## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of ) Application No. C-1306 Residents of the Fremont exchange ) requesting extended area service to ) APPLICATION GRANTED the Omaha exchange served by US ) West Communications. ) Entered: Dec. 3, 1996

## BY THE COMMISSION

Comes now the Communications Department of the Nebraska Public Service Commission with the results of ballot sent by US West Communications (US West) showing interest in establishing an extended area service (EAS) route from the Fremont exchange, to the Omaha exchange, both served by US West. The application, C-1306, was filed by residents of the Fremont exchange and was verified by the Commission to have the requisite number of signatures on March 11, 1996. Notice of the application was published in the Omaha Daily Record on March 14, 1996.

## OPINION AND FINDINGS

Subscribers from the Fremont exchange demonstrated their interest in establishing an EAS route from Fremont to the Omaha exchange by filing a petition with the Commission. Further, studies reflected the Fremont exchange carried sufficient calls to Omaha to satisfy the Commission's Rules. Therefore, on July 15, 1996, pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27B2e, US West filed with the Commission proposed rates to provide two way EAS between the Fremont exchange and the Omaha exchange. The proposed EAS additive rate was \$2.30 for residence and \$3.00 per business line.

Pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27B3, US West balloted the residents in Fremont to determine if they were in favor of the EAS proposal. The proposed ballot complied with Commission Rules and Regulations and was distributed on October 1, 1996. The ballots were to be returned on or before December 1, 1996.

The results of the ballot were submitted to the Commission on December 2, 1996. Of the 13,179 ballots sent, 8,760 were returned. 7,100 ballots were in favor of the EAS proposal and 1,088 ballots indicated opposition to the plan. 572 ballots were disqualified. By Commission Rule 002.27B3b(3), over fifty percent of the subscribers eligible to vote must vote in favor of the plan. In this case, 54% voted to implement extended area service from the Fremont to Omaha exchange. Therefore, the request is granted.

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## ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application C-1306 be, and it is hereby granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that US West take action so as to implement the EAS route on or before June 1, 1997.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that US West update its tariff accordingly.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 3rd day of December, 1996.

Chairman

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMAGSIONERS/CONCURRING

//s/Rad Johnson

//s//Frank F. Landis //s//James F. Munnelly

//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

Executive Director