

430, ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Chair
Commissioner
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In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area Service between the Mayer Exchange and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area

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ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND ORDERING INSTALLATION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On July 6, 1993, the City of Mayer (Mayer) filed a petition requesting extended area service (EAS) to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (the MCA). Mayer is served by GTE Minnesota (GTE). At that time, the MCA was served by U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC), United Telephone Systems of the Midwest (United), Vista Telephone, Scott-Rice Telephone Company, and Eckles Telephone Company.

On September 27, 1994, the Commission issued an Order adopting EAS rates for Mayer and directing the polling of Mayer subscribers to proceed.

Polling of the Mayer subscribers took place between November 15 and December 30, 1994.

On January 24, 1995, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Certification of Polling Results

The results of that polling shows that a majority of voting subscribers in the Mayer exchange voted in favor of EAS. The specific results were as follows:

<u>Percent Voting</u>	<u>YES Votes</u>	<u>NO Votes</u>
78.0 percent	207	120

The one-party residential rate additive for full EAS with the metro calling area will be \$27.35. A lower-priced alternative will also be offered at \$3.85 per month for a residential customer plus a per-minute charge for calls to the MCA.

B. Order for Installation

The third and final statutory criterion for EAS is that a majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation. Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (a) (2) (1992).

Because a majority of the voting customers in Mayer voted in favor of EAS, the third and final criterion is met. Accordingly, the Commission will require GTE, which serves the Mayer exchange, and the other companies serving the MCA (USWC, Frontier, Scott-Rice, Eckles, Bridge Water, Sherburne, and United) to implement the EAS at the earliest date possible.

To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order GTE to coordinate implementation of Mayer's EAS and to file a schedule of the planned implementation, with updates every 90 days.

C. Authorization of Non-Recurring Charges

If GTE wants to request recovery of non-recurring expenses caused by implementation of EAS, the Company should submit a proposal for that at least 120 days before the planned implementation of EAS.

ORDER

1. The polling results for the Mayer exchange are certified as reported by the polling contractor: greater than a majority of Mayer subscribers returning their ballots voted in favor of the proposed EAS between Mayer and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA). Accordingly, the third and final EAS statutory criterion (adequate subscriber support) is met in this matter and the Mayer EAS petition is approved.
2. GTE shall coordinate implementation of EAS between Mayer and the MCA and ensure that EAS is installed at the earliest possible date.
3. GTE shall file an implementation schedule within 60 days of this Order. The schedule should be updated every 90 days.
4. If GTE wishes to request recovery of non-recurring expenses, it shall file its request at least 120 days before the planned implementation date.
5. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on any charges which GTE may propose.
6. For the Mayer exchange, GTE shall notify its Mayer customers of the polling results. GTE shall also notify subscribers of the appropriate EAS additives, the availability of the lower priced alternative, and the proposed implementation schedule.

7. Within 10 days of the Order, GTE shall file a proposed customer notice with Commission Staff. The customer notice shall be a bill insert which GTE shall include in the earliest possible billing cycle following approval by Commission Staff.
8. GTE, United, USWC, Scott-Rice, Frontier, Eckles, Bridge Water and Sherburne shall send a bill insert to their customers in the billing cycle that concludes one month before the EAS implementation date. This notice will be the second regarding the EAS for Mayer exchange subscribers. This notice shall describe the service, instruct subscribers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid (if any), and the date of implementation. GTE's notice to its Mayer subscribers shall include information on the lower-priced alternative and clear instructions on how the customer may subscribe to the lower-priced alternative. The notice must also include any deadline the customer will have to meet to have the lower-priced alternative in place by the EAS implementation date.
9. GTE, United, USWC, Scott-Rice, Frontier, Eckles, Bridge Water and Sherburne shall file with Commission Staff their proposed notices described in Ordering Paragraph 8 above at least 90 days before the implementation date.
10. Thirty days before implementation, GTE, United, USWC, Scott-Rice, Frontier, Eckles, Bridge Water and Sherburne shall file tariff sheets reflecting prior Commission Orders establishing the rates and terms for EAS in each of the exchanges affected by the Mayer EAS installation.
11. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)