

P-407, 421/CP-91-247 ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS, DENYING
PETITION AND CLOSING DOCKET

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for
Extended Area Service From the
Askov Exchange to the Sandstone
Exchange

ISSUE DATE: May 5, 1993

DOCKET NO. P-407, 421/CP-91-247

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING
RESULTS, DENYING PETITION AND
CLOSING DOCKET

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 1, 1991, petitioners in the Askov exchange filed a petition for extended area service (EAS) to the Sandstone exchange. Askov is served by GTE Minnesota (GTE). The Askov petition was assigned Docket No. P-407, 421/CP-91-247.

On the same day, petitioners in the Sandstone exchange filed a petition for EAS to the Askov exchange. Sandstone is served by U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC). The Sandstone petition was assigned Docket No. P-407, 421/CP-91-248.

On December 17, 1991, the Commission issued an Order requiring GTE to file cost studies and proposed rates regarding the proposed Askov to Sandstone EAS route in this matter (Docket No. P-407, 421/CP-91-247) and denied the Sandstone to Askov petition, Docket No. P-407, 421/CP-91-248.

On January 16, 1992, GTE and USWC filed cost studies and proposed rates for the proposed Askov to Sandstone extended area service (EAS) route.

On February 26, 1992, USWC informed the Commission that it had made errors in its cost studies and on April 1, 1992 USWC and GTE filed revised cost information.

On September 28, 1992, the Commission issued its ORDER ADOPTING RATES FOR POLLING. In that Order, the Commission set EAS rates for Askov and Sandstone and directed GTE to cooperate fully with Commission Staff and Commission contractors to expedite the polling of Askov subscribers.

On April 24, 1993, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Between February 12, 1993 and April 12, 1993, subscribers in the Askov exchange were polled to determine whether they supported the EAS routes proposed in this matter. The Commission finds that the polling was properly conducted and recorded. No party alleged irregularities in the process or contested the results.

Approximately 68 percent of the subscribers in the Askov exchange participated in the polling process. Of the 366 Askov subscribers voting on the EAS proposed between Askov and Sandstone, 159 (43.4 percent) voted in favor and 207 (56.6 percent) voted against. Based on these results, the Commission finds that the proposed Askov-Sandstone route does not have adequate subscriber support, as required by Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (2) (1992), to mandate the installation of EAS. Accordingly, the Commission will simply certify the polling results, deny the petition, and close the docket.

The Askov subscribers should receive official notification of the results of the polling. The Commission will require GTE, the telephone company serving the petitioning Askov exchange, to notify its subscribers of the polling results.

ORDER

1. The Commission hereby certifies the polling results set forth in the text of this Order.
2. The petition for EAS between the Askov and Sandstone exchanges is denied.
3. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, GTE Minnesota, the telephone company serving the petitioning Askov exchange, shall submit to Commission Staff a proposed bill-insert type notice of polling results. After receiving Commission Staff approval, GTE shall distribute the bill insert notice to all its subscribers in the Askov exchange in the earliest possible billing cycle.
4. Within 30 days after it has given notice to all its subscribers in the Askov exchange, GTE shall notify Commission Staff of that fact in writing and the docket will be closed.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)