

P-430, 421/CP-91-35 ORDER REQUIRING FURTHER TRAFFIC STUDY

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  
Plainview Exchange for Extended  
Area Service to the Rochester  
Metropolitan Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: June 11, 1991

DOCKET NO. P-430, 421/CP-91-35

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STUDY

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On January 22, 1991, certain subscribers in the Plainview exchange filed a petition requesting extended area service (EAS) with the Rochester exchange. The Plainview exchange is served by United Telephone Company (United); the Rochester exchange is served by US WEST.

In January and February of 1991, United conducted two separate studies of the traffic between Plainview and the Rochester exchange. In neither study did more than 5% of the Plainview customers make more than one call per month to the Rochester exchange.

On April 8, 1991, the Department of Public Service (the Department) recommended that this docket be closed because the traffic level requirement of Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990) had not been met.

On April 19, 1991, Mrs. Owen Benton, a United subscriber in the Plainview exchange, filed a letter challenging the results of the traffic studies. Mrs. Benton urged the Commission to order a new traffic study, to be conducted in the summer of 1991.

The matter came before the Commission on May 28, 1991.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Minn. Stat. § 216B.161 establishes three criteria for the installation of EAS:

1. The petitioning exchange is contiguous to an exchange or local calling area to which extended area service is requested in the petition.

2. Polling by the Commission shows that a majority of the customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation, unless all parties and the Commission agree that no polling is necessary; and
3. At least 50% of the customers in the petitioning exchange make one or more calls per month to the exchange or local calling area to which extended area service is requested, as determined by a traffic study.

In this case, Plainview is adjacent to the Elgin exchange (to which it presently has EAS) because the two exchanges share a common boundary. Since the Elgin and Rochester exchanges have EAS with each other, Elgin is part of the Rochester-Elgin local calling area. Through its common boundary with Elgin, Plainview is contiguous with the Rochester-Elgin local calling area. Plainview thus meets the adjacency requirement under Minn. Stat. § 216B.161 for gaining EAS with Rochester.

The traffic requirement of Minn. Stat. § 216B.161, however, has not been met. In each of the two traffic studies conducted, less than 5% of the exchange subscribers placed one or more calls per month to Rochester, rather than the statutorily required 50%. United, however, has expressed its willingness to conduct a further traffic study in response to its customer's request. The Commission will therefore order United to conduct another traffic study during the months of July and August, 1991, and to report the results to the Commission.

#### ORDER

1. United Telephone Company shall conduct a traffic study between the Plainview exchange and the Rochester exchange, covering the months of July and August, 1991. United shall report the results of the traffic study to the Department by September 30, 1991.
2. Within 30 days of the receipt of United's new traffic study, the Department shall file a report and recommendation with the Commission. If the traffic study shows that the traffic criterion of Minn. Stat. § 216B.161 has been fulfilled, the report shall include the positions of the Department and the Company regarding the use of the Company's first or second traffic study.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)