

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition)	Application No. C-1518
from Residents of the Fort Cal-)	
houn Exchange Served by Blair)	
Telephone Company Requesting)	DISMISSED
Extended Area Service to the)	
Omaha Exchange Served by US West)	
Communications.)	Entered: September 9, 1997

BY THE COMMISSION:

On April 10, 1997, a petition was filed by residents of the Fort Calhoun exchange seeking Extended Area Service (EAS) to Omaha. Fort Calhoun is served by the Blair Telephone Company, while Omaha is served by US West Communications, Inc. Notice of the petition was published in The Daily Record, April 15, 1997.

The EAS petition was verified to have the requisite number of signatures by Commission staff. Accordingly, pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27B2c, Blair Telephone Company was directed to prepare a point-to-point usage study between Fort Calhoun and Omaha. The results of the study were submitted to the Commission on May 29, 1997, and indicated that sufficient calls were carried from Fort Calhoun to Omaha to satisfy the Commission's Rules. By letter dated June 2, 1997, the Commission staff directed Blair Telephone Company to develop proposed rates for providing EAS to Omaha.

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

By letter dated August 26, 1997, Blair Telephone Company filed proposed EAS rates with the Commission. The monthly EAS additive would be \$20.04 for residential and business customers. If approved by a majority of subscribers, the EAS rate would become a mandatory monthly charge. The EAS rate would be in addition to the basic local exchange rate currently charged, that is \$10.15 for residential customers and \$20.80 for business customers.

In its August 26, 1997 letter, Blair Telephone Company requested the Commission to dismiss this docket in accordance with Commission Rule 002.27C1 and find that Blair Telephone Company is exempt from offering EAS as it offers an optional enhanced area calling plan that is acceptable to the Commission.

Blair Telephone Company stated it will provide an alternative Metro Calling Plan (MCP) to more effectively meet the needs of the Fort Calhoun residents. Blair Telephone Company and Arlington Telephone Company customers will be able to sub-

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scribe to a MCP beginning October 11, 1997. The MCP will allow customers in Arlington, Blair, Fort Calhoun and Kennard to pay \$4.95 per month for two hours of calling to the Fremont and Omaha exchanges. After the initial two hours, customers subscribing to the plan will pay \$.08 per minute for calls to Omaha and Fremont. Customers who do not subscribe to the MCP will continue to be able to receive the Enhanced Area Calling Plan (EACP) rate of \$.10 per minute for calls to Omaha and Fremont.

Upon consideration of the costs involved in establishing EAS from Fort Calhoun to Omaha, the Commission is of the opinion and finds the MCP developed by Blair Telephone Company to be an acceptable alternative to EAS and to more efficiently meet the needs of the Fort Calhoun subscribers. We find it appropriate, however, to require Blair Telephone Company to file written reports to the Commission on a quarterly basis so that we can assess the successfulness of the MCP. Therefore, pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27C1, the application should be dismissed.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application C-1518 be, and it is hereby dismissed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Blair Telephone Company file written reports with the Commission on a quarterly basis for one (1) year setting forth the number of subscribers who enroll in the Metro Calling Plan.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that an updated tariff reflecting the addition of the Metro Calling Plan be filed with the Commission.

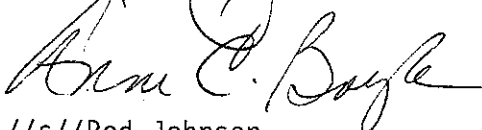
MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 9th day of September, 1997.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



Chairman



ATTEST:

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


Executive Director