

P-1315, 421/C-88-871 P-999/C-87-145 CLOSING DOCKETS

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 a Complaint by United Pay Phone Association and Rent-A-Phone, Inc. Regarding Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's Local Exchange Rates for Customer Owned Pay Telephones

ISSUE DATE: April 16, 1990

DOCKET NOS. P-1315, 421/C-88-871

P-999/C-87-145

In the Matter of Requiring All Pay Telephones to Comply with the Public Utilities Commission's Coin Telephone Order

ORDER CLOSING DOCKETS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 6, 1988, the Commission issued its first Order in Docket No. P-999/C-87-145 (the 145 docket). Among other things, that Order initiated an informal investigation into generic pay telephone issues, such as the local exchange rates charged pay telephone providers, the availability of pay telephone service, and pay telephone providers' compliance with Commission regulatory requirements.

On January 31, 1989, the Commission consolidated the 145 docket with a complaint proceeding alleging that Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's local exchange rates for pay telephone providers were excessive. That proceeding was entitled In the Matter of a Complaint by United Pay Phone Association and Rent-A-Phone, Inc. Regarding Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's Local Exchange Rates for Customer Owned Pay Telephones, Docket No. P-1315, 421/C-88-871.

On April 18, 1989, Northwestern Bell Telephone Company (Northwestern Bell) filed a proposal to change its local exchange rates for customer-owned pay telephones. That proceeding was entitled In the Matter of Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's Proposal to Change its Rates for Customer-Owned Pay Telephones, P-421/M-89-254. Under the Company's proposal, local exchange rates would be lowered for most independent pay telephone providers.

On March 9, 1989, the Minnesota Independent Payphone Association filed a petition requesting that the Commission deregulate pay telephone services and prohibit Minnesota local exchange carriers from charging specific rates to pay telephone providers. The petition asked that pay telephone providers be allowed to purchase local exchange service on the same terms as businesses which were

not purchasing it for resale. That proceeding was entitled In the Matter of a Petition by the Minnesota Independent Payphone Association, Inc. to Deregulate Pay Telephone Services, Docket No. P-999/C-89-143.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that the issues involved in the consolidated 145 docket are being addressed in the dockets involving Northwestern Bell's proposed rate change and the Minnesota Independent Payphone Association's petition. Retaining an open consolidated 145 docket would serve no useful purpose and could cause confusion for parties and interested persons trying to monitor Commission action on these issues. The Commission will therefore close the 145 docket.

### ORDER

1. The proceedings entitled In the Matter of a Complaint by United Pay Phone Association and Rent-A-Phone, Inc. Regarding Northwestern Bell Telephone Company's Local Exchange Rates for Customer Owned Pay Telephones, Docket No. P-1315, 421/C-88-871 and In the Matter of Requiring All Pay Telephones to Comply with the Public Utilities Commission's Coin Telephone Order, Docket No. P-999/C-87-145, consolidated by Order dated January 31, 1989, are hereby closed.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Lee Larson  
Acting Executive Secretary

(S E A L)