

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition) Application No. C-1212
 from residents of the Big Springs)
 exchange served by US West re-)
 questing extended area service to) GRANTED
 the Ogallala Exchange also served)
 by US West.) Entered: March 12, 1996

BY THE COMMISSION

By petition filed June 30, 1995, residents of the Big Springs exchange, served by US West, requested extended area service (EAS) to the Ogallala exchange also served by US West Communications.

The petition was verified on July 14, 1995 by Commission staff and displayed the sufficient percentage of signatures to proceed, as required by Commission Rule 002.27B2. Accordingly, the Commission requested a usage study be conducted by US West to determine whether sufficient calls are made.

The results of the usage study were filed on August 10, 1995 and demonstrated that there was sufficient usage from the customers of the Big Springs Exchange to meet the Commission's rules. Therefore, on September 5, 1995, US West was directed to establish proposed rates to implement the EAS plan. The proposed rates being due at the Commission on or before November 9, 1995.

US West forwarded the proposed rates to the Commission on October 30, 1995. The proposed rates were as follows:

	<u>Current EAS Rates</u>		<u>Proposed EAS Rates</u>	
	Res	Bus	Res	Bus
Ogallala	\$0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00
Big Springs	0.50	1.00	1.50	3.00

On November 21, 1995, the Commission ordered ballots to be prepared by US West. The ballots were to be sent January 22, 1996, with a requested return date of February 23, 1996.

The ballot results were received by the Commission on March 4, 1996. Of the 435 ballots sent, 292 were returned by the deadline. 259 ballots were in favor of the EAS proposal and 27 ballots indicated opposition to the plan. 6 ballots were disqualified. Thus, 60% of the eligible Big Springs

Application No. C-1212

PAGE TWO

subscribers voted in favor of the plan exceeding the 50% benchmark required by Commission Rule 002.27B3b(3). The request to implement extended area service between the Big Springs exchange and the Ogallala exchange should be granted, with the new service provided by May 1, 1996.

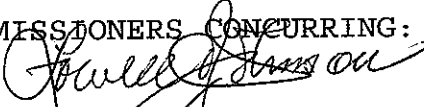
O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-1212 be, and it is hereby, granted and that US West Communications is hereby authorized to revise its rates and charges for extended area service as set forth in this order between the Big Springs exchange and the Ogallala exchange.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that such rates are to be implemented by May 1, 1996 concurrent with the availability of the new EAS.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 12th day of March, 1996.



COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:


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

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

ATTEST:



Executive Director