

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-1712
of Network Long Distance, Inc.)
and United Wats, Inc. of Baton)
Rouge, Louisiana, and Mission,) GRANTED
Kansas, respectively, seeking)
approval of a merger.) Entered: January 27, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION:

On December 19, 1997, an application was filed jointly by Network Long Distance, Inc. (Network) and United Wats, Inc. (UWI) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Mission, Kansas, respectively, seeking approval for a merger. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, December 24, 1997. No protests were filed; therefore, we process this application pursuant to the Commission's Rule of Modified Procedure.

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

Network received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide intrastate interexchange services on September 13, 1994, in Application C-1081. Network is a publicly-held Delaware corporation with principal offices located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

UWI was certificated to provide interexchange telecommunications services in Nebraska on May 15, 1995, in Application No. C-1161. Pursuant to the order entered in Application No. C-1444, UWI operates as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Network.

The applicants request approval for UWI to be merged with and into Network, thereby creating one large parent corporation. The separate existence of UWI will cease after the merger, with Network remaining as the surviving corporation.

By virtue of this transaction, Network expects to realize significant economic, marketing and administrative efficiencies. It is anticipated the merger will result in cost savings due to discounts on quantity ordering of materials and services and will streamline services for customers.

Network intends to notify all current customers of UWI of the transaction and of any change in rates or services. The technical, managerial and financial capability of the Network and UWI will remain the same after the merger. The applicants will continue to service customers with their present personnel.

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Upon consideration of the application, the governing statutes and rules, and being fully informed, the Commission is of the opinion and finds the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application C-1712 be, and it is hereby, granted.

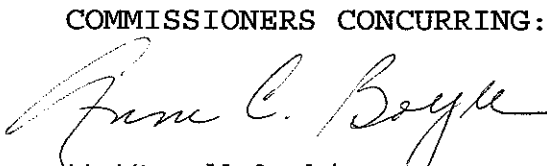

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Network Long Distance, Inc. file a revised tariff within thirty days from the date of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity previously issued to United Wats, Inc. in Application No. C-1161 be, and it is hereby, revoked.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 27th day of January, 1998.

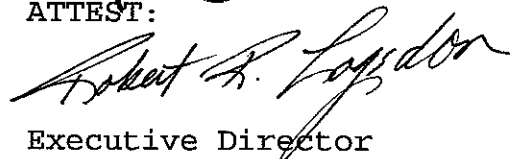
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

 
Chairman

//s//Lowell C. Johnson
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

ATTEST:


Executive Director