

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of an Extended Area Service  
Petition among the Exchanges of Claremont,  
Dodge Center, West Concord and Kasson and  
Mantorville

ISSUE DATE: March 8, 1999

DOCKET NO. P-407/CP-96-908

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

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On August 5, 1996, telephone customers in the Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord exchanges filed a set of petitions for Extended Area Service (EAS) among these three communities and to the Kasson and Mantorville local calling area (LCA). Contel of Minnesota, Inc., d/b/a GTE Minnesota (GTE) serves the Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord exchanges; Kasson & Mantorville Telephone Company (KMT) serves the Kasson and Mantorville local calling area.

On April 17, 1997, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) submitted its report and recommendation. The Department stated that the only routes that met the Commission's traffic criterion were 1) Dodge Center to Kasson and Mantorville and 2) West Concord to Kasson and Mantorville. The Department recommended that the Commission continue to the next stage of processing this EAS petition for these two routes only.

On May 8, 1997, the petition sponsor, Triton Public Schools (Triton), submitted comments requesting that the Commission continue to process the petitions among the Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord exchanges based on legislation that the governor signed into law on April 28, 1997: the School District EAS statute, Minn. Law (1997) Chapter 59 - H. F. No. 211. The three communities make up Independent School District #2125 - Triton Public Schools. The new law became effective on April 29, 1997.

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 this petition conformed to the School District EAS statute, suspended the Kasson and Mantorville portion of the petition, and ordered GTE to file cost studies and proposed rates for school district EAS within the Triton district.

On March 17, 1998, GTE filed cost studies and proposed rates.

On March 25, 1998, the Department submitted comments recommending that the Commission accept GTE's revenue requirement and proposed rates, and proceed to polling telephone subscribers in Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord.

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

Polling of telephone subscribers in Independent School District (ISD) #2125 - Triton Public Schools (Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord 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 #2125 - Triton Public Schools (Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord exchanges)**

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in each of the three polled exchanges (Claremont, Dodge Center and West Concord) voted in favor of School District EAS. The results for Claremont were as follows:

<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
196	58.7	138	41.3

The results for Dodge Center were as follows:

<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
643	65.3	341	34.7

The results for West Concord were as follows:

<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
340	56.2	265	43.8

**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 customers returning their ballots in each of the three exchanges (Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord) 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 GTE to implement the requested EAS route within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite the implementation process, the Commission will

order GTE to file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order. GTE 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 #2125 is hereby approved. The affected telephone company [GTE Minnesota (GTE)] shall implement the service in their respective exchanges within 12 months following the date of this Order.
2. GTE shall file an implementation schedule within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedule changes, GTE should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change(s).
3. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, GTE shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff. The notices for customers in the petitioning exchanges (Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord) should list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date. After approval, GTE shall serve the notices in the first possible billing cycle.
4. GTE shall send final, Commission approved, notices to customers in the Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord 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. GTE should issue the notice one month before they implement EAS.
5. GTE shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Orders that have established the rates and terms for School District EAS between the Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord exchanges at least 30 days before the implementation of EAS.
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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