

ISSUE DATE: January 29, 1996

DOCKET NO. P-404, 421, 405, 407, 427, 430, 426, 520/CP-92-287

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND DIRECTING INSTALLATION OF EAS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joel Jacobs
Tom Burton
Marshall Johnson
Dee Knaak
Don Storm

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area Service from the Enfield Exchange to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 9, 1992, subscribers in the Enfield exchange filed a petition seeking extended area service (EAS) to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (the MCA). Enfield is served by the Bridge Water Telephone Company (Bridge Water).

On January 30, 1995, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING COST STUDIES, PROPOSED RATES AND A LOWER COST ALTERNATIVE. In that Order the Commission found that the petition had met the first two criteria under the EAS statute-- adjacency and sufficient traffic volume. The Commission ordered the affected telephone companies to file cost studies and proposed rates so that the petition could proceed to the third statutory criterion, subscriber preference.

Between May 19, 1995, and May 23, 1995, the affected telephone companies filed cost studies and proposed rates.

On July 6, 1995, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments.

On October 18, 1995, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING COST STUDIES AND ADOPTING RATES FOR POLLING and proceeded to conduct a poll of Enfield customers between November 28, 1995 and January 16, 1996.

On January 23, 1996, the Commission met to consider the results of that polling.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The final criterion for an EAS petition is whether there is adequate customer support for the proposed EAS route. If a majority of customers vote in favor of the installation of EAS, the Commission is authorized and directed to order the relevant local telephone company to install the service. Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (1994).

The Commission has reviewed the results of the polling of Enfield customers and will certify the following results. With 72.4 percent participation, the results were:

Voting Yes: 505 or 72.2 percent of valid returned ballots.

Voting No: 194 or 27.8 percent of valid returned ballots.

Since more than a majority of the Enfield customers responding to the poll voted in favor of installing the proposed EAS route between Enfield and the MCA, the Commission will direct Bridge Water (the local telephone company for the Enfield exchange) to implement EAS as set forth in more detail in the Ordering Paragraphs of this Order.

ORDER

1. The polling results for the Enfield exchange in this matter are hereby certified as set forth above.
2. In accord with the results of that polling, the Commission hereby approves the petition for EAS between the Enfield exchange and the MCA.
3. Bridge Water Telephone Company shall coordinate implementation of the approved EAS in the Enfield exchange and file implementation schedules within 60 days of this Order. The Company shall update that implementation schedule every 90 days and assure that service begins not later than 12 months following the date of this Order.
4. Bridge Water shall make any request for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation date, i.e. the date that local service in Enfield will be expanded to include EAS service to the MCA.
5. FIRST NOTICE: Within 10 days of the date of this Order, Bridge Water shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by the Commission or Commission Staff. The notice shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives, and the proposed implementation dates. After approval, the Company shall serve the notices in the first possible billing cycle in the Enfield exchange.

6. SECOND NOTICE: Bridge Water shall notify its Enfield customers of the start date of EAS by means of a second bill insert. The Company shall submit the second bill insert to the Commission staff for approval at least **90** days before the implementation date of the service. This notification shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation and shall be included in the billing cycle that concludes at least one month, but not more than two months, before EAS is implemented.
7. At the time Bridge Water issues this second notice, the Company shall file copies of the final notices with the Department of Public Service and the Commission. Thereupon, this docket (P-404, 421, 405, 407, 427, 430, 426, 520/CP-92-287) will be closed.
8. At least 30 days before the implementation of EAS, all affected local telephone companies shall file tariff sheets reflecting prior Commission Orders and that establish the rates and terms for EAS in each of the exchanges affected by the installation of EAS.
9. At least 90 days before the anticipated implementation date for the Enfield route, all telephone companies serving the Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA) shall file proposed customer notices for approval by Commission Staff. This notification should describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date(s) of implementation. The companies shall include this bill insert in the billing cycle that concludes at least one month, but not more than two months, before EAS is implemented.
10. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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