

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition) Application No. C-3737
from residents of Crookston)
exchange requesting extended)
area service (EAS) to the) DISMISSED
Kilgore exchange, both served by)
Great Plains Communications.)
)
) Entered: October 16, 2007

BY THE COMMISSION:

On November 22, 2006, the Commission received a petition from the residents of the Crookston exchange, requesting extended area service (EAS) to the Kilgore exchange. On December 15, 2006, the Commission verified that the petition contained a sufficient number of signatures. As required by Rule 002.27C3 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 002.27C3 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 2006), an average of .47 calls were made by each Crookston resident to Kilgore. The second month of data (September 2006) produced again an average of .47 calls per customer. The third month (October 2006) produced an average of .33 calls per customer. In none of the three months studied did Crookston residents make an average of five or more calls per month per customer, therefore, the first criteria established by the Commission's rules was not satisfied.

In addition, the usage study indicates the second criterion was also not fulfilled. During the first month, only 8 percent of Crookston residents made two or more calls to Kilgore. During months two and three, only 13 percent and 7 percent of Crookston residents made two or more calls to Kilgore, respectively. Therefore, in none of the three months did 50 percent of Crookston residents make two or more calls to Kilgore, as required by the rule.

Further, Great Plains voluntarily conducted three additional traffic studies in June, July and August of 2007, measuring traffic between Crookston and Kilgore. The additional studies revealed very little variation in the results and again, none of

the three months met either the first or second criteria for an EAS petition to be successful. Therefore, pursuant to Rule 002.27C3, failure to satisfy these two criteria requires dismissal of the petition.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-3737 be, and it is hereby, dismissed.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 16th day of October, 2007.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Deputy Director