

P-539, 407, 421/CP-92-1201 ORDER FINDING ADJACENCY AND SUFFICIENT
TRAFFIC VOLUME AND REQUIRING FURTHER FILINGS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

In the Matter of a Petition for
Extended Area Service from
Kasson and Mantorville to Byron
and Rochester, Rock Dell, and
Dodge Center

ISSUE DATE: July 22, 1993

DOCKET NO. P-539, 407, 421/CP-
92-1201

ORDER FINDING ADJACENCY AND
SUFFICIENT TRAFFIC VOLUME AND
REQUIRING FURTHER FILINGS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On October 14, 1992, subscribers in the Kasson and Mantorville exchanges petitioned for extended area service (EAS) to the exchanges of Byron, Dodge Center, Rochester and Rock Dell. The Kasson-Mantorville Telephone Company (Kasson-Mantorville) serves the Kasson and Mantorville exchanges. GTE Minnesota (GTE) serves Byron and Dodge Center. US WEST Communications, Inc. (US WEST) serves Rochester. Rock Dell Telephone Company serves the Rock Dell exchange. Kasson and Mantorville form a local calling area, as do Byron and Rochester.

Although the form of the petition was not entirely clear, the Commission will consider the request as two separate petitions: a petition from Kasson to Rock Dell, Dodge Center and the Byron/Rochester local calling area; and a petition from Mantorville to Rock Dell, Dodge Center and the Byron/Rochester local calling area.

Kasson-Mantorville submitted traffic studies on December 9, 1992, and amended traffic studies on June 1, 1993.

On June 7, 1993, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments regarding the traffic studies.

The matter came before the Commission on July 13, 1993.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. The EAS Statute

The EAS statute, Minn. Stat. § 237.161, establishes three criteria which must be met in order to petition successfully for EAS:

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.

II. Traffic Volume

The traffic studies indicate that the following routes carry sufficient traffic to meet the statutory criterion: Kasson to Byron/Rochester; Kasson to Dodge Center; Mantorville to Byron/Rochester; and Mantorville to Dodge Center.

The traffic studies show that neither the Kasson to Rock Dell route nor the Mantorville to Rock Dell route meets the statutory traffic criterion.

III. Adjacency

Maps on file with the Department indicate that Kasson and Mantorville are both adjacent to Byron. Neither is contiguous to Rochester. Since Byron and Rochester are a local calling area, Kasson and Mantorville are considered adjacent to the Byron/Rochester local calling area for purposes of fulfilling the EAS statutory criterion. Both Kasson and Mantorville are adjacent to Dodge Center.

The Department maps do not show clearly if the Mantorville exchange, as well as the Kasson exchange, is adjacent to Rock Dell. This point is moot, however, since neither Mantorville nor Kasson carries sufficient traffic to Rock Dell to meet the statutory traffic criterion.

IV. Routes requiring further filings

The following routes have met the statutory criteria for adjacency and traffic volume: Kasson to Byron/Rochester; Kasson to Dodge Center; Mantorville to Byron/Rochester; and Mantorville to Dodge Center. The Commission will require the affected telephone companies to file cost studies and proposed rates for these routes. This information is necessary so that the petition process can proceed to polling of the subscribers.

ORDER

1. Within 60 days of the date of this Order, Kasson-Mantorville, US WEST, and GTE shall file cost studies and proposed rates for the following proposed EAS routes: Kasson to Byron/Rochester; Kasson to Dodge Center; Mantorville to Byron/Rochester; and Mantorville to Dodge Center. The cost studies shall be consistent with previous Commission decisions for non-metropolitan area EAS routes. The proposed rates shall include alternative cost allocations of 75%, 60% and 50% to the petitioning exchange.
2. Within 45 days of the completion of the above filings, the Department shall file a report and recommendation. If the Department recommends changes in rates, it shall file new proposed rates assuming alternative cost allocations of 75%, 60% and 50% to the petitioning exchange.
3. Interested parties who wish to respond to the Department's report shall do so within 20 days of its filing.
4. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)