

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition) Application No. C-2548
from the residents of the Leigh)
exchange, requesting extended)
area service (EAS) to the) GRANTED
Columbus exchange, both served)
by Citizens Telecommunications)
Company of Nebraska.) Entered: March 5, 2002

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

In a petition filed May 30, 2001, the residents from the Leigh exchange are requesting extended area service (EAS) to the Columbus exchange, both served by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska. On June 8, 2001, the Commission verified that the petitions contained the requisite number of signatures. Notice of this petition was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on June 11, 2001.

As required by Rule 002.27C3 of the Commission's 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 July 20, 2001, the Commission was notified that the traffic study failed to meet the criteria set forth in Rule 002.27C3. However, Citizens volunteered to proceed with the application and provide proposed rates pursuant to Rule 002.27C4. As such, upon agreement of all Commissioners, on August 7, 2001, staff was directed to process the application as it would have been if the traffic criteria had been met. Citizens Telecommunications subsequently provided proposed rates for EAS between the Leigh and Columbus exchanges.

The proposed monthly rate additives were as follows:

Leigh Customers

\$2.36 per line additive

Columbus Customers

\$0.05 per line additive

On December 21, 2001, the Commission approved balloting the affected customers in the Leigh exchange pursuant to Rule 002.27C6. However, because of the minimal increase proposed for the Columbus customers, the Commission granted a waiver of the balloting requirement for the Columbus customers.

An informational meeting was held in Leigh on December 4, 2001. After Commission approval of the ballots on January 8, 2002, the ballots were mailed with a return date of no later than February 15, 2002. Of the 398 ballots received, 290 ballots were in favor of the EAS proposal and 108 ballots indicated opposition to the plan. Thus, 73 percent of the Leigh subscribers voted in favor of the plan, exceeding the 50 percent benchmark required by Commission Rule.

Therefore, the request to implement extended area service between the Leigh Exchange and the Columbus Exchange should be granted with the new service commencing on or before May 1, 2002.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-2548 be, and it is hereby, granted and the EAS between the residents of the Leigh exchange and the Columbus exchange, both served by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska is hereby authorized as set forth above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that such rates are to be implemented on or before May 1, 2002, concurrent with the availability of the new EAS.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that if the May 1, 2002, implementation date cannot be met, Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska shall advise the Commission on its progress.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 5th day of March 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director