PART
Customer and Carrier Access Charge Tariffs.))	Entered: December 27, 1983

APPEARANCES: For the Applicant
 Victor E. Covalt III
 1500 American Charter Center
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

and

William H. Keating
 11-11th Avenue
 Grinnell, Iowa 50112

For the Protestants
 Richard Peterson
 P.O. Box 81849
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

OPINION AND FINDING

BY THE COMMISSION:

By its application filed October 19, 1983, General Telephone Company of the Midwest, Columbus, Nebraska, seeks authority to implement customer and carrier access charge tariffs for service furnished by it in the State of Nebraska.

Notice of the filing of the application was published pursuant to the Commission's Rules and Regulations. Protests were filed by AT&T Communications Inc. and Nebraska Association of Radio Common Carriers.

Pursuant to notice required by law, public hearings were held on the application at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on November 21 and 22, 1983 respectively, in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Nebraska with appearances as set forth above.

At the commencement of the hearing all parties of record agreed and stipulated that issues raised by protestant, Nebraska Association of Radio Common Carriers, were set aside and are to be resolved in separate proceedings.

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 corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Missouri, with its principal executive office in the city of Grinnell, Iowa, and is engaged in furnishing telephone service at various points in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota and Kansas, and as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

2. That the applicant, with Nebraska operating headquarters in the city of Columbus, furnishes exchange service to 48 communities in the State of Nebraska and in the rural territory adjacent thereto through 37 exchanges in central offices serving approximately 41,375 access lines. The applicant also provides long distance service with the area served by the applicant, and through connections with other telephone companies, provides long distance service throughout the State of Nebraska and to points outside the State.

3. Evidentiary hearings were held at the Commission's Hearing Room in Lincoln, and all parties had an opportunity to present testimony and exhibits, to file briefs, and to otherwise participate in those hearings.

4. A system to replace the current toll settlements arrangements must be approved in time for implementation by January 1, 1984 to avoid disruptions in the provision of intrastate toll services and to enable telephone companies to recover the toll revenues required from those services.

5. The Commission reaffirms its commitment to maintaining universal telephone service.

6. The potential for uneconomic bypass of the telephone network is a threat to universal service.

7. An intrastate access charge tariff structure mirroring exchange carriers' access charge tariffs filed with the FCC and with carrier access charge rates set in parity with the FCC filed tariff rates is the best plan to adopt considering the interests of the public, local telephone companies and interexchange carriers. These intrastate tariffs are to be effective January 1, 1984.

8. An appropriate premium access charge on AT&T is implicit in tariffs which mirror the federal tariffs filed by exchange carriers with the FCC.

9. The tariffs filed by General Telephone Company of the Midwest are hereby approved to be effective January 1, 1984.

10. General's intrastate toll revenue requirement is correctly calculated and the excess revenues recovered from carrier access charges in 1984 should be used to offset increased depreciation expense in the aerial cable account, and to offset General's portion of the cost of its proposal to convert Free Access Service (FAS) to EAS for all of its exchanges offering FAS with the exception of the facilities at Ewing, Walnut, and Orchard.

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

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Applicant No. C-458 be and it is hereby granted and General Telephone Company of the Midwest be and it is hereby authorized to implement tariffs which provide for customer and carrier access charges.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicant implement conversion to EAS as specified in the Opinion and Findings and file within 60 days of the effective date of this order its exchange by exchange conversion schedule.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicant's filed tariffs with the Commission are approved except as to "SFIA E" provisions as they apply to existing radio common carriers. For existing Radio Common Carriers, that provision is set aside and will be considered in separate proceedings before this Commission. The tariffs filed by Applicant in this case are hereby approved and shall be effective January 1, 1984.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, 27th day of December, 1983.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Harold D. Simpson
Chairman

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

ATTEST:

Terrence L. Kuback
Executive Secretary