

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-1415
on its own motion, to investigate)
US West Communications' cost)
studies and to establish rates for) ORDER SEEKING COMMENT
interconnection, unbundled)
elements, transport and)
termination and resale services.) Entered: March 6, 2001

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On September 19, 1996, the above-captioned docket was opened by the Commission on its own motion to investigate cost studies submitted by US West Communications, now known as Qwest Communications, and to establish rates for interconnection, unbundled elements, transport and termination and for resale services. On October 29, 1996 the Commission granted US West's motion for a protection order. On April 7, 1998, the Commission entered an order officially making all competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) holding a certificate of public convenience and necessity as of April 7, 1998, and all carriers with a pending application for local exchange authority on file with the Commission as of that date, a party to C-1415. On November 13, 1998, the Commission held a prehearing conference call. The Commission formally adopted a procedural schedule by order on December 1, 1998. A hearing was held December 7-11, 1998. Subsequently, post-hearing briefs were requested by the Commission and filed by the interested parties. For various reasons, the Commission has not taken formal action with respect to pricing in this docket since that time.

At this time, however, we want to make some preliminary findings with respect to the evidence and testimony taken in this docket. Because we haven't been able to promptly address the issues raised in C-1415, we suspect that much of the information provided in this docket is most likely stale. We wish to salvage the evidence to the extent that it is relevant; however, as the parties have identified in our hearings in C-2256/PI-38, much of the evidence in that record should be replaced, supplemented or discounted.

Moreover, we conclude that because of various evolutions in the cost models that were before us, we may wish to request revised versions from the parties to the docket. Finally, we note that

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there may be other cost models that were not initially included or available which should be included for our review.

Therefore, we request comment on the following questions:

1. Should the Commission close C-1415 entirely and open a new cost study to establish rates for interconnection, unbundled network elements, transport and termination and resale services? Why or why not?
2. Should the Commission break apart the issues addressed in C-1415 and make piecemeal findings and conclusions? Why or why not?
3. Should the Commission simply permit parties to supplement the original C-1415 record? Why or why not?
4. How should the Commission concurrently address the issues it faces in its other open dockets where the pricing of elements will be affected?
5. Regardless of whether we open a new docket or supplement the evidence in the above-captioned docket, what should appropriate the timeline be for the completion of our findings in either the C-1415, or its successor docket?
6. Does the Commission need to address all of the issues originally brought to us in C-1415 or have some of the issues been resolved by the parties in their interconnection agreements?
7. Should the Commission decide that it will close C-1415, can the Commission use the evidence accumulated in that docket and apply that relevant information in other Commission dockets, particularly where the pricing of elements is at issue? Why or why not?

Interested parties may file written comments in response to these questions on or before Friday, March 23, 2001. Parties should file at least five paper copies of their written comments and one electronic copy in WordPerfect 5.0 format or later.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that interested parties may file written comments in

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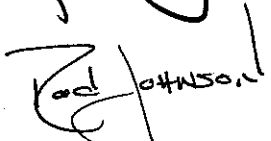
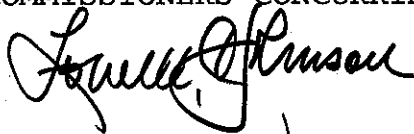
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response to the questions contained herein on or before March 23, 2001. Parties must file at least five paper copies of their written comments and one electronic copy in WordPerfect 5.0 format or later.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 6th day of March, 2001.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:


//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller
Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director