

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Benkelman) Application No. C-4450
Telephone Co., Inc., Benkelman,)
seeking a basic local rate)
increase.) ORDER SETTING PROCEDURAL
) SCHEDULE AND NOTICE OF
) HEARING
)
) Entered: March 27, 2012

BY THE COMMISSION:

On March 2, 2012, Benkelman Telephone Co., Inc. ("Benkelman") Benkelman, Nebraska, gave written notice to the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") and its customers of its intent to increase its rates for basic local telephone service pursuant to the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act¹ ("The Act"). On March 19, 2012, the Commission received a written request from Benkelman seeking a review by the Commission of Benkelman's proposed rates. Benkelman's proposed rate increase is related to similar rate increases by Wauneta Telephone Co. (Wauneta) and Hartman Telephone Exchanges, Inc., (Hartman) which received the requisite petitions from five-percent (5%) of the affected customers to initiate Commission review pursuant to statute. As of the date of this order, the number of petitions from Benkelman customers has not reached the five-percent (5%) threshold. However, in the event the threshold is reached, Benkelman desires to initiate Commission review concurrently with Wauneta and Hartman to save time and resources.

Therefore, pursuant to the Act, the Commission notified the company that pursuant to its request, the Commission would hold a hearing to gather evidence to conduct a review of whether the proposed rates are fair, just, and reasonable. The review was docketed by the Commission as Docket No. C-4450.

Planning Conference

A planning conference was held in the above-captioned docket on March 14, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission Niobrara Conference Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln; Nebraska, and via telephone conference with representatives of Benkelman. The following persons were present at the conference: for Benkelman, Troy Kirk of Rembolt Ludtke, LLP and Dwight Winger; for the Commission, Commissioner Jerry Vap, Nichole Mulcahy, Legal Counsel, Gene Hand, Director of the Communications Department, John Burvainis,

¹ See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-101 et seq.

Deputy Director, and Steven Stovall, staff accountant. Participating via telephone for Benkelman, Randall Raile, General Manager, Kacey Harper, Vice President, Jim Slattery, C.P.A., and other staff of the company.

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.

Deadlines

Deadlines for various events were established and are set forth in Appendix A.

Hearing

A Hearing in Docket No. C-4450 will be held on **Thursday, May 24, 2012, at 10 a.m.** at Weeth Theatre in Tipton Hall, McCook Community College, 402 East M Street, McCook, Nebraska.

Hearing Accommodations

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, please call the Commission at (402) 471-0213 (TDD) or the Nebraska Relay System at (800) 833-7352 (TDD) or (800) 833-0920 (Voice). Advance notice of at least seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the deadlines and requirements established in this order and attached hereto are hereby adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing in Docket No. C-4450 will be held on **Thursday, May 24, 2012, at 10 a.m.** at Weeth Theatre in Tipton Hall, McCook Community College, 402 East M Street, McCook, Nebraska.

MADE AND ENTERED in Lincoln, Nebraska, on this 20th day of March, 2012.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

APPENDIX A

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Monday	April 16	Benkelman financial records filed
Monday	May 21	Direct Testimony of Benkelman and Commission Staff filed
Thursday	May 24	Hearing in McCook

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MADE AND ENTERED in Lincoln, Nebraska, on this 20th day of March, 2012.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

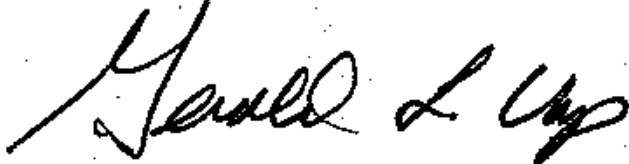
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



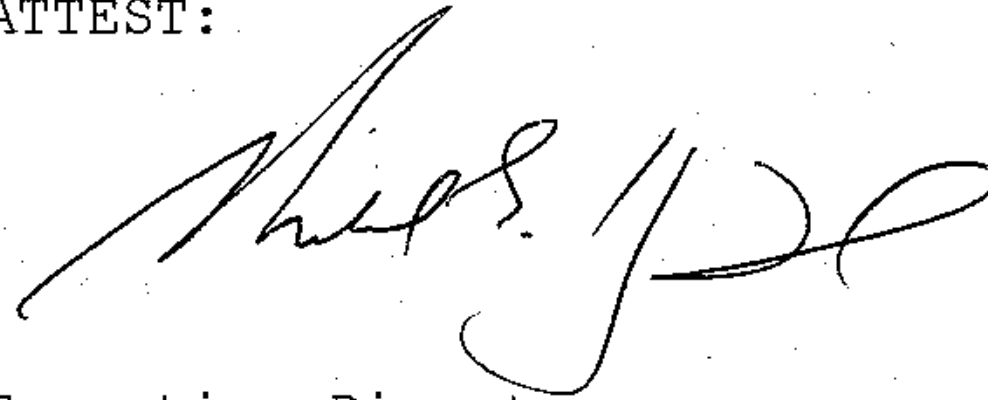
Chairman



ATTEST:



//s// Rod Johnson
//s// Frank Landis



Executive Director