

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of) Application No. C-1698
the Residents of the Wakefield)
exchange requesting extended area) DISMISSED
service (EAS) to the Wayne ex-)
change both served by US West)
Communications, Inc.) Entered: August 11, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION

This application, filed by the residents of the Wakefield exchange, requests authority for extended area service (EAS) from the Wakefield exchange in Wakefield, Nebraska, to the Wayne, exchange in Wayne, Nebraska. Both exchanges are served by US West Communications, Inc. (US West)

The application was verified by the Commission staff to have the requisite number of signatures on December 1, 1997. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on December 4, 1997. Usage studies showed that sufficient traffic was carried between the Wakefield and Wayne exchanges to process the application.

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 002.27B2e, US West filed a proposed EAS additive for both the Wakefield and Wayne exchanges. The proposed EAS additives were \$0.75 per residence line and \$1.50 per business line to call Wakefield from Wayne, and \$3.70 per residence line and \$6.25 per business line to call Wayne from Wakefield.

Pursuant to Commission Rules, 50% of subscribers eligible to vote must vote in favor of an EAS ballot for it to pass. Ballots were sent to subscribers on or about June 11, 1998, with responses due no later than July 27, 1998. There were 3,097 eligible ballots in the Wayne exchange, and 947 eligible ballots in the Wakefield exchange. Of the customers voting for EAS to Wakefield, 486 customers voted no, while 633 customers voted yes. This accounts for only 20% of the eligible voters voting in favor of the petition. 1,549 customers needed to vote in favor of the proposal for it to pass. Of the customers voting for EAS to Wayne, 163 voted no, while 288 customers voted yes. This accounts for only 30% of the eligible voters voting in favor of the petition. 474 customers needed to vote in favor of the proposal for it to pass.

Since less than 50 percent of the customers voted in favor of the EAS proposal, pursuant to Commission Rules, the EAS plan will not go into effect. Further, according to Commission Rule 002.27B3b, the customer ballot for EAS need not be taken again for twenty-four months.

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O R D E R

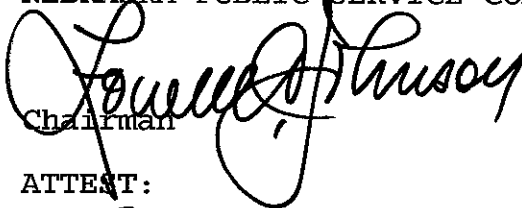
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-1698 be, and it is hereby, dismissed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 11th day of August, 1998.

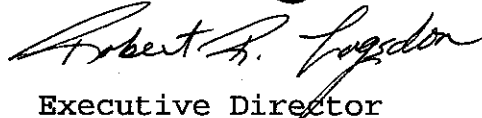
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

//s//Lowell C. Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director