

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application                    ) Application No. C-1506  
of American Farm Bureau, Inc., dba                )  
The Farm Bureau Connection, Park                 )  
Ridge, Illinois, seeking authority                ) GRANTED  
to operate as a resale common carrier)                )  
of telecommunication services within              )  
the state of Nebraska.                                ) Entered: July 28, 1997

APPEARANCES:

For the Applicant:  
None

For the Commission Staff:  
Hal Hasselbalch, Staff Attorney  
300 The Atrium  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

By application filed March 21, 1997, American Farm Bureau, Inc., dba The Farm Bureau Connection, Park Ridge, Illinois, seeks authority to provide intraLATA and interLATA resold telecommunications services within the state of Nebraska. Notice of the application was published in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on March 25, 1997, pursuant to the rules of the Commission. No protests were filed. Hearing on the application was held by video communication on July 8, 1997.

Applicant produced one witness, Casey Wojciechowski, who testified: He is the director of marketing and network services for American Farm Bureau, Inc. Applicant is certificated in ten states and has 17 applications pending. It wants to become certificated in all 50 states. No complaints are pending against applicant in any state. Applicant's proposed service is designed for members of the Farm Bureau only, but it will serve non-members if requested. Applicant's underlying carriers are MCI and Vartec of Dallas. Applicant has its own technical staff. Billing will be done through its own system. Applicant's operations are now at the break-even point. Its business plan is shown in Exhibit 1.

Interexchange reseller applications are subject to Commission jurisdiction under Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 75-604 and 86-805 and Title 291 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, Chapter 5, Rule 003.12. From examination of the application filed herein and the testimony adduced at the hearing, the Commission finds applicant has provided all the information required by the Commission, possesses adequate financial resources to provide the proposed service, and possesses adequate technical competency to provide the proposed service. The application should be granted.

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application Number C-1506 be, and it is hereby, granted and American Farm Bureau, Inc., dba The Farm Bureau Connection, Park Ridge, Illinois, is hereby authorized to operate as a resale carrier of intrastate interexchange intraLATA and interLATA telecommunications services within the state of Nebraska.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the applicant shall file, in accordance with the applicable statutes on or before April 30th of each year, an annual report with this Commission consisting of (a) a copy of any report filed with the Federal Communications Commission, (b) a copy of any annual report to stockholders, (c) a copy of the latest Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, (d) a balance sheet and income statement for the previous year of operation and (e) for the State of Nebraska on a combined interstate-intrastate basis, the investment in telephone plant and equipment located within the state, accumulated depreciation thereon, operating revenues, operating expenses, and taxes.

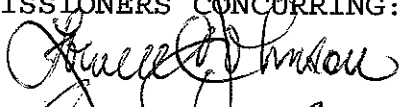

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicant file its current tariff prior to offering service pursuant to the certificate granted in this order.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this order be, and it is hereby made, the Commission's official certificate of authority to furnish the service authorized herein as a common carrier.

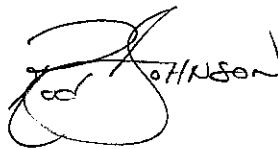
MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 28th day of July, 1997.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

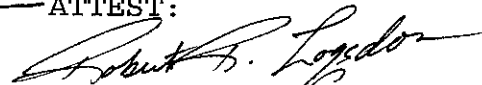
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman



ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

//s//Rod Johnson  
//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller