

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	Application No. C-1764
Residents of the Herman exchange,	)	
served by Great Plains Communica-	)	DISMISSED
tions, requesting extended area	)	
service to the Tekamah exchange,	)	
served by US West Communications.	)	Entered: April 7, 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 Herman exchange to the Tekamah exchange pursuant to Application No. C-1764. The application, filed by the residents of the Herman exchange, requests authority for extended area service (EAS) from the Herman exchange in Herman, Nebraska, to the Tekamah exchange. Herman is served by Great Plains, while Tekamah is served by US West Communications, Inc. (US West). The application was verified by the Commission staff to have the requisite number of signatures on February 25, 1998. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on February 26, 1998.

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

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, there was an average of at least five calls per customer, per month. Approximately 6.4 calls were made per line during this time period. However, only 44 percent of the Herman subscribers made two or more calls per month to Tekamah. Therefore, the results do not meet the basic requirements set forth in the Commission Rules. While roughly 44 percent of Herman callers did make at least two calls to Tekamah per month, we feel it is important to note

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that 46 percent of Herman subscribers did not make any calls to Tekamah in the three-month period.

By correspondence dated April 6, 1998, Great Plains states it is currently discussing with US West various calling options that may be available for the Herman subscribers. Great Plains believes it will be in a position by October 31, 1998, to disclose what options, if any, exist for the Herman exchange. We commend Great Plains for pursuing alternatives to satisfy the petitioners in this docket and encourage them, as well as US West, to collaborate in order to find an acceptable solution.

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-1764 failed to pass the usage tests established by the Commission, a subsequent EAS petition may not be resubmitted for 24 months, pursuant to Commission Rule 002.27B2d.

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 Herman exchange may not submit a petition for EAS to the Tekamah exchange for 24 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-1764 be, and it is hereby, dismissed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that an application for extended area service may not be submitted by the Herman exchange, served by Great Plains Communications, to the Tekamah exchange, served by US West Communications, Inc., for 24 months.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that on or before October 31, 1998, Great Plains Communications file with the Commission a letter listing the possible options, if any, which may address the concerns of the Herman petitioners herein.

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 7th day  
of April, 1998.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Anne C. Boyle*

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

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*Lowell C. Johnson*  
Chairman

ATTEST:

*Robert R. Logsdon*  
Executive Director

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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