

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-2694
of Blair Telephone Company of)
Blair, Nebraska, seeking) GRANTED
authority to issue long term)
indebtedness.) Entered: April 9, 2002

BY THE COMMISSION:

By application filed March 1, 2002, Blair Telephone Company (Blair or Applicant) of Blair, Nebraska, seeks authority to issue long-term indebtedness. Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on March 4, 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

Blair is certificated as a provider of local exchange services in Nebraska in the exchanges of Blair, Fort Calhoun and Kennard. As of January 2002, Blair had 7,726, 1,028 and 345 access lines in these exchanges respectively.

Blair 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 proposes to proceed with a plant improvement project, during the year 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 HunTel Engineering, Inc. of Blair, Nebraska, to assist with the design of the plant improvements.

Applicant requests authority to borrow a total of \$2,306,000 from Rural Utility Service (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 reasonable, for the purposes of Blair. The application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-2694 be, and it is hereby, granted.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 9th day of April, 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director