BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of the residents of the Center) Application No. C-2158)
exchange, requesting extended area service (EAS) to the) DISMISSED
Verdigre exchange, both served by Great Plains Communications.)) Entered: January 4, 200

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On October 28, 1999, the Commission received a petition from the residents of Center, Nebraska, requesting extended area service (EAS) to Verdigre, Nebraska. On November 15, 1999, the Commission verified that the petition contained a sufficient number of signatures. As required by Rule 002.27B2c 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.

Rule 002.27B2c sets forth two criteria which must be satisfied, based on data from the most recent three-month period, for an EAS petition to proceed: 1) an average of five or more calls per customer per month must be made to the petitioned exchange, and 2) more than 50 percent of the customers must make two or more calls per month to the petitioned exchange.

The results of the usage study indicate that no such community of interest exists. During the first month studied (August 17, 1999 to September 13, 1999), an average of 3.8 calls was made by each Center resident to Verdigre. The second month of data (October 13, 1999 to November 14, 1999) produced an average of 4.4 calls per customer. The third month (November 14, 1999 to December 14, 1999) produced an average of 3.6 calls per customer. In none of the three months studied did Center residents make an average of five or more calls per month per customer, therefore, the first criteria established by the Commission's rules is not satisfied.

In addition, the usage study indicates the second criteria was also not fulfilled. During the first month, only 38 percent of Center residents made two or more calls to Verdigre. During months two and three, only 40 percent and 39 percent of Center residents made two or more calls to Verdigre, respectively. Therefore, in none of the three months did 50 percent of Center residents make two or more calls to Verdigre, as required by the rule.

Pursuant to Rule 002.27B2c, failure to satisfy these two criteria requires dismissal of the petition.

Application No. C-2158

PAGE 2

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-2158 be, and it is hereby, dismissed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 4th day of January, 2000.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

ATTEST:

Executive Direct