

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application     ) Application No. C-1909  
of Elsie Communications, Inc., of     )  
Clearwater, Kansas, seeking         )  
authority to obtain a Certificate     ) GRANTED  
of Public Convenience and Necessity )  
to service the City of Elsie,         )  
Nebraska, and the environs thereby. ) Entered: October 26, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION:

By application filed September 18, 1998, Elsie Communications, Inc., of Clearwater, Kansas, seeks authority to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 75-604 to provide telecommunications services within the City of Elsie, Nebraska, and the environs surrounding said city. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on September 21, 1998, pursuant to the rules of the Commission. No protests were filed.

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

Elsie Communications, Inc. (ECI or Applicant) is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. ECI is owned by The Southern Kansas Telephone Company, Inc. (SKT), which has provided telecommunications services in Kansas since 1940.

Elsie Mutual Telephone Company (EMT) approached the owners of SKT, along with other telephone companies, requesting bids for the purchase of the physical plant of EMT. SKT along with the other telecommunication public utilities made offers to purchase such assets. The Board of Directors of EMT selected the bid of the owners of SKT by unanimous vote. A meeting of the members of EMT was duly noticed and held on September 10, 1998. After full presentation and discussion, 96 percent of the members present voted to approve the sale to Applicant.

As EMT is a mutual telephone company unregulated by the Commission, Applicant is requesting the Commission grant ECI a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the area in which EMT's systems operated.

Applicant will locate an outside plant technician in the Elsie exchange area who will not only be proficient in outside plant, but will have skills in circuit equipment and customer service. SKT's customer service department will provide customer service to the ECI customers. Calls will be answered "Elsie Communications" by utilizing a special line and the ACD group.

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Applicant filed evidence demonstrating its financial, technical and managerial competency. SKT will provide the accounting and financial services, including preparation of financial statements, regulatory accounting, NECA reporting, cost study support, accounts payable, CABS, and tax reporting. Applicant will mirror the existing rates of EMT by filing tariffs with the Commission which are identical with EMT's present local and access rates.

From examination of the application filed herein, the Commission finds Applicant has provided all the information required by the Commission, possesses adequate financial resources to provide the proposed service, and possesses adequate technical and managerial competency to provide the proposed service. The application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-1909 be, and it is hereby, granted and Elsie Communications, Inc., of Clearwater, Kansas, is authorized to operate as a telecommunications provider pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sect. 75-604 within Elsie, Nebraska, and the environs surrounding said city.

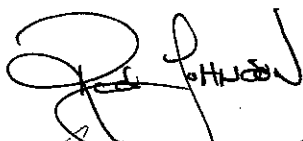
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the applicant shall abide by all laws, rules and regulations, both federal and state, applicable to local exchange carriers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicant file its current tariffs and boundary map prior to offering service pursuant to the certificate granted in this order.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this order be, and it is hereby made, the Commission's official certificate of authority to furnish the service authorized herein as a common carrier.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 26th day of October, 1998.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



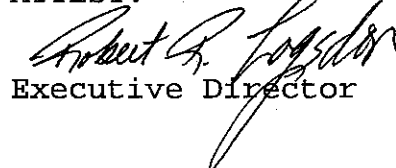


//s//Lowell C. Johnson  
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director