

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of        ) Application No. C-1688  
Residents of the Merriman exchange    )  
requesting extended area service to    ) Dismissed  
the Cody exchange both served         )  
by Great Plains Communications.        ) Entered: January 6, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION

Comes now the Communications Department of the Nebraska Public Service Commission with the results of the usage study compiled by Great Plains Communications (Great Plains) showing calls made from the Merriman exchange to the Cody exchange pursuant to Application No. C-1688. The application, filed by the residents of the Merriman exchange, requests authority for extended area service (EAS) from the Merriman exchange in Merriman and Eli, Nebraska, to the Cody exchange in Cody, Nebraska. Both Merriman and Cody are served by Great Plains. The application was verified by the Commission staff to have the requisite number of signatures on November 20, 1997. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on November 21, 1997.

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

Pursuant to Nebraska Public Service Commission Rule 002.27B2c, Great Plains filed a point-to-point traffic study showing calling from the Merriman exchange to the Cody exchange.

The traffic study shows calls made from Merriman to Cody for the three most recent months available. The results show the number of calls made per customer from Merriman to Cody, as well as the number and percent of customers who made two or more calls per month from Merriman to Cody.

By Commission Rule 002.27B2c, an application must demonstrate that an average of five or more calls are made per customer, per month and that more than fifty percent (50%) of the customers have made at least two calls per month to the petitioned exchange. In the present application, roughly 29.8 percent of the Merriman subscribers made two or more calls per month to Cody. Further, there was not an average of five calls per customer, per month. Approximately 2.6 calls were made per customer during this time period. Therefore, the results do not meet the basic requirements set forth in the Commission Rules.

According to Commission Rule, 002.27B2c, if a petition fails to meet the basic criteria, an application will be dismissed without further action. Further, as Application No. C-1688 failed to pass the usage tests established by the Commission, a subsequent EAS petition may not be resubmitted for twenty-four months, pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27B2d.

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After consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds the application should be dismissed for failure to meet the requirements established in Commission Rule 002.27B2c. Further, the Commission finds the residents of the Merriman exchange may not submit a petition for EAS to the Cody exchange for twenty-four months pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27B2d.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-1688 be, and it is hereby, dismissed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that an application for extended area service may not be submitted by the Merriman exchange, served by Great Plains Communications, to the Cody exchange, also served by Great Plains Communications, for twenty-four months.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 6th day of January, 1998.

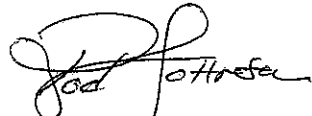
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



  
Chairman

ATTEST:



//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Lowell C. Johnson

  
Executive Director