

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-1748
of Hartington Telecommunications)
Company, Inc. of Hartington,)
Nebraska, seeking authority to bor-) GRANTED
row from the United States of)
America through the Rural Utilities)
Service.) Entered: March 10, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION

By application filed February 4, 1998, Hartington Telecommunications Company (Hartington) of Hartington, Nebraska, seeks authority to borrow money from the United States of America through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on February 6, 1998. No protests were filed; therefore, we process this application according 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

Hartington is a telecommunications common carrier regulated by the Commission pursuant to Nebraska statutes, Chapter 75, Article 1 and 6, as well as Chapter 86, Article 8. The applicant is a Nebraska corporation with its principal place of business in Hartington, Nebraska. Hartington provides telephone service to approximately 1,584 customers.

Hartington provides telecommunications services under rates and charges filed with this Commission and its records and books are maintained according to Commission standards.

Hartington entered into a prior loan contract with the RUS, formerly the Rural Electrification Administration, on December 6, 1983. Hartington seeks authority herein to amend the loan and to borrow \$2,137,700. Specifically, Hartington requests to borrow \$1,346,000 from the United States of America and \$791,700 from the Rural Telephone Bank. Hartington and the RUS have reached agreement on the terms of the loans, subject to approval by this Commission.

The proceeds will be used to partially finance the improvement and operation of existing facilities and the construction and operation of additional telephone facilities. The loan will enable Hartington to purchase a new and more advanced switch, thereby improving service quality. The new switch will offer equal access capability to Hartington's customers.

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On January 30, 1998, Hartington's board of directors unanimously approved the filing of this application with the Commission.

Based upon the evidence presented in this application, we find Application C-1748 to be fair and reasonable and in the public interest. The application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application C-1748 be, and it is hereby, granted and Hartington Telecommunications Company, Inc. is authorized to borrow a total of \$2,137,700 from the United States of America and the Rural Telephone Bank.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a signed copy of the loan agreement between the Rural Utilities Service and Hartington Telecommunications Company, Inc. be filed and made a part of the record in this docket.

MADE AND ENTERED in Lincoln, Nebraska, this 10th day of March, 1998.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

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

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director