

May 15, 1995

DOCKET NO. P-421, 414/CP-93-11

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND DIRECTING INSTALLATION OF EAS
FROM ST. PETER TO MANKATO AND NORTH MANKATO

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm	Chair
Tom Burton	Commissioner
Joel Jacobs	Commissioner
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from St. Peter to Mankato and North
Mankato

ISSUE DATE: May 15, 1995

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ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS
AND DIRECTING INSTALLATION OF EAS
FROM ST. PETER TO MANKATO AND
NORTH MANKATO

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 11, 1993, customers in the St. Peter exchange filed a petition requesting extended area service from St. Peter to the Mankato exchange. St. Peter is served by U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC). The Mankato exchange (an area covering the municipalities of Mankato and North Mankato) is served by Mankato Citizens Telephone Company (Mankato).

On July 23, 1993, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES.

On October 15, 1993, the Commission issued its ORDER EXTENDING TIME LINES. The order was issued to allow resolution to a technical dispute between USWC and Mankato.

On November 16, 1993, Mankato filed cost studies and proposed rates.

On December 2, 1993, USWC filed cost studies and proposed rates.

On January 24, 1994, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments regarding the filings.

On January 31, 1994, Mankato filed responses to the Department's report.

Also on January 31, 1994, the Minnesota Telephone Association (MTA) filed comments regarding the appropriate stimulation factor.

On April 13, 1994, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING FILINGS. The Commission required the affected telephone companies to reduce the stimulation factor from 5 to 3.

On May 17, 1994, Mankato and USWC filed revised cost studies and proposed rates. Mankato revised its filing of May 23, 1994.

On June 16, 1994, the Department filed its report.

On November 1, 1994, the Commission issued its ORDER ADOPTING RATES FOR POLLING.

On May 2, 1995, the Commission met to consider St. Peter's polling results.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Certification of Polling Results

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

<u>Percent Voting</u>	<u>YES Votes</u>	<u>NO Votes</u>
70.1 percent	2,245	1 ,874

The one-party residential rate additive for full EAS with the Mankato exchange will be \$3.17.

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 St. Peter customers returning their ballots voted in favor of EAS, the third and final criterion is met for this petition. Accordingly, the Commission will require USWC (which serves the St. Peter exchange) and Mankato (the company serving the Mankato exchange) to implement EAS between the St. Peter and Mankato exchanges at the earliest date possible.

To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order USWC to 1) coordinate implementation of St. Peter's EAS, 2) file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order, and 3) update that schedule every 90 days.

C. Authorization of Non-Recurring Charges

If USWC 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 St. Peter petition is approved. Service shall begin no later than 12 months following the date of this Order.
2. Within 60 days of this Order, USWC shall file an implementation schedule and shall update that implementation schedule every 90 days.
3. If recovery of non-recurring costs is sought, USWC must file a request therefor at least 120 days before the planned implementation date. The Department of Public Service shall have 30 days to comment on any proposed charge.
4. Within 10 days of the date of the Order, USWC shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff. The notices shall list the results of the polling. After approval, the Company shall serve the notice in the first possible billing cycle in the St. Peter exchange. The notice shall include: the polling results, the EAS rate additives, and the proposed implementation date.
5. USWC shall notify its customers of the start date of the EAS by means of a second bill insert. The notification shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. The bill inserts shall be in the billing cycles that conclude one month before the EAS is implemented.
6. USWC shall submit its second notice (described in Ordering Paragraph #5) to Commission staff for approval at least 90 days before the implementation date of the service.
7. Mankato Citizens Telephone Company (Mankato) shall file, for approval by Commission staff, a notice for its subscribers informing them of the implementation date of EAS between St. Peter and the Mankato exchange. Mankato's notice shall list the rate increases for their subscribers, if any, to be paid once EAS to Mankato is implemented.

8. The customer notice described in Ordering Paragraph #7 shall be filed with Commission staff at least 90 days before the implementation date of EAS to the Mankato exchange and shall be served on customers in the billing cycles that conclude one month before EAS is implemented.
9. Thirty days before implementation of EAS, all affected local telephone companies shall file tariff sheets reflecting prior Commission Orders which established the rates and terms for EAS in each of the exchanges affected by the installation of the EAS.
10. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)