

P-421/EI-89-860EXTENDING COMMENT DEADLINE AND REMAINING DEADLINES

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

In the Matter of Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's, d/b/a U.S. West Communications, Proposed Incentive Regulation Plan

ISSUE DATE: January 26, 1990

DOCKET NO. P-421/EI-89-860

ORDER EXTENDING COMMENT DEADLINE AND REMAINING DEADLINES

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 31, 1989, the Commission issued its NOTICE OF FILING AND ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES in the above-captioned matter. That Order required interested persons who wished to comment on Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's (NWB's or the Company's) existing rates and proposed incentive regulation plan to do so by January 30, 1990.

On January 11, 1990, the Company filed a request for an extension of the January 30 comment deadline to February 28, 1990. Under the Company's proposal the remaining deadlines under the October 31 Order would be adjusted according to the one month extension. The Company stated that it was filing its request in response to concerns raised by the Department of Public Service (the Department) regarding insufficient time.

No party opposed the request.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that the Company's request for an extension of time is reasonable and should be granted. The reasons for the request are sound. The amount of time sought is reasonable. Neither the public interest nor any party's interests will be prejudiced by the delay.

The Commission finds that extension approval is reasonable because this is the first incentive regulation plan before the Commission, and the time extension would give the Department sufficient time to analyze it. In particular, the extension would give the Department time to complete its

analysis of the Company's financial data and to perform an on-site financial review.

Minn. Stat. §237.625 (Supp. 1990) allows for an extension of time if the Commission and the petitioning company agree that such an extension is appropriate. Minn. Stat. §237.625, subd. 2 (Supp. 1990) states:

The commission shall issue its decision on a plan within six months after receiving the petition to approve the plan. If the commission does not act within six months, the plan is deemed withdrawn unless the commission and the petitioning company agree to an extension of time for the commission action.

The statute clearly contemplates some timing flexibility for the Commission's final determination on an incentive plan proposal. The Commission notes that no participant in this proceeding has objected to the Company's request and finds that it is reasonable to allow a time extension prior to the end of the six month review period upon the showing made here.

The Commission and the petitioning Company agree that the time extension is appropriate and the Commission will grant the extension.

ORDER

1. The deadline for comments by interested parties regarding the Company's existing rates and the Company's proposed incentive regulation plan is hereby extended from January 30, 1990 to February 28, 1990.
2. All remaining deadlines arising from the Commission's October 31 Order in this Docket shall be adjusted by one month.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Lee Larson
Acting Executive Secretary

(S E A L)