

P-421/CP-87-352; P-407,421/CP-87-216 ORDER GRANTING TIME  
EXTENSIONS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm	Chair
Tom Burton	Commissioner
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner

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

ISSUE DATE: February 22, 1993  
DOCKET NO. P-421/CP-87-352

In the Matter of the Petition of  
Certain Subscribers in the  
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ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSIONS

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On January 29, 1992 the Commission issued its ORDER DENYING PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION in the above-entitled Extended Area Service (EAS) dockets. Among other things, that Order required the local exchange companies and interexchange carriers serving the exchanges involved to meet and attempt to develop a workable procedure for measuring traffic on the proposed EAS routes. Since the proposed routes cross LATA boundaries, they are served by multiple interexchange carriers, making accurate traffic data difficult to compile.

The Commission asked the companies to include the Department of Public Service (the Department) in their discussions. The parties were asked to attempt to develop a procedure that did not require filings by the interexchange carriers, to suggest methods of ensuring prompt filings by the interexchange carriers if necessary, and to consider whether the procedure they developed could be used or adapted for use in cases involving intraLATA competition.

The companies, the Department, and Commission staff held several meetings, some by teleconference. The companies submitted their report on September 4, 1992. On October 6, 1992 the Department filed its report and recommendation, recommending adoption of the companies' proposal.

On November 6, 1992, following consideration of the matter at a meeting on October 27, 1992, the Commission issued its ORDER APPROVING TRAFFIC STUDY METHODOLOGY AND REQUIRING FURTHER FILINGS.

On January 20, 1993, U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC) filed a request with the Commission for a 60 day extension from the time it receives the additional traffic information from the Interexchange carriers (IXCs) for filing cost studies and proposed rates for the Cannon Falls and Northfield petitions.

On January 29, 1993, GTE-Minnesota and United filed similar requests for a 60 day extension for filing their cost studies and proposed rates in these two cases.

On February 1, 1993, Vista Telephone Company (Vista) filed a request for a 30 day extension for filing its cost studies and proposed rates.

On February 3, 1993, Eckles Telephone Company (Eckles) filed a request for a 60 day extension.

On February 16, 1993, the Commission met to consider these requests.

#### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

USWC is the local exchange company (LEC) serving the petitioning Northfield exchange in Docket No. P-421/CP-87-352. GTE serves Cannon Falls, the petitioning exchange in Docket No. P-407,421/CP-87-216. Under the Commission's November 6, 1992 Order, cost studies and proposed rates were due from USWC and GTE as the telephone companies serving the petitioning exchanges and from the other LECs serving exchanges in the petitioned Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan calling area (MCA) within 90 days of the Order.

In support of their requests, the companies indicated that they do not currently have adequate traffic information from the IXCs to complete their cost studies and proposed rates. They explained that with the recent expansion of the MCA to include the Buffalo, Cambridge, and North Branch exchanges<sup>1</sup>, the interexchange carriers (IXCs) have not provided them with traffic information between Cannon Falls and Northfield and the newly admitted MCA exchanges.

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<sup>1</sup> See ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS, APPROVING RATE INCREASES, AND REQUIRING FURTHER FILINGS in the Buffalo (P-421/CP-87-506), Cambridge (P-421/CP-86-571), and North Branch (P-421/CP-86-272) EAS dockets (January 14, 1993). In that Order, the Commission directed the LECs serving the existing MCA to include the three exchanges in the MCA.

Based on communication between the Minnesota Telephone Association and the relevant IXCs (AT&T, Sprint, and MCI) it is expected that the IXCs will provide the additional traffic information by February 22, 1993.

The missing traffic data prevents not only the requesting companies, but all the affected LECs from completing their cost studies and proposed rates. Therefore, the Commission will extend the filing date for all the affected LECs for a period of 30 days from the date the IXCs file the additional traffic information. In light of the initial 90 day period for preparing cost studies and proposed rates, a period which to date has been exceeded, a 30 day extension beyond receipt of the completed information is quite adequate to complete these filings.

The timing of the Department's report on the companies' filings and final comments from the parties will be adjusted accordingly.

#### ORDER

1. The local exchange companies (LECs) serving the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) are granted additional time to file their costs studies and proposed rates in these two matters.
2. Within 30 days after receiving from AT&T, Sprint, and MCI additional traffic information regarding toll traffic between Cannon Falls and Northfield and the newly admitted MCA exchanges (Buffalo, Cambridge, and North Branch), the affected LECs (USWC, United, Eckles, GTE, Vista, and Scott-Rice) shall file their cost studies and proposed rates.
3. USWC and GTE's filings pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 2 shall also include the details of the lower cost alternatives proposed for Northfield and Cannon Falls, respectively.
4. Within 30 days of the filing of the companies' cost studies and proposed rates, the Department of Public Service (the Department) shall file its report and recommendations on those filings.
5. All parties shall have 20 days from the filing of the Department's report and recommendations to make final comments in each of these dockets.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster  
Executive Secretary

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