

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The Commission, upon its own) Application No. C-2067/PI-29
motion, seeking to create a series)
of workshops to examine various) ORDER INITIATING INQUIRY
communications technologies and)
convergence issues.) Entered: June 22, 1999

BY THE COMMISSION:

Omnia mutantur nos et mutamur in illis

Over the past three years, we have witnessed dramatic changes in the telecommunications industry. These changes have resulted from shifts in our regulatory models, as well as in the advances in, and differing uses of, technology. Increasing uses of the internet, data, and wireless technologies have reshaped the communications industry forever. The market and technology have brought us to a new era in communications where convergence has lead to an emergence of full service communications companies. However, for purposes of regulation, communications companies are labeled as cable service providers, information services providers, wireless carriers, or wireline carriers. These distinctions are not made at a communications company's business and operating levels. It is a multi-network, multi-provider, multi-service, digital, and broadband-based world that does not conform to the old labels. The "unregulated" areas are intimately tied to those areas that fall under regulatory review. Ultimately, the regulatory role of government must change to keep pace with advances in technology. To effectively regulate in the new environment, it is essential that public officials recognize and understand the ways in which the various service providers use technologies.

Therefore, the Commission opens this investigation to create a vehicle through which industry representatives and other experts may offer presentations on various communications technologies and begin a public dialog on the future of the telecommunications industry. The Commission will hold a series of workshops on the dates and topics identified below:

July 13 The traditional voice network (PSTN);
July 27 Enhancements to the traditional voice network (e.g.,
ISDN, xDSL, ION, SONET);
Aug. 10 Wireless technologies (e.g., cellular, PCS, satellite
communications systems, fixed wireless);
Aug. 24 Telephony and the broadband cable network;
Sep. 8 Internet, voice over the internet, and the traditional
voice network (e.g., VoIP, VoFR);
Sep. 21 Other emerging technologies; and
Oct. 5 Convergence issues

The Commission welcomes presentations on each of these, or related, topics (such as VoiceSpan, ASVD, DSVD, etc.). To ensure balance and objectivity in the presentations, the Commission seeks comment from all facets of the industry. Commission staff will contact prospective presenters and develop a tentative agenda for each workshop. Any parties interested in making a presentation should contact the Commission and identify the subject matter they would like to address at least two weeks before the scheduled workshop. The Commission will provide notice and a specific agenda for each workshop on its website (www.nol.org/home/NPSC) one week before each workshop is scheduled to occur.

All presentations will be limited to 30 minutes per presenter (excluding questions) unless a specific topic warrants additional time. With the exception of the workshop on "convergence issues," the focus of each presentation should be on how the specific networks operate and are structured. Three days before each workshop, presenters shall file five hard copies of their presentation and visual aids, along with one electronic copy in WordPerfect format. Presenters are encouraged to utilize diagrams or other visual aids.



O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Commission will hold a series of public workshops on the dates and topics identified above and that persons interested in making presentations at such workshops should follow the procedures set forth in this order.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 22nd day of June, 1999.


NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER CONCURRING:



//s//Lowell C. Johnson


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director