

P-407/CP-90-723 ORDER DEFERRING ACTION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area Service from the Dodge Center to the Claremont Exchange, the West Concord to the Claremont Exchange, and the Dodge Center to the West Concord Exchange

ISSUE DATE: November 8, 1991

DOCKET NO. P-407/CP-90-723

ORDER DEFERRING ACTION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 26, 1990 telephone subscribers in the exchanges of West Concord and Dodge Center filed a petition for Extended Area Service between their exchanges and for Extended Area Service between both exchanges and the Claremont exchange. On July 12, 1991 the Commission denied the petition as to the West Concord/Claremont route and required further filings as to the Dodge Center/West Concord and Dodge Center/Claremont routes.

On August 30, 1991 U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed a petition in another docket¹ stating it was not an "affected telephone company" under Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 3 (b) (1990) in routes like these and that the rates for such routes should not be calculated to hold the company income neutral. The rates for these proposed routes will change if U S WEST is not an affected telephone company.

The petition came before the Commission for further action on October 22, 1991.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Although the Commission is committed to prompt action on ratepayer petitions, the Commission is convinced it should not take further action on this petition until U S WEST's status as

¹ In the Matter of a Petition from Certain Subscribers of the Winnebago Exchange for Extended Area Service to the Blue Earth Exchange, Docket. No. P-403/CP-89-930.

an affected or unaffected telephone company has been resolved. The next step in this case is to set proposed rates and to poll subscribers on whether or not they want Extended Area Service at those rates. If U S WEST's position is upheld, rates will be different than if it is denied. It makes little sense to proceed with polling until rates can be set with certainty. The Commission will therefore defer further action on this petition until the issue of income neutrality for U S WEST has been resolved.²

ORDER

1. Further proceedings on this petition will be scheduled following resolution of U S WEST's status under Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 3 (b) (1990).
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

² Polling should not be delayed significantly. The income neutrality issue is set for hearing on November 6, and final action should be taken shortly thereafter.