

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Edward A. Garvey
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendrayer
Gregory Scott

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of an Extended Area Service
Petition Among the Exchanges of Clinton,
Graceville and Beardsley

ISSUE DATE: March 8, 1999

DOCKET NO. P-551/CP-97-1378

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING
RESULTS, APPROVING PETITION, AND
REQUIRING INSTALLATION OF EAS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 12, 1997, customers in the Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley exchanges filed a set of petitions for Extended Area Service (EAS) among these three communities. Currently, CenturyTel of Minnesota, Inc. (CenturyTel) provides local telephone service in Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley.

On December 22, 1997, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING THE FILING OF COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES in this matter. The Commission found that the petitions from Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley conformed to the School District EAS statute: Minn. Laws (1997) Chapter 59 - H.F. 211. The Commission directed the telephone company serving Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley (then PTI Communications; now CenturyTel) to file cost studies and proposed rates.

On May 21, 1998, CenturyTel filed cost studies and proposed rates.

On July 21, 1998, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) submitted comments, recommending that the Commission accept CenturyTel's cost study and proposed rates. The Department also recommended that the Commission proceed to polling telephone subscribers in Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley.

On October 23, 1998, the Commission issued its ORDER ESTABLISHING RATES FOR POLLING.

Polling of telephone subscribers in Independent School District (ISD) # 55 (the Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley exchanges) was conducted between December 28, 1998 and February 18, 1999.

The Commission met on March 2, 1999 to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. CERTIFICATION OF POLLING RESULTS: ISD #55 - Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley exchanges)

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in each of the three polled exchanges (Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley) voted in favor of the proposed School District EAS.

The results for Clinton were as follows:

Yes		No	
#	%	#	%
194	60.6	126	39.4

The results for Graceville were as follows:

Yes		No	
#	%	#	%
295	60.8	190	39.2

The results for Beardsley were as follows:

Yes		No	
#	%	#	%
171	68.7	78	31.3

II. ORDER FOR INSTALLATION

The third and final criterion for School District EAS is that a majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation. Because a majority of subscribers in each of the Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley exchanges returning their ballots voted in favor of the proposed School District EAS route, the third and final criterion is met in this petition.

Accordingly, the Commission will direct CenturyTel, the telephone company serving these three exchange, to implement the requested EAS route within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite the implementation process, the Commission will order CenturyTel to file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order. CenturyTel will also be required to file an explanation of the reasons for any subsequent change in that schedule.

ORDER

1. The School District EAS petition regarding ISD #55 is hereby approved. The affected

telephone company [CenturyTel of Minnesota, Inc. (CenturyTel)] shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.

2. CenturyTel shall file an implementation schedule within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedule changes, CenturyTel should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change(s).
3. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, CenturyTel shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff. The notices for customers in the petitioning exchanges (Clinton, Graceville, and Beardsley) should list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date. After approval, CenturyTel shall serve the notices in the first possible billing cycle.
4. CenturyTel shall send final, Commission approved, notices to customers in the Clinton, Graceville, and Beardsley exchanges, either by bill insert or separate mailing. The final notice should describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional monthly rates, the date of implementation and any other pertinent information. CenturyTel should issue the notice one month before they implement EAS.
5. CenturyTel shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Orders that have established the rates and terms for EAS between the Clinton, Graceville, and Beardsley exchanges at least 30 days before the implementation of EAS. Thereupon, this docket (P-551/CP-97-1378) will be closed.
6. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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