

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition) Application No. C-1543
from Residents of the Arlington)
Exchange Served by Arlington)
Telephone Company Requesting) DISMISSED
Extended Area Service to Omaha)
and Fremont Served by US West)
Communications.) Entered: September 9, 1997

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 16, 1997, a petition was filed by residents of the Arlington exchange seeking Extended Area Service (EAS) to Omaha and Fremont. Arlington is served by the Arlington Telephone Company, while Fremont and Omaha are served by US West Communications, Inc. Notice of the petition was published in The Daily Record, May 22, 1997.

The EAS petition was verified to have the requisite number of signatures by Commission staff. Accordingly, pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27B2c, Arlington Telephone Company was directed to prepare point-to-point usage studies between Arlington and Fremont and Arlington and Omaha. The results of the studies were submitted to the Commission on July 3, 1997, and indicated that sufficient calls were carried from Arlington to both Omaha and Fremont to satisfy the Commission's Rules. By letter dated July 9, 1997, the Commission staff directed Arlington Telephone Company to develop proposed rates and a sample ballot for providing EAS to Fremont and 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, Arlington Telephone Company filed proposed EAS rates with the Commission. The monthly EAS additive would be \$11.47 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 \$8.60 for residential customers and \$12.80 for business customers.

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

Arlington Telephone Company stated it will provide an alternative Metro Calling Plan (MCP) to more effectively meet the

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needs of the Arlington residents. Blair Telephone Company and Arlington Telephone Company customers will be able to subscribe 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 to Omaha and Fremont, the Commission is of the opinion and finds the MCP developed by Arlington Telephone Company to be an acceptable alternative to EAS and to more efficiently meet the needs of the Arlington subscribers. We find it appropriate, however, to require Arlington Telephone Company to file written reports with 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-1543 be, and it is hereby dismissed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Arlington 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.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

[Signature]

Chairman

[Signature]

[Signature]

ATTEST:

[Signature]

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

Executive Director