

P-404, 421, 430, 407, 405, 426/CP-89-1039 ORDER GRANTING TIME
EXTENSION, REQUIRING COOPERATION, AND ENCOURAGING AGREEMENT

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 a Petition for
Extended Area Service Between
the Monticello Exchange and the
Minneapolis/St. Paul
Metropolitan Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: November 19, 1991
DOCKET NO. P-404, 421, 430, 407,
405, 426/CP-89-1039

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 20, 1989 certain subscribers in Bridgewater Telephone Company's (Bridgewater's) Monticello exchange filed a petition for Extended Area Service (EAS) to the metropolitan calling area. On October 1, 1990 the Commission determined that the proposed EAS route met the traffic and adjacency requirements of the new EAS statute, Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1990) and required the affected companies to file cost studies and proposed rates. Cost studies and proposed rates were duly filed.

On February 28, 1991 the Department of Public Service (the Department) requested an extension of time to file its report on the cost studies and proposed rates, saying it was unable to complete its work on the filings until two of the affected companies, Bridgewater and U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST), agreed on a "meet point" for carrying potential EAS traffic to and from Monticello. The Commission granted the time extension and directed the companies to meet and attempt to negotiate a solution to the meet point issue. ORDER REQUIRING NEGOTIATIONS AND ESTABLISHING TIME FRAMES, July 16, 1991.

On October 7, 1991 the Department requested an additional 15 days to file its report and recommendation. The Department stated the companies had not agreed on a meet point and reported it was having difficulty establishing the facts necessary to complete its analysis of the meet point issue. The Department stated it would have to recommend contested case proceedings if it was unable to clarify the facts with the companies.

The matter came before the Commission on October 29, 1991.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission will grant the Department an additional 30 days in the hope that this will enable the Department to establish the facts with enough certainty to avoid contested case proceedings. The Commission directs Bridgewater and U S WEST to give the Department their full cooperation, to avoid the expense and delay of contested case proceedings if at all possible. The Commission also urges these companies to re-examine their positions for any settlement possibilities they may have failed to recognize or explore to date.

The Commission will so order.

ORDER

1. The Department of Public Service is granted an additional 30 days to file its report and recommendation in this matter.
2. Bridgewater Telephone Company and U S WEST Communications, Inc. shall give the Department their full cooperation as the Department attempts to establish the facts surrounding the meet point issue.
3. Bridgewater Telephone Company and U S WEST Communications, Inc. are urged to re-examine their positions for any settlement possibilities they have failed to recognize or explore to date.
4. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)