

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission) Application No. C-1620
on its own Motion Seeking to)
Establish a Policy to Handle)
the Treatment of Subscriber) Request for Comments
Names Filed in Basic Local Rate)
Cases and Extended Area Service)
Petitions.) Entered: September 15, 1997

BY THE COMMISSION:

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 75-609.01 and 86-803(3), subscribers may file petitions protesting basic local rate increases with the Commission. If sufficient petitions are filed from affected subscribers, the Commission reviews whether the proposed change in the basic local rate is fair, just and reasonable.

The Commission also receives, pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27 et.seq., customer petitions to establish Extended Area Service (EAS). If the requisite number of signatures are received, the EAS application proceeds with a traffic study being conducted by the affected local exchange carrier.

We open this inquiry to determine whether the names, addresses and telephone numbers of petitioners in basic local rate cases and in EAS petitions should remain confidential. We preliminarily find that the identities of such subscribers should not be disclosed. We believe that withholding this information from the public is in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-712.05(5) which provides public bodies charged with investigating or examining citizen complaints may withhold certain records from the public.

We believe sufficient information is provided to the public by releasing the total number of subscribers, by exchange, who have protested a basic local rate increase. Further, we find it sufficient to disclose the total number of subscribers who have signed an EAS petition. We seek comment on these tentative conclusions.

Comments are to be filed with the Commission on or before October 15, 1997. No reply comments will be accepted. After reviewing the comments filed herein, a policy on this matter will be implemented.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that comments in Application C-1620 be filed on or before October 15, 1997.

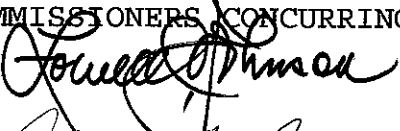
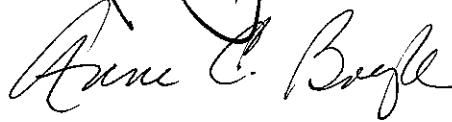
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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 15th day of September, 1997.



NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:



Executive Director

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