

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	Application No. C-1718
Residents of the Wood Lake ex-	)	
change, served by Great Plains Com-	)	
munications, requesting extended	)	APPROVED
area service to the Valentine ex-	)	
change, served by US West Commu-	)	
nications.	)	Entered: August 25, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION

On December 18, 1997, residents of the Wood Lake exchange in Wood Lake, Nebraska, filed a petition with the Commission requesting authority for extended area service (EAS) from the Wood Lake exchange to the Valentine exchange in Valentine, Nebraska. Wood Lake is served by Great Plains Communications (Great Plains), and Valentine is served by US West Communications (US West). The application was verified by the Commission staff to have the requisite number of signatures on December 31, 1997. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on January 2, 1998.

Pursuant to Nebraska Public Service Commission Rule 002.27B2c, Great Plains filed a point-to-point traffic study showing calls from the Wood Lake exchange to the Valentine exchange.

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

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 50 percent of the customers have made at least two calls per month to the petitioned exchange. In the present application, roughly 67 percent of the Wood Lake subscribers made two or more calls per month to Valentine, with all customers averaging approximately 16 calls per month. These results clearly meet the basic requirements set forth in the Commission Rules. Therefore, the Commission directed that Great Plains develop a monthly rate for providing EAS.

Great Plains proposed charging both residential and business customers an additional \$5.00 per month for EAS. The Commission approved this additive and, pursuant to Commission Rules 002.27B1d and 002.27B3a, directed Great Plains to submit a copy of the proposed ballot language for Commission approval.

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Upon review of the ballot language, the Commission determined it to be clear and instructed Great Plains to submit the ballot to all Wood Lake customers on July 1, 1998.

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

Commission rules provide that in order to establish EAS service, more than 50 percent of the customers eligible to vote must vote in favor of the proposal.

Great Plains sent a total of 103 ballots to subscribers of the Wood Lake exchange. Therefore, at least 52 Wood Lake customers would have to vote in favor of EAS for the ballot to pass. On August 12, 1998, Great Plains notified the Commission that of the 88 subscribers who had returned a ballot, 74 voted in favor of the service. Therefore, the ballot passed and the Commission should approve the EAS petition. Great Plains has indicated that it will provide EAS to the subscribers of the Wood Lake exchange for calls to the Valentine exchange by mid-November. The \$5.00 monthly additive will begin November 16, 1998.

## O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-1718 be, and it is hereby, approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Great Plains Communications implement extended area service to the Valentine exchange for the subscribers of the Wood Lake exchange on or before December 1, 1998.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 25th day of August, 1998.

## NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

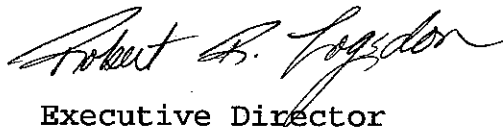
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



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

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director