

P-405, 421/CP-86-55; P-520, 421/CP-86-537; P-421, 407/CP-87-536;
P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CI-90-440; P-430, 421/CP-86-5; P-407,
421, 430, 405, 426/CP-88-839; P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-
441; P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-442 ORDER GRANTING
ADDITIONAL TIME TO FILE METHODOLOGY FOR STUDY OF EAS STIMULATED
GROWTH IN CALL TRAFFIC

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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 Belle Plaine Exchange for Extended Area Service to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area P-405, 421/CP-86-55

In the Matter of the Petition for Extended Area Service from Mayer to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CP-88-839

In the Matter of the Petition of Certain Subscribers in the New Prague Exchange for Extended Area Service to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area P-520, 421/CP-86-537

In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into Extended Area Service Between Cologne and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-441

In the Matter of the Petition of Certain Subscribers in the Watertown Exchange for Extended Area Service to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area P-421, 407/CP-87-536

In the Matter of a Commission Investigation into Extended Area Service Between Norwood and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-442

In the Matter of a Commission Initiated Investigation into Extended Area Service Between New Germany and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CI-90-440

ISSUE DATE: May 20, 1991

ORDER GRANTING ADDITIONAL TIME TO FILE METHODOLOGY FOR STUDY OF EAS STIMULATED GROWTH IN CALL TRAFFIC

In the Matter of the Petition of Certain Subscribers in the Waconia Exchange for Extended Area Service to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area P-430, 421/CP-86-5

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 25, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER ADOPTING GUIDELINES FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE RATES FOR THE BELLE PLAINE, NEW PRAGUE, WATERTOWN AND NEW GERMANY EXCHANGES AND VARYING TIME FOR FILING FOR RECONSIDERATION. This Order, among other things, directed the telephone companies serving these four petitioning exchanges to submit a proposed methodology for studying the growth in call traffic between the petitioning exchanges and the metropolitan calling area (MCA) stimulated by the introduction of extended area service. The Commission required that the study be filed within 90 days of the date of the January 25, 1991 Order, i.e. by April 24, 1991.

On February 1, 1991, the Commission issued a similar order regarding the Waconia, Mayer, Cologne and Norwood exchanges. As in the January 25 Order regarding Belle, Plaine, New Prague, Watertown, and New Germany, the Commission required that the methodology for the growth stimulation study be filed within 90 days of the date of the February 1, 1991 Order, i.e. by May 2, 1991. ORDER ADOPTING GUIDELINES FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE RATES FOR THE WACONIA, MAYER, COLOGNE, AND NORWOOD EXCHANGES AND VARYING TIME FOR FILING FOR RECONSIDERATION (February 1, 1991).

On February 4, 1991, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) filed a Request for Reconsideration of the Commission's January 25, 1991 Order.

On February 5, 1991, Contel of Minnesota, Inc. (Contel) filed a Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification of the Commission's January 25, 1991 Order.

On February 11, 1991, the Department filed a request for Reconsideration and Clarification and Contel filed a Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification of the Commission's February 1, 1991 Order.

On February 12, 1991, Contel filed reply comments, the Department filed Tables of Final EAS Rates for the Petitioning Exchanges Submitted by the Affected Telephone Companies, and Eckles Telephone Company (Eckles) filed comments in response to the rates for its New Prague exchange.

On February 14, 1991, US West Communications, Inc. (USWC) filed its Reply to the Department's Request for Reconsideration.

On March 8, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION'S JANUARY 25 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1991 ORDERS AND ORDER ESTABLISHING RATE. Among other things, the March 8 Order maintained the time-frame established

in the January 25 and February 1, 1991 Orders for filing the proposed methodology for studying EAS stimulated growth in call traffic between the petitioning exchanges and the metropolitan calling area (MCA) but amended the January 25 and February 1, 1991 Orders to direct the companies to meet with the Department and the Residential Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General (RUD/OAG) within the 90 day periods established in those Orders to discuss that methodology.

On April 19, 1991, USWC filed a request for a 45 day extension of the 90 day filing requirement for the stimulation study methodology.

On April 23, 1991, United and Contel filed separate requests for extensions of the 90 day filing requirement. United requested a 45 day extension; Contel requested an extension until June 12, 1991.

On April 25, 1991, Eckles and Scott-Rice Telephone Company (Scott-Rice) requested time extensions. Eckles asked for a 45 day extension; Scott-Rice requested an extension until June 12, 1991.

On April 26, 1991, Central Telephone Company (Centel) requested a 45 day extension.

On May 14, 1991, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The companies gave similar reasons for needing an extension. All indicated that the task was more complex than originally anticipated. No parties opposed the requests for time extensions. Neither the Department nor the Residential Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General (RUD-OAG) filed comments in response to these requests.

The Commission will grant the companies a 45 day extension beyond the date set in the January 24, 1991 Order for filing the proposed methodology. The Commission anticipates a quality filing and the time extension is aimed at assuring that.

Regarding the further requirement that the companies consult with the Department and the RUD-OAG, it appears that there has been little substantive consultation to-date. The Commission regards this consultation as important to the process of formulating a valuable stimulation study. The Commission expects that such consultation will occur, as directed in its March 8, 1991 ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION'S JANUARY 25 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1991 ORDERS AND ORDER ESTABLISHING RATE, page 14, Ordering Paragraph 3.

ORDER

1. U S West Communications, Inc., Contel of Minnesota, United Telephone Company, Eckles Telephone Company, Scott-Rice Telephone Company, and Central Telephone Company are granted a time extension for filing a methodology for studying the growth in call traffic between the petitioning exchanges and the metropolitan calling area due to the introduction of extended area service.
2. The companies shall file the study methodology on or before June 11, 1991.
3. Other provisions of the Commission's March 8, 1991 Order regarding the study methodology remain unchanged.
4. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)