

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application)	Application No. C-1825/
of the Nebraska Public Service)	PI-21
Commission, on its own motion, seek-)	
ing to conduct an investigation into)	ORDER INSTITUTING
the effects of Internet telephony on)	INVESTIGATION
the telecommunications industry in)	
Nebraska.)	Entered: June 16, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION:

Over the past several years the possibilities created through advances in Internet technology have increased dramatically. With these technological advances, the public use and popularity of the Internet has also grown. One such advance has been the ability to transmit voice communications over the Internet. This technology could have a significant effect upon the telecommunications industry and on the public in general. The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) has a constitutional and statutory responsibility to oversee the telecommunications industry in Nebraska. Therefore, by its own motion, the Commission hereby opens this docket to conduct an investigation into Internet telephony and its place in, and effect upon, the telecommunications industry in Nebraska.

The purpose of this docket is to define what Internet telephony (IT) is, to determine what regulatory or oversight role the Commission has in relation to IT, to determine what responsibility Internet service providers (ISPs) have to Nebraska consumers, and otherwise examine the place of IT in the telecommunications industry.

The Commission requests that by August 14, 1998, all interested persons submit comments and recommendations on issues raised in this docket including:

1. What is IT? How is IT similar/dissimilar to traditional telephony?
2. What is the extent of the Commission's jurisdiction over IT? What should be the scope of the Commission's regulatory responsibilities concerning IT?
3. If the Commission does have regulatory responsibility with regard to IT, what types of communications should be covered (e.g. computer to computer, computer to telephone handset, etc.)
4. What are the public interest considerations surrounding IT?
5. What responsibility, if any, do ISPs have to the public?

6. Should foreign ISPs be treated differently than Nebraska ISPs? If so, how and under what circumstances?
7. Should ISPs be required to pay intrastate access charges? If so, under what circumstances?
8. Should ISPs be required to contribute to a state universal service fund? If so, under what circumstances?
9. Should IT be treated differently from traditional telephone service? How and why?
10. Other issues.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that interested parties may submit comments and recommendations on the issues raised herein on or before August 14, 1998.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties are not restricted to the issues specifically raised herein, but may address other issues related to Internet telephony in accordance with the general purpose of this docket as set forth above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that commentators shall specifically identify the question and question number that they are responding to in their filing.

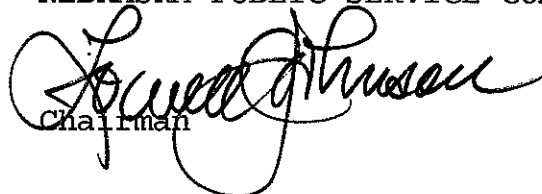
IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that an original and five paper copies and one electronic copy (in WordPerfect format) be submitted on or before August 14, 1998.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 16th day of June, 1998.

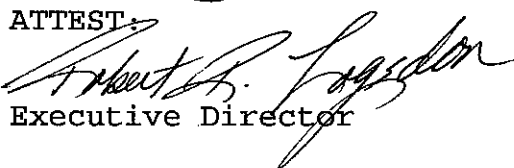
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION




Chairman



ATTEST:

Executive Director

//s//Lowell C. Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis