

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application)	Application No. C-955
of Residents of the Venango Ex-)	
change who seek Extended Area)	PETITION DISMISSED
Service to and from the Grant Ex-)	
change, both served by Great Plains))	
Communications.)	
)	Entered: November 22, 1993

BY THE COMMISSION

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On October 15, 1992, telephone subscribers in the Venango exchange of Great Plains Communications' ("Great Plains") service area filed with the Commission a petition seeking Extended Area Service ("EAS") to and from Great Plain's Grant exchange. Great Plains is a local exchange carrier under the general regulation of this Commission as a telecommunications common carrier. This application is governed specifically by Title 291 NAC Ch. 5, Rule 002.27.

15 percent of the subscribers in the petitioning Venango exchange requested EAS to and from the Grant exchange. Because the minimum threshold of interest (15 percent) was verified, the Commission Staff directed Great Plains to conduct a usage study of the traffic between the exchanges as set forth in 002.27B2c.

Great Plains reported December 14, 1992 that the usage study showed sufficient usage from the Venango exchange to the Grant exchange but not from the Grant exchange to the Venango exchange. In light of the Commission's interpretation of 002.27B2c as established in Application No. C-896, Great Plains concluded that the requirements for going forward with

the EAS application were not met. By letter sent December 23, 1992, the Commission Staff directed Great Plains to conduct a cost study due by March 8, 1993 to determine the cost solely to Venango subscribers for EAS to and from Grant. Great Plains then sent a letter to all Venango subscribers asking them to agree to a six month delay in this docket while the company developed an alternative plan. The Commission on its own motion March 9, 1993 then placed this matter in abeyance for six months until September 8, 1993.

On September 7, 1993, Great Plains filed a letter with the Commission outlining its alternative to the Venango subscribers EAS application. The company proposed to provide two-way EAS between the Venango and Grant exchanges with both flat rate and message rate options. Calls between the communities would be at 60 cents per call (except pay phones). Alternatively, subscribers could choose a monthly flat rate option of \$3/residential and \$6/business for unlimited calling between the exchanges.

Great Plains sent a letter explaining the proposal to all Grant and Venango exchange subscribers September 21, 1993. A public meeting to explain and discuss this proposal was held in Grant October 6, 1993.

On November 2, 1993, Great Plains filed tariff pages reflecting the proposal described above with a January 7, 1994 effective date. We treat the tariff pages and their accompanying cover letter as a motion to dismiss the EAS application pursuant to 002.27C1.¹ These tariff pages are marked

¹002.27C1 states: "If an exchange carrier offers in an exchange an optional enhanced area calling plan acceptable to the Commission, it shall be exempt from the requirements of Rule 002.27B in that exchange."

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as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference into this order.

Therefore, upon consideration of the application, the governing statutes and rules, and being fully informed, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the alternative plan offered by Great Plains is acceptable to the Commission and the EAS application filed by the Venango subscribers should be dismissed upon motion of Great Plains.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Great Plains Communications' motion to dismiss the application for EAS be and it is hereby granted and Application No. C-955 be and it is hereby dismissed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Great Plains Communications' tariff changes (as identified in Exhibit A and incorporated herein) take effect January 7, 1994 as an alternative plan to the Venango exchange subscribers' request for EAS.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 22nd day of November, 1993.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING

Daniel G. Huwiler
Duane D. Gay

//s//Rod Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis, Jr.
//s//James F. Munnelly

Frank Landis, Jr.
Chairman

ATTEST:

Dwight R. King
Executive Director

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