

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the Effect of
Competition In Inter-exchange
Telephone Service.

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Application No. C-506

ORDER INSTITUTING INVESTIGATION

Entered: April 24, 1984

OPINION AND FINDINGS

BY THE COMMISSION:

In order to gather information concerning interexchange telephone service in the State of Nebraska, the Commission on its own motion hereby institutes this investigation.

Comments and recommendations are sought from all interested persons on the issues set forth below. The enumeration of these issues in no way restricts parties from raising and commenting on other related issues.

All comments should be submitted by June 8, 1984, and a public hearing will be scheduled at a later date.

Issues for Comment

1. What should be the proper regulatory treatment of long distance competitors such as resellers and OCC's? What filing requirements for information and rate changes, if any, should be imposed by this Commission? Is any relaxation of the traditional tariff format appropriate (i.e., minimum/maximum rates)?

2. If your answer to No. 1 above advocates a particular regulatory framework, please detail the relevance and use of the dominant/non-dominant carrier classification in that framework. Particular attention should be paid to the conditions under which a carrier would move from one classification to, another, and to the likely regularoty "life span" of the dominant/non-dominant dichotomy.

3. What is anticipated as the potential immediate (1-3 years) impact on revenue to Northwestern Bell Telephone Company Independent Telephone Companies and AT&T Communications of the Midwest under various competitive scenarios? (See, e.g., 4 below).

Please support any estimates provided with the underlying data used. Any foreseen impacts on independent company settlements should also be addressed.

4. What areas and services should the Commission consider opening to competition? Should competition be limited to interLATA calling? Should competition include intraLATA calling? Should the Commission's determinations regarding competition be influenced by the nature of the service (e.g., MTS, WATS, Private Line)?

5. How are current markets for interexchange services being defined, and what relevance do or should these definitions have to Commission policies on interexchange competition? Discuss the importance of new services, such as DTS, to the definition of markets. Please support any comments with market data where appropriate.

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6. What stimulatory effect, if any, will competition have on toll revenues and on local exchange company access charge revenues? Please relate the specific scenario(s) used in this discussion and provide appropriate support for any statements.

7. What resellers of interexchange service currently exist in the State of Nebraska?

8. The generic rationale for competition/deregulation is that consumers pay lower prices, receive higher quality and have more choices for the particular service or product. Please discuss what the Commission can expect in terms of benefits to Nebraska consumers from any allowed competition for interexchange communications services. The incidence of these benefits for specific groups of customers (i.e., residential, single-line business, multi-line business, or residential (and business) light toll users, residential (and business) heavy toll users, users of specialized services) is an important concern, as is the timing of the receipt of any benefits by each group.

9. Please relate any knowledge you may have indicative of AT&T's intent to bypass local exchange company facilities.

10. How pervasive is competition now, and how pervasive is it likely to be in the near future, for interLATA intrastate communications service? Please distinguish between services (such as MTS, WATS, Private Line, and DTS) if necessary.

11. How pervasive is competition now, and how pervasive is it likely to be in the near future, for intraLATA communication service? Please distinguish between services (such as MTS, WATS, Private Line, and DTS) if necessary.

12. To what extent do positions advocated in response to the above questions require or seem to require introduction of new legislation or changes in the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that comments and recommendations on the issues set forth herein may be submitted by all interested parties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties are not restricted from raising and commenting on other related issues.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all comments be submitted on or before June 8, 1984.

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 24th day of April, 1984.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Harold D. Simpson
Chairman

ATTEST:

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Terrence L. Kubic
Executive Secretary