

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of: ) Application No. C-604  
Curtis Telephone Company, Curtis, )  
Nebraska for Reimbursement for Existing ) GRANTED IN PART  
Services. )

Rock County Telephone Company, Blair, ) Application No. C-617  
Nebraska for authority to structure )  
rates and charges for the provision ) GRANTED IN PART  
of Local Operator Services and Direc- )  
tory Assistance. )

Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company, ) Application No. C-618  
Blair, Nebraska for authority to )  
structure rates and charges for the ) GRANTED IN PART  
provision of Local Operator Services )  
and Directory Assistance. )

Blair Telephone Company, Blair, ) Application No. C-619  
Nebraska for authority to structure )  
rates and charges for the provision ) GRANTED IN PART  
of Local Operator Services and Direc- )  
tory Assistance. )

Arlington Telephone Company, Blair, ) Application No. C-620  
Nebraska for authority to structure )  
rates and charges for the provision ) GRANTED IN PART  
of Local Operator Services and Direc- )  
tory Assistance. )

Nebraska Telephone Association, ) Application No. C-623  
Lincoln, Nebraska to establish a )  
procedure for amending Exchange ) GRANTED  
Carrier Tariffs to allow pass-through )  
of Directory Assistance charges. ) Entered: April 29, 1986

APPEARANCES: For the applicants  
Paul M. Schudel, Attorney  
1500 American Charter Center  
Lincoln, Nebraska

John R. O'Hanlon, Attorney  
P.O. Box 428  
Blair, Nebraska

OPINION AND FINDINGS

BY THE COMMISSION:

By applications filed August 12, November 7 and November 13, 1985 the above-named applicants seek authority to establish charges for directory assistance services.

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C-618, C-619, C-620 and C-623

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Notice of the filing of these applications was published pursuant to the Commission's Rules and Regulations. Letters of protest to the application of Blair Telephone Company were received.

Pursuant to notice required by law, public hearing was held on the applications on February 21, 1986 at 9:30 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, Blair, Nebraska with appearances as shown.

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 Nebraska Telephone Association is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska many of whose members are common carriers engaged in the telephone business and under the jurisdiction of this Commission.

2. The other applicants are all telephone common carriers under the jurisdiction of this Commission.

3. All of these applications seek to establish charges for directory assistance, some also seeking to establish charges for other operator services.

4. Norm Osland, Executive Vice President of the Nebraska Telephone Association testified. The application of the association was filed as a result of changes in the contract between Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and other Nebraska telephone companies under which operator services are provided by Northwestern Bell. The old contract provided for a flat monthly payment for operator services whereas the new contract provides for a charge of \$ .33 for each call handled by Northwestern Bell's operators. A copy of this contract was introduced in evidence as Exhibit 5.

5. The telephone association application asks that each exchange carrier, including those which are not currently contracting with Northwestern Bell, be authorized to elect to revise their tariff to charge \$ .40 for each directory assistance call. To make such election it is proposed that exchange carriers notify the Commission by letter within 60 days from the date of this order of its election accompanied by a copy of its operator services agreement and revised tariff pages. The proposed \$ .40 charge is based upon the Northwestern Bell contract price of \$ .33 plus \$ .07 for the cost of billing and recording the call.

6. Doris Pursel, Manager of Curtis Telephone Company testified. Operator services for Curtis Telephone Company are provided under a contract with Northwestern Bell which now calls for a payment of \$ .33 for each directory assistance call. Curtis Telephone Company proposed a charge of \$ .50 for each directory assistance call which Ms. Pursel, in her testimony, amended to \$ .40 per call. In addition, Curtis Telephone Company proposes to establish the following charges, all based on the contract with Northwestern Bell: local exchange credit card call, \$ .68; local exchange operator station call, \$1.41; local exchange person-to-person call, \$3.25; local exchange busy line verification, \$1.71; local exchange busy line interrupt, \$2.44. Ms. Pursel indicated that the cost of billing and recording each call was \$ .0669.

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7. Mark Young, Vice President and General Manager of Cozad Telephone Company and Ted Thieman, Manager of Petersburg Telephone Company testified in support of the applications. They testified that their costs of billing and recording were approximately \$ .07 per call.

8. Michael Jacobsen, General Manager of Arlington Telephone Company, Blair Telephone Company, Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company and Rock County Telephone Company testified. These four companies will be billed by Northwestern Bell for some operator services but in addition operators of Blair Telephone Company also perform these functions for subscribers of the four companies. In their applications approval of a \$ .33 directory assistance charge was sought as well as the same charges for other services requested by Curtis Telephone Company referred to above. Mr. Jacobsen orally amended his applications to include the \$ .07 billing and recording costs included in the other applications.

9. The evidence shows that the cost of directory assistance service, including billing and recording, to independent telephone companies is \$ .40 per call. It is in the public interest that the charge for directory assistance be as uniform as possible, therefore the application of Nebraska Telephone Association should be granted and a procedure should be established whereby all exchange carriers except Northwestern Bell Telephone Company are authorized to elect to amend their exchange tariffs in order to recover costs of intrastate operator-handled directory assistance calls at the rate of \$ .40 per call. Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Application, each exchange carrier operating within this state which is desirous of billing its intrastate operator handled directory assistance calls to the customer who has placed such calls, shall make a written filing with the Commission in the form of Exhibit A attached hereto stating such exchange carrier's election to be bound by this order and where applicable, accompanied by a true and correct copy of the operator services agreement applicable to such local exchange carrier and further accompanied by a revised page or insertion in its exchange tariff consistent with the form of Exhibit B attached hereto.

10. The applications of Curtis Telephone Company, Arlington Telephone Company, Blair Telephone Company, Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company and Rock County Telephone Company should be denied as to the following rates for local operator services: Local credit card call, \$ .58; Local operator station call, \$1.41; Local person-to-person call, \$3.25; Local busy line verification, \$1.71; Local busy line interrupt, \$2.44.

#### ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Applications Nos. C-604, C-617, C-618, C-619, C-620 and C-623 be and they are hereby granted and all telephone companies except Northwestern Bell Telephone Company be and they are hereby authorized to file with the Commission within 60 days from the date of this order the letter and tariffs attached hereto establishing a rate of \$ .40 for each directory assistance call.

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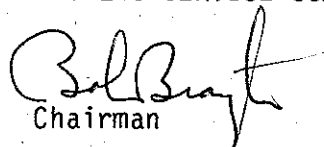
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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicants Curtis Telephone Company, Arlington Telephone Company, Blair Telephone Company, Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company and Rock County Telephone Company be and they are hereby denied authority to charge for other local operator services.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 29th day of April, 1986.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Bob Brayton  
Duane D. Gay  
James F. Munnelly  
Harold D. Simpson

ATTEST:


  
Acting Executive Secretary

EXHIBIT A

Mr. Herbert J. Sherdon  
Director-Telecommunications  
Nebraska Public Service Commission  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Re: Election to Pass-Through Intrastate Operator-Handled Directory  
Assistance Services Costs at the Rate of \$ .40 Per Call.

Dear Mr. Sherdon:

In compliance with the Commission's Order entered in Application No. C-623 relating to the pass-through of directory assistance charges, please regard this letter as written notification that \_\_\_\_\_  
(insert name of exchange carrier) hereby elects to implement the pass-through of such charges to its subscribers.

Enclosed please find a page for insertion in our Company's General Exchange Tariff providing for the charge to customers for intrastate operator-handled directory assistance calls at the rate of \$ .40 per call.

Please place this letter of notification of record in the file of Application No. C-623.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

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EXHIBIT B

Telephone Company  
State of Nebraska

GENERAL  
EXCHANGE  
TARIFF

Section  
Original Sheet 1  
Docket C-623

Issued: \_\_\_\_\_, 1986

Effective date \_\_\_\_\_, 1986

I. DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE SERVICE

A. General

1. Directory Assistance service is defined as furnishing aid in obtaining telephone numbers. The Directory Assistance charges specified in this tariff apply when a customer within Nebraska requests the telephone numbers of other customers within Nebraska or within any adjacent local calling area covered by tariffs on file with the Nebraska Public Service Commission. Such charges also apply to customers within such adjacent local calling area who request numbers of other customers within such local calling areas or within their state of residence when a directory assistance charging plan is in effect in that state.
2. Rates specified in subparagraph B are not applicable to:
  - a. Calls placed from public and semi-public telephones.
  - b. Calls placed from hotels and motels.
  - c. Calls from hospitals that have, as their principal undertaking, the medical and surgical care of the sick and disabled and which provide telephones in the majority of the patient rooms.
  - d. Calls placed from residence telephones where a member of the customer's household has been certified by a qualified authority as unable to use a directory or from the business telephone of a certified customer where other assistance is not available. A qualified authority is defined as including doctors of medicine, ophthalmologist, optometrist, registered nurses, therapist, professional staff of hospitals, institutions and public welfare agencies. Certification of physical disability sufficiently severe to prevent reading or using conventional reading materials may also be made by professional librarians or by any person whose competence in this area is acceptable to the Librarian of Congress of the United States.
  - e. Calls placed to Directory Assistance by the Operator in connection with operator-handled local and long distance calls.

B. Rates

1. Dialed calls or requests placed through the operator (when normal Directory Assistance service is available) shall be billed to the customer at the rate of \$ .40 per call.