

ISSUE DATE: August 4, 1995

DOCKET NO. P-421,407,432/CP-92-267

ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from St. Vincent to Hallock and
Lancaster

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 1, 1992, subscribers in the St. Vincent exchange filed a petition requesting extended area service (EAS) to the Hallock and the Lancaster exchanges. St. Vincent is served by US WEST Communications, Inc. (USWC); Hallock is served by GTE Minnesota (GTE or the Company); Lancaster is served by Wikstrom Telephone Company (Wikstrom).

On July 30, 1992, US WEST filed its traffic studies.

On August 3, 1992, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed its report and recommendations.

On May 16, 1995, the Commission issued its ORDER DETERMINING ADJACENCY AND TRAFFIC VOLUME AND REQUIRING COST FILINGS in this matter. The Order directed GTE to file cost studies and proposed rates within 60 days of the Order, i.e. by July 17, 1995.

On June 29, 1995, GTE filed a request for an extension of time for filing the required cost studies and proposed rates until September 1, 1995.

The Commission met to consider this matter on August 1, 1995.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

In support of its request for additional time to file its cost study and proposed EAS rates in this matter, GTE stated that the re-engineering of the retrieval of the traffic data and the overall workload of the pricing group prevented completion of the required items prior to September 1, 1995. The Company explained that the re-engineering required further adaption for the user application and requires training and a learning curve for the pricing group.

The Commission finds that, given the circumstances explained by GTE, the Company should receive some additional time to complete the required items. However, the extended area service (EAS) statute expires June 1, 1996 and the Commission has established a processing timetable to meet that deadline. Given the number of stages that an EAS petition must go through before an Order directing implementation, an extension to September 1, 1995 would jeopardize completing the St. Vincent petition by June 1, 1996.

In discussion before the Commission, the Company indicated that it could make its traffic data available to USWC by Monday, August 7, 1995. GTE's traffic data is required by the other telephone companies involved in this matter in preparing their cost studies. In light of the interdependency of the companies' work and the urgency of moving ahead on this matter, the Company is strongly encouraged to make this data available as soon as possible.

Regarding the cost studies, the Commission will impose an August 14, 1995 filing date for those items. The cooperation and best efforts of GTE in meeting this deadline is anticipated. The Commission trusts that an explanation of the time constraints affecting this petition will spur the Company to prompt action in compliance.

ORDER

1. The time extension request filed by GTE in this matter is denied.
2. A more limited time extension (to August 14, 1995) is granted. GTE shall file its cost study and proposed EAS rates on or before August 14, 1995.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)