

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
Dee Knaak
Mac McCollar
Don Storm

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of **Melrose Telephone Company's** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **Stearns County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: **November 13, 1996**

DOCKET NO. **P-415/ES-96-1183**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911 SYSTEM COSTS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 30, 1985, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Stearns County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services System.

On June 1, 1987, Melrose Telephone Company (the Company) placed a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone System into service in the Richmond exchange in Stearns County. On July 1, 1987, the Company placed a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone System into service in the Melrose exchange in Stearns County. On September 1, 1987, the Company placed a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone System into service in the Kimball exchange in Stearns County. On October 1, 1987, the Company placed a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone System into service in the Greenwald and St. Martin exchanges in Stearns County.

On November 16, 1995, the Company certified the actual costs it incurred for the provision of 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Meeker County.

Melrose Telephone Company is now requesting Commission approval of actual 911 system costs. Commission approval is necessary before the Department of Administration (DOA) will make payments for 911 system costs.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11, subd. 3 states:

Subd. 3 (METHOD OF PAYMENT; CERTIFICATION.) A public utility incurring reimbursable costs under subdivision 1 or 2 shall certify those costs to the commissioner of administration. The certification shall be in a form as prescribed

by the commissioner after consultation with the public utilities commission. If the commissioner and the commission approve the certified costs as appropriate and accurate, the commissioner shall pay the certified costs from money appropriated for that purpose within 90 days following receipt by the commissioner of the certified costs. The commissioner of administration shall estimate the amount required to reimburse public utilities for the state's obligations under subdivisions 1 and 2 of this section and the governor shall include the estimated amount in the biennial budget request.

Melrose Telephone Company has certified, in writing, that the elements of 911 services and associated costs indicated on Attachment A reflect only charges for services actually rendered in the direct provision of 911 service in Stearns County.

The amount appearing on line 1c is the actual cost associated with moving or rearranging existing central office equipment because of 911 installation. The amount appearing on line 1c is traceable to specific telephone company job orders which will be retained in the Company's records. This amount is a one-time cost which will be reimbursed by the State of Minnesota and which will be excluded from the Company's rate base.

All other charges listed on Attachment A are in accordance with the Company's tariff.

The Commission finds that the costs for 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Stearns County which have been certified by the Company are appropriate and accurate.

Policy References:

Minn. Stat. Section 403.11 System Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1400 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Recurring Costs

Minn. Rules, pt. 1215.1500 Funding Eligibility/Payment of Central Office Modification Costs

ORDER

1. The costs identified on Attachment A accompanying this Order are approved as appropriate and accurate.
2. This Order does not approve payment of any 911 system costs. Any possible future approval of payment for system costs shall be granted by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. Section 403.11.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I _____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That on the _____ day of _____, 1996 (s)he served the attached Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for Stearns County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P415/ES-96-1183.

XX By depositing in the United States Mail at the City of St. Paul, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped with postage prepaid

XX By personal service

XX By inter-office mail

to all persons at the addresses indicated below or on the attached list:

MR BILL SCHNELLMAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
500 CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING
658 CEDAR STREET
ST PAUL MN 55155

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MELROSE TELEPHONE COMPANY
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MS BETH HALVERSON
C/O PAT WILLIAMS
US WEST COMMUNICATIONS
200 S 5TH ST RM 8A
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402

Subscribed and sworn to before me, _____

a notary public, this _____ day of

_____, 1996.

Notary Public