

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application) Application No. C-3469
of Budget Phone, Inc.,)
Shreveport, Louisiana seeking)
Designation as an Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier (ETC)) PLANNING CONFERENCE ORDER
in the state of Nebraska.) AND NOTICE OF HEARING
)
)
) Entered: January 13, 2006

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

On August 16, 2005, an application was filed with the Public Service Commission (Commission) by Budget Phone, Inc., Shreveport, Louisiana (Budget) seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in the state of Nebraska. A Petition of Formal Intervention was timely filed by the Rural Independent Companies (RIC)¹.

In order to process the application, a planning conference was held in this matter on January 12, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln Nebraska and via telephone conference with the representatives of Budget and RIC. The following persons were present at the conference: Lance Steinhardt, counsel for Budget; Jim Overcash, counsel for RIC; and Nichole Underhill, counsel for the Commission.

As a result of the planning conference, several issues were decided. Therefore, this order serves to memorialize those decisions and to provide a timeline for proceeding in this docket.

By end of business on January 24, 2006, the parties will have exchanged with each other and filed with the Commission a final witness list and/or any written witness testimony. Budget agreed to file an amended application in consideration of the Commission's ETC Policy guidelines set out in Docket No. C-3415.

The hearing in Application No. C-3469 will be held on January 31, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

¹ RIC is composed of the following companies: Arlington Telephone Company, Blair Telephone Company, Cambridge Telephone Co., Clarks Telephone Co., Consolidated Telephone Company, Consolidated Telco Inc., Consolidated Telcom, Inc., Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company, Great Plains Communications, Inc., Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc., Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company, Inc., K & M Telephone Company, Inc., Nebraska Central Telephone Company, Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, Rock County Telephone Company, Stanton Telephone Co., Inc., and Three River Telco.

If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at the meeting, please call the Commission at (402) 471-3101. For people with hearing/speech impairments, Nebraska Relay System at (800) 833-7352 or (800) 033-0920 (Voice). Advance notice of at least seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

Any remaining pre-hearing issues that the parties would like to address should be brought before the Commission prior to hearing.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer that the foregoing schedule for submission and service of the items discussed above is hereby adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing in Application No. C-3469 will be held on January 31, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

MADE AND ENTERED in Lincoln, Nebraska on this 13th day of January, 2006.

BY:

Gerald L. Vap
HEARING OFFICER