

ISSUE DATE: April 3, 1998

DOCKET NO. P-504, 421/CP-97-1904

ORDER DENYING PETITION AND CLOSING DOCKET

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Edward A. Garvey	Chair
Joel Jacobs	Commissioner
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
LeRoy Koppendrayner	Commissioner
Gregory Scott	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area Service between the Ramey Exchange and the Pierz Exchange

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 18, 1997, Benton Cooperative Telephone Company (Benton) mailed a copy of a subscriber petition for extended area service (EAS) between the Ramey and Pierz exchanges, along with traffic studies for the months of September, October and November 1997, to the Commission.

On January 6, 1998, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments regarding the petition and traffic studies.

The Commission met to consider this matter on March 31, 1998.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. BACKGROUND

The Commission's February 23, 1996 Order in Docket No. P-999/CI-94-296 states three criteria that, if met, require the installation of EAS. These criteria are:

- First: The petitioning exchange is adjacent to an exchange or local calling area to which EAS is requested in the petition.
- Second: At least 50 percent of the customers in the petitioning exchange make three or more calls per month to the exchange or local calling area to which EAS is requested, as determined by a traffic study; and
- Third: Polling by the Commission shows that a majority of the

customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor the installation, unless all parties and the Commission agree that no polling is necessary.

II. ANALYSIS

The petitioning exchange (Ramey) and the petitioned exchange (Pierz) share a common border and are, therefore, adjacent as required to met the first criterion: adjacency.

However, the traffic information supplied by Benton shows that fewer than thirty-five percent (35%) of the Ramey customers made three or more calls per month to Pierz, on average, thereby failing to meet the second criterion: adequate traffic.

III. ACTION

The Commission will, therefore, accept the Department's recommendation and deny the petition and close this docket.

ORDER

1. The petition for EAS between the Ramey and Pierz exchanges is denied.
2. The docket is hereby closed.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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