

P-405, 503, 421/CP-93-551 ORDER DENYING PETITION AND 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
Waterville to Waseca,
Morristown/Faribault, LeCenter,
and St. Peter

ISSUE DATE: September 24, 1993

DOCKET NO. P-405, 503, 421/CP-
93-551

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On June 12, 1993, customers in the Waterville exchange filed a petition with the Commission requesting extended area service (EAS) to Waseca, the local calling area of Morrystown and Faribault, LeCenter, and St. Peter.

On June 30, 1993, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) sent the telephone companies serving the involved exchanges a request to file traffic studies.

On July, 30, 1993, Vista Telephone Company (Vista), the telephone company serving the petitioning Waterville exchange, filed its traffic study.

On September 7, 1993, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The two threshold criteria that a petition for EAS must meet are adjacency and adequate traffic. The petitioning exchange must be adjacent to the exchange or local calling area to which EAS is sought and 50 percent of the subscribers in the petitioning exchange must make one or more calls per month to the petitioned exchange or calling area. Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (a) (1992).

Waterville meets the first criterion (adjacency) because it shares a common boundary with the exchanges to which it seeks EAS (St. Peter, LeCenter, and Waseca) and with the local calling area to which it seeks EAS (Morristown/Faribault).

However, Vista's six month traffic study shows that fewer than half of its subscribers made one or more calls to the petitioned areas. Only the Waterville - Morrystown/Faribault route merits comment. For one month out of the six studied, more than 50 percent of Waterville subscribers placed one or more calls to the Morrystown/ Faribault local calling area. However, this is clearly insufficient to meet the statutory criterion, which requires an element of typicality in the achievement of the stated calling level.

Accordingly, the Waterville petition will be dismissed for failure to meet the statutory requirement regarding traffic and this docket will be closed. Pursuant to Minn. Rules, Part 7815.1500, subscribers in the Waterville exchange will be entitled to submit another request for EAS to these areas or any of them after a two year period, starting with the date of this Order.

ORDER

1. The petition for extended area service (EAS) from the Waterville exchange to the Morrystown/Faribault local calling area and to the Waterville, LeCenter and St. Peter exchanges is hereby denied. The petition is dismissed and the docket which was opened for this matter, Docket No. P-421/CP-93-432 is hereby closed.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Susan Mackenzie
Acting Executive Secretary

(S E A L)