

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-2016/PI-26
on its own motion, seeking to)
conduct an inquiry into the) Prehearing Conference Order
impact of the pending Aliant/)
ALLTEL merger.) Entered: April 16, 1999

APPEARANCES:

Aliant Communications Inc.:
Paul M. Schudel
Woods & Aitken
206 South 13th St., Suite 1500
Lincoln, NE 68508

Communications Workers of
America:
Richard L. Boucher
700 Lincoln Square
121 South 13th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

ALLTEL Corporation:
Stephen Rowell
One Allied Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202

Commission Staff:
John Doyle
300 The Atrium, 1200 N St.
P.O. Box 94927
Lincoln, NE 68509-4927

Benkelman, Diller, Henderson,
Wauneta Telephone Companies,
and Nebraska Technology &
Telecommunications, Inc.:
Timothy Clare
Rembolt, Ludtke & Berger
1201 Lincoln Mall, Suite 102
Lincoln, NE 68508

BY THE COMMISSION HEARING OFFICER:

On March 23, 1999, the Commission, on its own motion, opened this docket to investigate the impact of the pending Aliant/ALLTEL merger. Notice of the opening of this docket was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on March 24, 1999. Formal interventions were filed by Communications Workers of America (CWA), Nebraska Technology & Telecommunications, Inc. (NT&T) and Benkelman, Diller, Henderson and Wauneta Telephone Companies (the Independents).

By letter dated March 29, 1999, Aliant Communications Inc. (Aliant) requested that a Prehearing Conference be held in this

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matter pursuant to Rule 020 of the Rules of Commission Procedure. On April 14, 1999, a Prehearing Conference was held in the Commission Hearing Room to establish procedural guidelines for the conduct of the public hearing on this matter. Appearances were made as shown above.

F I N D I N G S

1. As set forth in the Order Initiating Inquiry in this docket, the public hearing of this matter shall be conducted in a legislative format. Presentations will be received and visual aids may be utilized.

2. No cross examination will be allowed; however, members of the Commission and Commission staff may direct questions to those presenting statements.

3. The order of the presentations at the hearing shall be as follows: First, Aliant; next ALLTEL; next NT&T and the Independents; next CWA; next the Commission staff; and followed by members of the public. The Commission may recall the representatives of Aliant and/or ALLTEL to respond to issues raised by other presenters.

4. To develop a complete record in this matter, all portions of the hearing will be recorded and transcribed. As such, all those wishing to comment or raise issues are invited to do so from the presenter's table, after identifying themselves on the record. The Commission will not accept questions or comments from the floor of the hearing room. If presenters raise issues, or ask questions to which the Commission desires a response from Aliant or ALLTEL, the Commission may recall company representatives or direct that late-filed exhibits be filed.

5. No formal opening or closing statements by legal counsel for the parties to this docket will be received.

6. In the written comments filed in this docket by NT&T and the Independents, certain questions were posed. To the extent possible, Aliant and/or ALLTEL shall provide written responses to such questions at or prior to the opening of the public hearing of this matter.

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7. The Commission will confer with representatives of Aliant and ALLTEL to determine the necessity and the date, time and place of not more than two informal public meetings at which information concerning the proposed Aliant/ALLTEL merger would be presented.

8. The Commission hearing on this matter is scheduled for April 20, 1999, 1:30 p.m. CDT, at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Omaha Room (Lower Level), 33rd and Holdrege Streets in Lincoln.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that this docket shall be conducted in conformity with the foregoing paragraphs of this Prehearing Order.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 16th day of April, 1999.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Sandy", is written over the printed name.

Designated Hearing Officer

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