

P-577, 428, 421/CP-93-881 ORDER CLOSING DOCKET

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm	Chair
Tom Burton	Commissioner
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for
Extended Area Service from
Zumbrota to Mazeppa and
Rochester

ISSUE DATE: December 22, 1993
DOCKET NO. P-577, 428, 421/CP-
93-881

ORDER CLOSING DOCKET

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 1, 1993, customers in the Zumbrota exchange filed a petition seeking extended area service (EAS) to the Mazeppa and the Rochester exchanges. Zumbrota is served by Zumbrota Telephone Company; Mazeppa is served by Sleepy Eye Telephone; Rochester is served by US WEST Communications, Inc.

On October 6, 1993, Zumbrota Telephone Company filed a letter opposing the Zumbrota/Rochester portion of the petition because the Zumbrota and Rochester exchanges are not contiguous. The exchanges of Oronoco and Pine Island lie between Zumbrota and Rochester.

On November 8, 1993, Zumbrota Telephone Company filed a traffic study for the Zumbrota/Mazeppa portion of the EAS petition.

On November 29, 1993, subscribers in the Zumbrota exchange filed a new petition requesting EAS to the local calling area consisting of Pine Island, Oronoco and Rochester. A new docket, P-577, 555, 421/CP-93-1221 (the 1221 docket) was opened for this petition.

The petition for EAS from Zumbrota to Mazeppa and Rochester came before the Commission for consideration on December 14, 1993.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Minn. Stat. § 237.161 provides that an EAS petition will be granted if the following three criteria are met:

1. The petitioning exchange is contiguous to an exchange or local calling area to which extended area service is requested in the petition;
2. At least 50 percent 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; and
3. 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.

I. Adjacency

Official exchange maps show that Zumbrota is adjacent to Mazeppa and that the Oronoco and Pine Island exchanges lie between Zumbrota and Rochester.

Pine Island, Oronoco and Rochester are adjacent to one another and have EAS to one another. The three exchanges thus form a local calling area.

The Commission finds that the proposed Zumbrota/Mazeppa EAS route meets the adjacency criterion of the EAS statute.

The Commission finds that Zumbrota/Rochester does not meet the statutory adjacency criterion, but that the proposed EAS route in the 1221 docket (Zumbrota to the Rochester-Pine Island-Oronoco local calling area) does meet the adjacency criterion. The Commission will therefore close this docket on the Zumbrota/Rochester petition and transfer the consideration of any issues connected to this petition to the 1221 docket.

II. Traffic Volume

Zumbrota Telephone Company's traffic study covered 13 months of traffic from the Zumbrota exchange to the Mazeppa exchange. In each of the 13 months fewer than 50% of Zumbrota access lines were used to place one or more calls to the Mazeppa exchange. This proposed EAS route thus fails to meet the traffic volume criterion of the EAS statute. The Commission will therefore deny the petition.

ORDER

1. Docket No. P-577, 428, 421/CP-93-881 is closed. The Zumbrota/Mazeppa EAS petition is denied. Issues arising in the Zumbrota/Rochester petition will be considered in Docket No. P-577, 555, 421/CP-93-1221.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)