

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the acquisition) Application No. C-2124
from US West Communications, Inc.)
of certain telephone exchanges) PREHEARING CONFERENCE
by Citizens Telecommunications) ORDER
Company of Nebraska.) Entered: March 28, 2000

APPEARANCES:

Citizens Telecommunications
Company of Nebraska:

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and

Susan M. Mikes

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US West Communications, Inc.:

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US West Law Department

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and

Paul Hybel

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BY THE COMMISSION:

A prehearing conference was held on February 1, 2000, in response to the
Joint Motion of

Citizens Telecommunications Company

of Nebraska (Citizens) and US West Communications, Inc. (US West).

The following order records the actions taken at the conference.

F I N D I N G S

The schedule for processing the above-captioned joint
application is as follows:

Information Requests:

The Communications Department may serve the joint
applicants with information requests on or before March

31, 2000. Joint applicants shall answer or object to

such requests on or before April 7, 2000. All information provided by the
joint applicants in

response to

information requests shall be subject to confidential and proprietary treatment in accordance with an agreement to be negotiated between the joint applicants and the Communications Department. In the event that the Commission is required to assist with such an agreement, either party may request such assistance.

Exchange of Direct Testimony and Exhibits:

The joint applicants, together with any other parties to this matter, shall exchange copies of direct testimony and exhibits on or before April 7, 2000. The Commission staff shall provide copies of its testimony and any exhibits to all parties on or before April 14, 2000.

Hearing Schedule:

The evidentiary hearing on this matter is set for April 18, 2000, at 1:00 p.m. at the Commission Hearing Room in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Witnesses:

US West's witnesses are intended to be Robert G. Lanphier, Director-State Market Strategies; and Wayne G. Culp, Director-State Finance. Citizens' witnesses are intended to be Mr. F. Wayne Lafferty, Vice President Regulatory; and Mr. John J. Lass, Vice President. The Commission staff has not designated a witness or witnesses at this time.

Withdrawal of AT&T Intervention:

In light of the stipulation attached hereto as Exhibit A, agreed to between the Commission, Citizens and AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. (AT&T), AT&T will withdraw its petition for intervention filed herein based upon the understanding that AT&T may assert that Citizens should be subject to the rate transition mechanisms ordered for US West in the future proceeding contemplated in the aforementioned stipulation.

Conduct of Hearings:

The order of the presentations at the hearings shall be as follows: First, the prepared testimony filed on behalf of US West shall be offered into the record. US West's witness or witnesses shall offer a summary thereof, and shall be available for cross-examination by the Commission staff and the Commissioners. Second, the prepared testimony filed on behalf of Citizens shall be offered into the record. Citizens' witness or witnesses shall offer a summary thereof, and shall be available for

cross-examination by the Commission staff and the Commissioners. Third, any prepared testimony filed on behalf of the Commission staff shall be received into the record. The staff witness or witnesses shall offer a summary thereof, and shall be available for cross-examination by US West, Citizens and the Commissioners. Finally, members of the public may offer statements. In the event that members of the public who offer statements ask one or more questions to which the Commission desires a response to be provided by representatives of US West or Citizens, such response may be requested after the close of public comments or by late-filed exhibit. No questions from any member of the audience at the hearing will be accepted.

Issues to be Addressed:

The joint applicants shall present evidence to allow the Commission to determine whether the proposed transfer of US West's properties in Nebraska as identified in the Amended Joint Application will be of advantage to persons to whom service is to be rendered and is in the public interest in accordance with Rule 002.26 of the Commission's Telecommunications Rules. Further, Citizens shall present evidence to establish its technological, managerial and financial capabilities of providing telecommunications services in Nebraska, and that it is a fit and proper entity to be issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 75-604 (Reissue 1998) and applicable rules of this Commission.

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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the stipulation, attached to this order as Exhibit A, is hereby approved by this Commission.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 28th day of March, 2000.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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