

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-1922
of Arlington Telephone Company)
and The Blair Telephone Company)
seeking authority to offer extend-) GRANTED
ed area service (EAS) from their)
exchanges to certain exchanges)
within the Omaha and Fremont call-)
ing areas.) Entered: November 24, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION

On October 21, 1998, a joint application was filed by Arlington Telephone Company and The Blair Telephone Company (Applicants) seeking authority to offer extended area service (EAS) from their exchanges to certain exchanges within the Omaha and Fremont calling areas. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on October 22, 1998.

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

Applicants seek to offer EAS from the exchanges of Arlington, Blair, Fort Calhoun, and Kennard to exchanges in Omaha, Bennington, Elkhorn, Fremont, Gretna, Springfield, Valley, Waterloo, and Carter Lake, Iowa. Applicants propose to charge a \$3.50 additive to every customer access line in the Applicant's exchanges for this service.

Although this was a company initiated request for EAS, the Applicants have followed Nebraska Public Service Commission Rule 002.27 to determine their customers interest in the Applicant's EAS proposal. Applicants took the following action: On July 21, 1998, Applicants sent letters and ballots to customers regarding the EAS proposal. Customer informational meetings were held on August 3, August 6, and August 13, 1998, to discuss the EAS proposals and the Applicant's pending rate increase proposals. On August 21, 1998, Applicants sent a second letter and ballots to the customers that had not returned their ballots, encouraging them to return their ballots. On September 21, 1998, all ballots were due back to the Applicants. Final ballots were counted by the Applicants on September 25, 1998. Arlington Telephone Company mailed 984 ballots to its customers, with 79.1 percent of the balloted customers voting in favor of the EAS proposal. The Blair Telephone Company mailed 5,819 ballots to its customers, with 62.9 percent of the balloted customers voting in favor of the EAS proposal.

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Applicants intend to order and install a new switch to accommodate the additional traffic anticipated with the implementation of the EAS. Applicants propose to begin offering EAS and to implement the EAS additive on customers bills effective June 1, 1999.

Due to the overwhelming customer approval of the Applicant's EAS proposal and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds the application should be granted.

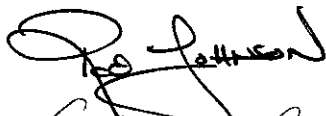
O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-1922 be, and it is hereby, granted.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 24th day of November, 1998.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

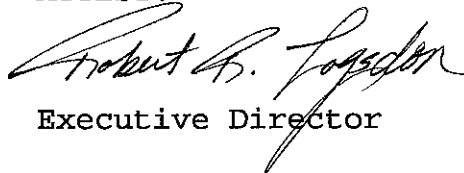
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



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


Vice Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director