

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition from ) Application No. C-1851  
the residents of the Johnstown )  
exchange, served by Three River )  
Telco, requesting extended area ) GRANTED  
service (EAS) to the Ainsworth )  
exchange, served by US West )  
Communications, Inc. ) Entered: January 23, 2001

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On July 16, 1998, the Commission received a petition from the residents from the Johnstown, Nebraska exchange, served by Three River Telco, requesting extended area service (EAS) to the Ainsworth, Nebraska exchange served by US West Communications, Inc., n/k/a Qwest Corporation. On July 21, 1998, the Commission verified that the petition contained a sufficient number of signatures.

As required by Rule 002.27B2c of the Commission Telecommunications Rules and Regulations, Title 291, Chapter 5, a point-to-point usage study was commenced to determine if a community of interest exists. On September 3, 1998, the Commission verified that the traffic study information filed in the above-captioned docket represented a sufficient interest from the customers to meet Commission rules and directed Three River Telco to establish proposed rates to implement the EAS plan. Proposed rates were provided by Three River Telco for EAS between their Johnstown exchange and the Ainsworth exchange by the November 26, 1998, deadline.

On January 13, 1999, the Commission granted the request of the North Central Development Center, Inc. on behalf of the Johnstown customers that the balloting for EAS from Johnstown to Ainsworth be held in abeyance. The Commission had approved new EAS rules which after review became effective February 28, 2000. Accordingly, the Commission directed Three River Telco to submit a revised EAS proposal consistent with the then newly approved rules.

Three River Telco forwarded the proposed rates to the Commission and they were as follows:

| <u>Current Rates</u> |         | <u>Proposed EAS Rates</u> |         |
|----------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Res                  | Bus     | Res                       | Bus     |
| \$17.50              | \$22.35 | \$25.85                   | \$30.70 |

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An informational meeting was held in Johnstown on August 24, 2000. On September 26, 2000, the Commission approved balloting the affected customers pursuant to Rule 002.27C6. The ballots were to be sent December 1, 2000, with a return date of January 12, 2001. Of the 120 ballots sent, 96 were returned by the deadline. Of the 96 returned, 57 ballots were in favor of the EAS proposal and 32 ballots indicated opposition to the plan and 7 ballots were disqualified. Thus, 64 percent of the Johnstown subscribers who returned validated ballots voted in favor of the plan exceeding the 50 percent benchmark required by Commission Rule 002.27B3b(3). The request to implement extended area service between the Johnstown exchange and the Ainsworth exchange should be granted with the new service provided on or before June 1, 2001.

## O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-1851 be, and it is hereby, granted and that Three River Telco is hereby authorized to revise its rates and charges for extended area service as set forth in this order between the Johnstown exchange and the Ainsworth exchange.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that such rates are to be implemented on or before June 1, 2001, concurrent with the availability of the new EAS.

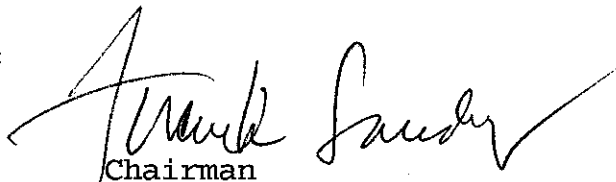
MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 23rd day of January, 2001.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director