

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition from) Application No. C-2155
the residents of the Miller)
exchange, requesting extended area) GRANTED
service (EAS) to the Kearney)
exchange, both served by GTE)
Midwest, Inc.) Entered: July 24, 2001

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On October 28, 1999, the Commission received petitions from the residents of Miller, Nebraska, requesting EAS to Kearney, Nebraska. On November 15, 1999, the Commission verified that the petitions contained a sufficient number of signatures.

As required by Rule 002.27C3 of the Commission Telecommunications Rules and Regulations, Title 291, Chapter 5, a point-to-point usage study was commenced to determine if a community of interest exists. On December 17, 1999, the Commission verified that the traffic study information filed in the above-captioned docket represented a sufficient interest from the customers to meet Commission rules and directed GTE Midwest, Inc. to establish proposed rates to implement the EAS plan. Proposed rates were provided by GTE Midwest, Inc. for EAS between their Miller exchange and the Kearney exchange by the March 16, 2000, deadline.

However, due to the intervening GTE Midwest sale of exchanges to Citizens Communications, the application was held in abeyance.

Upon conclusion of the transition, Citizens Communications filed a revised cost study on March 7, 2001.

Citizens Communications forwarded the proposed monthly rate additives to the Commission and they were as follows:

Miller Customers

\$2.70 per line additive

Kearney Customers

\$0.04 per line additive

On March 20, 2001, the Commission approved balloting the affected customers in the Miller exchange pursuant to Rule 002.27C6.

However, because of the minimal increase proposed for the Kearney customers, the Commission granted a waiver of the balloting requirement for Kearney customers.

An informational meeting was held in Miller on May 1, 2001. After Commission approval of the ballots on May 8, 2001, the ballots were mailed with a return date of no later than July 11, 2001. Of the 104 ballots received, 100 ballots were in favor of the EAS proposal and 4 ballots indicated opposition to the plan. Thus, 96 percent of the Miller subscribers voted in favor of the plan exceeding the 50 percent benchmark required by Commission Rule. The request to

implement extended area service between the Miller exchange and the Kearney exchange should be granted with the new service provided on or before November 1, 2001.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-2155 be, and it is hereby, granted and Citizens Communications is hereby authorized to revise its rates and charges for extended area service as set forth in this order between the Miller exchange and the Kearney exchange.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that such rates are to be implemented on or before November 1, 2001, concurrent with the availability of the new EAS.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 24th day of July, 2001.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director