

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the	)	Application No. C-4898
Application of WestTel Systems,	)	
Remsen, Iowa seeking a	)	ORDER
residential rate increase.	)	
	)	
	)	Entered: May 16, 2017

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On or about March 2, 2017, Westel Systems of Remsen, Iowa ("Westel" or "Applicant") filed an application to increase its basic local exchange rates from \$17.50 to \$19.95. Notice was provided as required by Section 86-141(2) and Neb Admin Code tit. 291 ch. 5 § 002.33 to all subscribers who would be affected by the proposed rate adjustment. Such notice was provided on February 27, 2017.

On May 11, 2017, the Director of the Communications Department and WestTel entered into a joint stipulation. The parties stipulated that the proposed rate increase is fair, just, and reasonable as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §86-147. The parties noted the rates are consistent with or near the approved benchmark range of \$17.95 to \$19.95 established in NUSF-50.<sup>1</sup> The parties also noted that WestTel has not increased its basic local exchange rates since 2001. The stipulating parties agreed a hearing was not necessary unless enough petitions were received to require a hearing.

Based on the foregoing information, the Commission finds that the stipulation should be approved. The Commission further finds the proposed rate should become effective June 1, 2017, absent the requisite number of petitions required to trigger a Commission hearing.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the stipulated agreement between WestTel Systems and the Communications Department shall be and it is hereby approved.

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<sup>1</sup> See *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its Own Motion To Make Adjustments To The Universal Service Fund Mechanism Established In NUSF-26*, Application No. NUSF-50, Order (December 19, 2006) at para. 17.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the proposed rate shall become effective June 1, 2017, unless the requisite number of petitions are filed which will trigger a hearing.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Mary Riddi*

Chairman

*Tim Schram*

*Crystal Amadoris*

ATTEST:

//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Tim Schram

*Jeffrey L. Puley*

Executive Director