

P-421/CI-87-631 ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE DATE OF TARIFF FILING AND REQUIRING REFUND

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Commission Initiated
Investigation of the Reasonableness of Dial-
Data Services Offered by Northwestern Bell
Telephone Company

ISSUE DATE: August 4, 1989

DOCKET NO. P-421/CI-87-631

ORDER ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE
DATE OF TARIFF FILING AND
REQUIRING REFUND

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 17, 1989 the Commission issued its ORDER APPROVING TARIFF FILING AS MODIFIED in this case. That Order authorized Northwestern Bell Telephone Company (the Company or Northwestern Bell) to make changes in its tariff for Dial Data Service. Dial Data Service is a billing and collection service available to businesses, termed Information Providers, which provide information over the telephone for a fee. Information Providers using Dial Data service contract with the Company to include and collect their fees as part of their customers' local telephone bills.

The Company proposed to increase its rates for Dial Data Service, to change the name of the service to 976 Information Delivery Service, and to remove its \$9.99 per call billing maximum. The Commission approved these changes.

In late May 1989 an Information Provider informally informed the Commission that the Company had increased Dial Data Service rates pursuant to the January 17 Order but had not removed the \$9.99 per call billing maximum. The Company indicated that the call billing maximum had not yet been removed due to computer programming difficulties. The Company proposed to delay the rate increase until the billing maximum had been removed and to refund the rate increase collected prior to its removal.

The Department of Public Service and the Residential Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General supported the Company's proposal. No other party filed comments.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission agrees that the Company's proposal represents an equitable response to the delay in implementing the removal of the per call billing maximum. The Commission will approve the proposal.

ORDER

1. Northwestern Bell Telephone Company shall refund to each Information Provider who has paid increased rates under the tariff approved in the January 17 Order the difference between those rates and the rates the Information Provider would have paid under the previously effective tariff. These refunds may take the form of billing adjustments and shall be completed no later than September 30, 1989.
2. Northwestern Bell Telephone Company shall provide in its September billings to Information Providers written notice explaining the refund and giving the date on which the new rates will go into effect.
3. The new rates and the removal of the per call billing maximum shall both go into effect on August 21, 1989.
4. On or before October 31, 1989 Northwestern Bell Telephone Company shall file a report describing the bill adjustment process it used in implementing the refund required under paragraph 1 and setting forth the total amount refunded.
5. Within 10 days of the date of this Order Northwestern Bell Telephone Company shall file with the Department of Public Service revised tariff pages reflecting the previously approved tariff changes and the August 21, 1989 effective date.
6. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)