

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application	)	Application No. C-1286
of Petersburg Telephone Company, of	)	
Petersburg, Nebraska and Great	)	
Plains Communications, Inc., of	)	
Blair, Nebraska seeking authority to	)	GRANTED
merge Petersburg Telephone Company	)	
into Great Plains Communications,	)	
Inc., and to establish extended area	)	
service (EAS) between Elgin and	)	
Petersburg.	)	Entered: March 26, 1996

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

On January 23, 1996, a joint application was filed by Petersburg Telephone Company of Petersburg, Nebraska and Great Plains Communications, Inc. of Blair, Nebraska seeking authority to merge Petersburg Telephone Company into Great Plains Communications, Inc. and to establish extended area service (EAS) between Elgin and Petersburg. Notice of the application was published in the Omaha Daily Record on January 25, 1996. No protests were received; therefore, we will process this application pursuant to the Commission's Rule of Modified Procedure.

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

After holding a public hearing in Petersburg, Nebraska and pursuant to Application No. C-1129, the Commission approved the purchase of Petersburg Telephone Company by Great Plains Communications, Inc. on January 24, 1995. By Great Plains purchasing all of the stock of Petersburg Telephone Company, Petersburg Telephone Company became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Great Plains Communications, Inc. on January 25, 1995.

In the present application, Petersburg Telephone Company and Great Plains Communications, Inc. request authority to merge Petersburg Telephone Company into Great Plains Communications, Inc. The merger will result in consolidation of business operations and will eliminate duplicate and unnecessary business operations and accounting requirements. Further, the applicants state the proposed merger will have no detrimental impact on the subscribers of Great Plains Communications, Inc.

The applicants have made commendable efforts to inform the consumers of the Petersburg exchange of the proposed application. Information was enclosed to Petersburg customers in their monthly bill describing the Great Plains customer service center. On February 7, 1996, a press release was sent to the local newspaper explaining the application, the EAS additive and invited consumers to attend a pancake feed hosted by Great Plains and Petersburg Telephone for answers to

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additional questions. The pancake feed was held on February 15, 1996 and was attended by over 330 people. Lastly, on March 13, 1996, a press release was issued to the area explaining the EAS between Elgin and Petersburg. These efforts have surely raised the awareness of the community and yet, this Commission has not received any protests or negative comments regarding the application.

The application proposes to merge the operations after the close of business on December 31, 1996. The merger would thereby become effective January 1, 1997. All rates contained in Great Plains Communications Tariff No. 1 would apply to the exchange of Petersburg after the merger is complete. The rates for the Petersburg exchange would be amended as follows:

	Current	After Merger
Basic Local Service - Res	\$15.00	\$10.75
Basic Local Service - Bus	17.50	18.55

The application also seeks permission to begin providing extended area service (EAS) between the exchange of Petersburg and the Great Plains exchange of Elgin, Nebraska, effective April 1, 1996. A monthly charge for the EAS service will be applied to Petersburg subscribers; however, the EAS additive will not become effective until the merger is completed, January 1, 1997. The following rates for EAS will be assessed in addition to the basic local service rate:

	EAS additive
Basic Local Service - Res	\$1.00
Basic Local Service - Bus	\$2.00

Upon consideration of the application, the governing statutes and rules, and being fully informed, the Commission is of the opinion and finds the request for authorization to merge Petersburg Telephone Company into Great Plains Communications, Inc. is fair and reasonable, is in the public interest and should be granted.

#### O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application C-1286 be, and it is hereby granted that Petersburg Telephone Company is hereby authorized to merge into Great Plains Communications, Inc. effective January 1, 1997.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the applicants may offer Extended Area Service (EAS) between Petersburg, Nebraska and Elgin, Nebraska, effective April 1, 1996.

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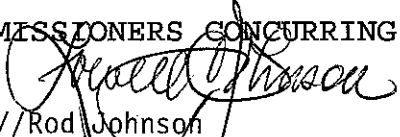
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Great Plains Communications, Inc. file an updated and revised tariff reflecting the addition of EAS between the Elgin and Petersburg exchanges with the Commission within the next thirty (30) days.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon completion of the merger, Great Plains Communications, Inc. shall file a revised tariff which complies with the provisions of this order.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 26th day of March, 1996.

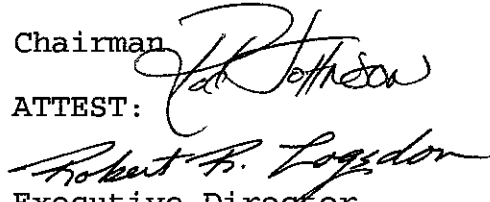
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

  
//s//Rod Johnson  
//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//James F. Munnelly  
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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