

P-407, 421/CP-90-777 ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND
DIRECTING THE INSTALLATION OF EXTENDED AREA SERVICE

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 a Petition for
Extended Area Service From the
Tower Exchange to the Virginia,
Ely, and Embarrass Exchanges

ISSUE DATE: May 5, 1993

DOCKET NO. P-407, 421/CP-90-777

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AND DIRECTING THE INSTALLATION
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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 20, 1990, subscribers in the Tower exchange filed a petition for extended area service to the Virginia, Ely, and Embarrass exchanges.

On October 22, 1991, the Commission issue its ORDER REQUIRING REVISED TRAFFIC STUDIES, COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES. The Commission found that Tower was adjacent to Virginia and Embarrass but postponed deciding whether it was also adjacent to Ely. The Commission required GTE Minnesota (GTE), the telephone company serving the petitioning Tower exchange to file new traffic studies for all three routes and directed GTE and U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC) to file proposed rates for any route meeting the statutory traffic requirement.

On November 12, 1991, GTE filed the required traffic studies, which showed that only the Tower-Virginia route met the statutory traffic requirement.

On January 14, 1992, both GTE (serving the petitioning Tower exchange) and USWC (serving the petitioned Virginia exchange) filed their proposed rates for the Tower-Virginia route.

On March 13, 1992, the Commission issued its ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSIONS allowing USWC to correct errors in calculating its cost studies in several pending EAS cases, including this case.

On March 27, 1992, USWC filed corrected cost studies and proposed rates and GTE filed its revised rates on April 2, 1992.

On September 22, 1992, the Commission issued its ORDER ADOPTING RATES FOR POLLING in this matter. In the Order, the Commission found that the Tower-Ely and Tower-Embarrass routes lacked adequate traffic to warrant further consideration but that the Tower-Virginia route did meet the statutory traffic requirement. Therefore, the Commission reviewed the cost studies and proposed rates for that route and adopted EAS rate additives for Tower, the petitioning exchange, and Virginia, the petitioned exchange. The Commission also directed GTE to cooperate fully with Commission Staff and Commission contractors to expedite the polling of Tower subscribers.

On April 20, 1993, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Polling of customers in the Tower exchange took place between February 12, 1993 and April 12, 1993. Approximately 70 percent of Tower subscribers returned their polling ballots. The Commission finds that the polling was properly conducted and recorded. No party alleged irregularities in the process or contested the results.

The ballots sought response from Tower subscribers regarding the proposed EAS between the Tower and Virginia exchanges. Of the 1,052 Tower subscribers who returned their polling ballots, 612 or 58.2 percent favored the proposed Tower-Virginia EAS route and 440 or 41.8 percent opposed it.

Based on these results, the Commission finds that the Tower petition has met the third and final criterion established by Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (1992).

Accordingly, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (1992), the Commission will grant the petition and require GTE Minnesota (the telephone company serving the Tower exchange) and USWC (the telephone company serving the Virginia exchange) to install EAS over the proposed route. If these companies (USWC and GTE) seek to recover nonrecurring expenses due to the implementation of EAS, they must file a proposal for recovery of those expenses no later than 120 days prior to the planned implementation date of the EAS.

ORDER

1. The Commission hereby certifies the polling results set forth in the text of this Order.

2. Consistent with the requirements of this Order, GTE Minnesota (GTE) and U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC) shall proceed expeditiously to install extended area service (EAS) between the Tower and Virginia exchanges.
3. GTE and USWC shall file implementation plans and schedules with the Commission within 60 days of this Order and shall file updated implementation schedules with the Commission every 90 days thereafter.
4. Within 10 days of this Order, GTE and USWC shall file proposed polling results notices with Commission Staff. The companies' proposed notices shall be directed to their respective subscribers in the Tower and Virginia exchanges, informing them of the polling results and the anticipated implementation date. After these notices have been approved by Commission Staff, GTE and USWC shall distribute them to their respective customers in the Tower and Virginia exchanges as bill inserts included in the earliest possible billing cycle.
5. At least 90 days before the start of the service, GTE and USWC shall submit to Commission Staff for approval a second bill-insert type notice. This notice shall 1) describe the EAS service, 2) instruct customers on dialing, 3) inform subscribers regarding the EAS rate additives applicable in each exchange, and 4) inform subscribers of the actual implementation date. After this second notice has been approved by Commission Staff, GTE and USWC shall distribute it as a bill-insert in the billing cycle that concludes one month before the EAS is implemented.
6. Thirty days before implementing EAS between Tower and Virginia, GTE and USWC shall file tariff sheets reflecting the prior Commission Order establishing the rates for EAS in these exchanges.
7. If GTE and USWC wish to seek to recovery of nonrecurring expenses incurred due to the implementation of EAS, they shall file their requests at least 120 days before the planned implementation date.
8. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)