

P-421/CP-86-272; P-407, 421/CP-86-526; P-421/CP-86-571; P-407,  
421/CP-87-219; P-421/CP-87-506 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

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

ISSUE DATE: January 15, 1992

Docket No. P-421/CP-86-272

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

Docket No. P-407, 421/CP-86-526

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

Docket No. P-421/CP-86-571

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

Docket No. P-407, 421/CP-87-219

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

Docket No. P-421/CP-87-506

ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On July 31, 1991, the Commission issued an Order in each of the above-listed dockets directing the affected telephone companies to consult with one another and the Department of Public Service (the Department) to develop a reliable and uniform traffic study methodology. The affected telephone companies were: U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC), Sherburne Telephone Company

(Sherburne), GTE of Minnesota (GTE Minnesota), Vista Telephone Company of Minnesota (Vista), United Telephone Company (United), Scott-Rice Telephone Company (Scott-Rice), and Eckles Telephone Company (Eckles). The Orders further directed the companies to file their revised cost studies and proposed rates based on the agreed uniform traffic study methodology within 45 days of the Orders, i.e. by September 16, 1991.

On September 5, 1991, Eckles, an affected telephone company in each of the five dockets joined in this Order, filed a request for 30 day extension of time for filing its revised cost studies and proposed rates in these matters.

On September 6, 1991, USWC filed a request in each of these five dockets for a 30 day extension to file its revised cost studies and proposed rates.

On September 23, 1991, the Commission issued an ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION, giving the affected telephone companies until October 14, 1991 to file their cost studies and proposed rates.

On October 16, 1991, the affected telephone companies filed their cost studies and proposed rates and have submitted revisions to those cost studies and proposed rates as recently as December 19, 1991.

On October 25, 1991, the Commission issued a Notice inviting comment on GTE Minnesota's proposed lower cost alternative to EAS for the Lindstrom and Delano exchanges. Comments were due by December 2, 1991 and reply comments by December 23, 1991.

On December 2, 1991, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) filed a request for a three week extension for filing its report and recommendation in this matter.

On January 7, 1992, the Commission met to consider this matter.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Department has indicated that it needs an additional three weeks because in addition to commenting on the companies' cost studies and proposed rates for these several dockets, it will also be presenting its legal and economic analysis of GTE Minnesota's lower cost alternative proposal in the Lindstrom and Delano dockets. In addition, on November 12, 1991 USWC refiled studies that it had originally filed in all of these dockets on October 16, 1991, which require additional work and cause further delay.

Analysis of GTE's lower cost alternative affects two of the five dockets joined in this Order and analysis of USWC's refiled studies is required for all five dockets. Processing these five petitions together benefits all the petitions. Balancing the Commission's sense of urgency to proceed with these matters and the desire to receive thorough reports and recommendations from the Department, the Commission will grant the requested extension in all five dockets. The Department will have three weeks from the date of this Order to file their reports and recommendations in these matters.

**ORDER**

1. The Minnesota Department of Public Service's (the Department's) request for a three week time extension to file its reports and recommendations in these dockets is granted. The Department shall file its reports and recommendations in these matters within three weeks of the date of this Order.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)