

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of Great Plains Com-) Application No. C-949
munications, Inc., Blair, Nebraska)
seeking to revise Depreciation) GRANTED
Rates.)
_____) Entered: November, 24 1992

BY THE COMMISSION

By application filed October 5, 1992, Great Plains Communications, Inc. ("Great Plains") of Blair, Nebraska seeks authorization from the Nebraska Public Service Commission to revise its depreciation rates after having complied with the review requirements set forth in Commission Order No. C-664 (issued April 14, 1987). Great Plains is a telecommunications common carriers operating in intrastate commerce and subject to the jurisdiction of and regulation by the Commission as to rates, service, and general control. The applicant's books and records are kept and maintained in compliance with the FCC Uniform System of Accounts for Class "A" companies operating in Nebraska.

The Omaha Daily Record published notice of the application October 6, 1992 in accordance with the Commission's procedural requirements. No one filed a protest. The application is therefore processed by modified procedure this date.¹

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Upon consideration of the application, the affidavit attached to the application by S. Michael Jensen, Vice President and General Manager, and being fully advised, the Commission is of the opinion and finds:

1. On April 14, 1987, the Commission entered Order No. C-664 which adopted certain depreciation procedures establishing a triennial review of common carriers, including the applicant. This application was filed pursuant to the earlier order.

¹Title 291 Neb. Admin. Regs. Ch. 1, Rule 018.03.

2. In its application, Great Plains asserts the company has completed a review of its depreciation rates and reserves as required by C-664.

3. Specifically, the company seeks approval to revise depreciation rates for motor vehicles, office support equipment, company communications equipment, general purpose computers, circuit equipment-trunk, circuit equipment-subscriber, public telephone equipment, and trunk cable. Exhibit A shows existing and proposed depreciation rates. Exhibit B shows the reserve deficiency for trunk cable, and Exhibit C reconciles December 31, 1991 balances to figures calculated for April 30, 1992 and used in Schedule A.² The impact of the proposed change will decrease the company's annual depreciation expense by \$134,900.

4. Applicant proposes to amortize the reserve deficiency in the trunk cable account over 36 months. The reserve deficiency is the result of accelerating trunk cable replacement with fiber optic cable. Applicant will continue to replace trunk cable with fiber for the next two years. Applicant proposes to leave the depreciation rate for the trunk cable account at six percent and amortize only the reserve deficiency computed on Schedule B.

5. Great Plains seeks to implement the revised depreciation rates effective January 1, 1993.

After review, the application is fair and reasonable, will not harm the public interest, and should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-949 be, and it is hereby, granted and Great Plains Communications, Inc. of Blair, Nebraska is authorized to enter into a new depreciation schedule in conformance with (a) the preceding paragraphs of this order and (b) the exhibits attached to the application which are incorporated into and made a part of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the new depreciation schedule takes effect January 1, 1993.

² Schedules A and B refer to federal income tax filing forms filed pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code (I.R.C.).

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 24th day of November, 1992.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING

Daniel G. Munnely

Duane D. Hay

//s//Frank E. Landis, Jr.

//s//James F. Munnely

Frank E. Landis, Jr.
Chairman

ATTEST:

Patricia R. ...
Executive Director