

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the Application) Application No. C-2688
of Stanton Telephone Company of)
Stanton, Nebraska, seeking) GRANTED
authority to issue long-term)
indebtedness.) Entered: April 2, 2002

BY THE COMMISSION:

By application filed February 26, 2002, Stanton Telephone Company (Stanton) of Stanton, Nebraska, seeks authority to issue long-term indebtedness. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on February 28, 2002. No protests were filed; therefore, this application is processed pursuant to the Commission's Rule of Modified Procedure.

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

Stanton is certificated as a provider of local exchange services in Stanton, Nebraska. As of December 31, 2001, Stanton had 1,248 access lines.

Stanton requests that the Commission grant approval of the present application pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §75-148, which states in pertinent part:

"A common carrier may issue stock, bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, payable at periods of more than twelve months after the date thereof, when necessary for the acquisition of property, the construction, completion, extension or improvement of facilities, the improvement or maintenance of its service, or the discharge or lawful refunding of its obligations if the common carrier first secures from the commission an order authorizing such issue and the amount thereof and stating that in the opinion of the commission the use of the capital to be secured by the issue of such stock, bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness is reasonably required for the purposes of the carrier."

Applicant proceeded with a plant improvement project during 2001, the costs of which have, to date, been paid from cash reserves and from a line of credit with Platte Valley Bank of North Bend, Nebraska. Applicant proposes to proceed with the completion of its plant improvement project during 2002 for the purposes of upgrading its central office and outside plant. In connection with this proposed project, Applicant has retained the engineering services of RVW, Inc., of Columbus, Nebraska, to assist with the design of the plant improvements.

Applicant requests authority to borrow a total of \$3,984,900 from Rural Utility Services (RUS) for the purpose of the above

improvements, with the disbursement of funds by the RUS and Rural Telephone Bank to be made at a date or dates following this Commission's approval of this issuance of indebtedness and the completion of documentation required in connection with the RUS and Rural Telephone Bank indebtedness and as required in connection with the construction of the proposed plant improvement project.

Upon review of the evidence, the Commission finds the application to be in the public interest and to be reasonably required for the purposes stated herein. The application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-2688 be, and it is hereby, granted.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 2nd day of April 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director