

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the joint) Application No. C-2148
application seeking authority)
for approval of acquisition)
from GTE Midwest Incorporated,)
Kearney, of its Nebraska) PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER
telephone exchanges and assets)
by Citizens Telecommunications)
Company of Nebraska, Stamford,)
Connecticut.) Entered: February 15, 2000

APPEARANCES:

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska: Paul M. Schudel Woods & Aitken 206 South 13th St. Suite 1500 Lincoln, NE 68508 and Susan M. Mikes Citizens Utilities Three High Ridge Park Stamford, CT 06905	AT&T Communications of the Midwest: Rebecca B. DeCook AT&T Law Department 1875 Lawrence St. Suite 1575 Denver, CO. 80202
GTE Midwest Incorporated: Paul M. Schudel Woods & Aitken 206 South 13th St., Suite 1500 Lincoln, NE 68508	Commission Staff: Chris Post 300 The Atrium, P.O. Box 94927 1200 N St. Lincoln, NE 68509-4927

A Prehearing Conference was held on February 1, 2000, in response to the Joint Motion of Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska (Citizens) and GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE). 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 application is as follows:

Information Requests:

The Communications Department served the joint applicants with information requests on February 14, 2000. Joint applicants shall answer or object to such requests on or before February 24, 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 February 22, 2000. The Commission staff shall provide copies of its testimony and any exhibits to all parties on or before February 28, 2000.

Hearing Schedule:

The evidentiary hearing on this matter is set for March 2, 2000, commencing at 1:30 p.m. at the Nebraska Student Union, Cottonwood Room, University of Nebraska at Kearney, 1013 West 27th Street in Kearney, Nebraska. A second public hearing is set for March 3, 2000, commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the City Council Chamber, City Hall, 1369 25th Avenue, in Columbus, Nebraska.

Witnesses:

GTE's witness is intended to be Mr. Brian McCormick, Director-Special Projects Property Repositioning. Citizens' witnesses are intended to be Mr. F. Wayne Lafferty, Vice President Government Affairs-Communications and, if necessary, Mr. C. Dale Register, Vice President Operations & Engineering-Communications. The Commission staff has not designated its 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 GTE 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 GTE shall be offered into the record, GTE's witness or witnesses shall offer a summary thereof, and shall be available for cross-examination by the 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 offered into the record, the staff witness shall offer a summary thereof, and shall be available for cross-examination by GTE, Citizens and the Commissioners; and 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 GTE 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 GTE's properties in Nebraska 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 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 15th day of February, 2000.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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