

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. C-1628
Public Service Commission on its)
own motion, seeking to conduct an) Prehearing Conference Set
investigation into intrastate) and Request for Comments
access charge reform and intra-)
state Universal Service Fund.) Entered: October 28, 1997

BY THE COMMISSION

On September 15, 1997, the Commission, on its own motion, opened Docket C-1628 to investigate the structure of intrastate access charges and to establish a state Universal Service Fund. Notice of this docket was published in The Daily Record on September 17, 1997. All certificated interexchange and local exchange carriers were named parties herein. Formal interventions were timely filed by the Nebraska Independent Telephone Association, as well as the Nebraska Telephone Association.

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

Given the magnitude and significance of this docket, we determine it is appropriate to schedule a prehearing conference to discuss the implementation of this docket. We find a prehearing conference will enable us to identify and narrow issues, as well as determine procedural timelines. A prehearing conference should be scheduled for December 9, 1997, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room.

We further find it to be advantageous for parties to comment prior to the prehearing conference on the following issues:

1. Identify the substantive issues regarding access charges that should be addressed in this docket, such as: the current elements of access and whether any of these elements should be excluded from access charges in the future; and identify how costs of access should be recovered, such as on a per minute basis or on a per access line basis.

2. Identify the substantive issues regarding state universal service that should be addressed in this docket, such as those services that should be supported by USF; the affordability benchmark price for supported services; and whether universal service should be phased in.

3. We ask interested parties to present a proposed procedural schedule to process this docket. The schedule should include matters such as whether public comments should be obtained to provide input to the identified substantive issues;

Application No. C-1628

PAGE TWO

whether oral presentations should be given; and whether hearings are necessary in each Commission District. We also invite comment on the time period necessary to process this docket.

Initial comments are due on or before November 25, 1997. Reply comments will be accepted until December 5, 1997. In addition to one paper copy, a disk copy (Word or WordPerfect) should also be submitted.

O R D E R

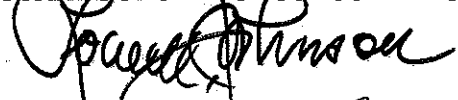
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that a prehearing conference be, and is hereby, scheduled for December 9, 1997, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that comments on the issues identified herein are due on or before November 25, 1997, with reply comments due on or before December 5, 1997. One paper copy, as well as a disk copy, in either Word or WordPerfect shall be submitted.

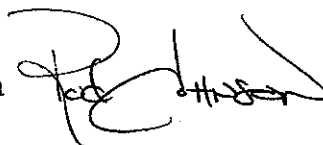
MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 28th day of October, 1997.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

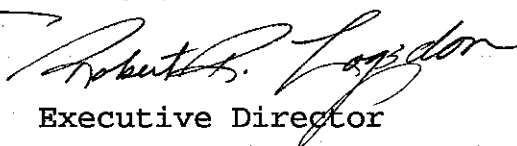
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



Chairman



ATTEST:


Executive Director

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