

P-421/CP-87-352 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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| Darrel L. Peterson   | Chair        |
| Cynthia A. Kitlinski | Commissioner |
| Dee Knaak            | Commissioner |
| Norma McKanna        | Commissioner |
| Patrice M. Vick      | Commissioner |

In the Matter of the Petition of  
Certain Subscribers in the  
Northfield Exchange for Extended  
Area Service to the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Metropolitan Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: March 18, 1991

DOCKET NO. P-421/CP-87-352

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**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On June 11, 1987, certain subscribers in the Northfield exchange submitted a petition for extended area service (EAS) to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan calling area.

On April 27, 1990, the Minnesota legislature enacted legislation regulating the installation of extended area service in Minnesota and requiring the expansion of the metropolitan extended area telephone service under certain circumstances. Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990). The new statute established the following three criteria for granting a petition for installation of EAS:

1. The petitioning exchange is contiguous to an exchange or local calling area to which EAS is requested;
2. A majority of the customers responding to a poll favor EAS;
3. A traffic study shows that at least 50 percent of the subscribers in the petitioning exchange make one or more calls per month to the exchange to which EAS is requested.

On January 10, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING TRAFFIC STUDIES AND REQUIRING THE FILING OF COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES in the current docket. In that Order, the Commission found that a traffic study submitted by AT&T, the dominant interexchange carrier serving the Northfield exchange, together with information supplied by US West Communications, Inc. (US WEST), the local exchange carrier serving the exchange, indicated that the Northfield-Metro EAS route fulfilled the traffic criterion of the EAS statute. The Commission required US WEST and other affected telephone companies to prepare for the third criterion of the EAS statute, a polling of the subscribing customers. The affected telephone companies were required to file cost studies and proposed rates by February 25, 1991.

Because they provide service to exchanges within the metro area, United Telephone Company (United), Central Telephone Company (Centel) and US WEST are all affected telephone companies. On January 28, 1991, United submitted a request for a 45 day extension in which to file the required cost studies and proposed rates. Requests for similar extensions were received by Centel and US WEST on February 15, 1991 and February 22, 1991 respectively. All three telephone companies explained they needed extra time because of the complexity of the proceedings and the need to coordinate with other pending EAS dockets.

The Commission considered the requests for extensions on March 5, 1991.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Commission finds that the companies' reasons for the requested time extensions are sound. The EAS proceeding, including the Northfield docket, is indeed a complex matter requiring coordination of a great number of interrelated facts. The amount of time sought is reasonable. Neither the public interest nor any party's interests will be prejudiced by the delay. No party has filed an objection to the proposed extensions.

The time extensions will be granted.

### **ORDER**

1. Centel, United, US WEST and any other affected companies are granted an extension of time until April 11, 1991, in which to file cost studies and proposed rates for the Northfield-Metro EAS petition. The report from the Department of Public Service will be due on or before May 28, 1991. Comments from interested parties will be due on or before June 17, 1991.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)