

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott  
Joel Jacobs  
Marshall Johnson  
Edward Garvey  
LeRoy Koppendrayer

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of **Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Company's** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **Itasca County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: August 28, 2000

DOCKET NO. **P423/ES-00-557**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911 SYSTEM COSTS

**BACKGROUND**

On October 4, 1983, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Itasca County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services System.

On September 24, 1985, the Commission approved the actual costs GTE Telephone Company (formerly known as Continental and Contel) incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service for the Warba exchange in Itasca County.

On January 29, 1986, the Commission approved the actual costs People's Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Itasca County.

On March 5, 1986, the Commission approved the actual costs Northern Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Services system in Itasca County.

On October 12, 1987, the Commission approved the initial costs Northwestern Bell Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Service in Itasca County.

On October 21, 1987, the Commission approved the actual costs Continental Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Service in the Bear River exchange in Itasca County.

On November 25, 1987, the Commission approved the additional costs Northwestern Bell Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in the Bear River exchange in Itasca County.

On March 16, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs Northwestern Bell Telephone Company incurred for the provision of 911 Emergency Service in the Big Fork/Effie exchange

in Itasca County.

On March 16, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs Paul Bunyan Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services system in Itasca County.

On June 7, 1989, the Commission approved the actual costs Deer River Telephone Company Incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Services system in Itasca County.

On December 30, 1998, the Commission approved the actual costs Independent Emergency Services, Limited Liability Company incurred for placing tandem based Automatic Number Identification (ANI) service in the 911 Emergency Services system in Itasca County.

On April 12, 1999, the Commission approved the actual costs Minnesota Independent Interexchange Corporation incurred for ANI Support system costs for the 911 Emergency Services system in Itasca County.

On September 9, 1999, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Wilderness Valley Telephone Company for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Itasca County.

On September 21, 1999, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Hutchinson Telephone Company for installing a portion of Automatic Location Identification (ALI) system in the 911 Emergency Services system in Itasca county

On August 8, 2000, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Independent Emergency Service, Limited Liability Company for installing a portion of ALI in the 911 Emergency Services system in Itasca County.

### **CURRENT FILING**

On May 4, 1984, Itasca County contracted with Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Company (the Company) for 911 Emergency Telephone Services.

On April 22, 1998, the Company placed tandem based Automatic Number Identification (ANI) service with two interexchange outswitch trunks from the Turtle River Router to the Squaw Lake Exchange, one circuit in the Wawina Exchange between Deer River and Turtle River Exchanges, two trunk circuits between the Inger/Wirth and Turtle River Exchanges, three circuits in the Grand Rapids Exchange that connects the Deer River Exchange to the Turtle River Router and three more circuits that connect Deer River to Grand Rapid Exchanges, two circuits between Deer River and the Turtle River Router, two trunks between the Deer River and Cohasset Exchanges, two trunks between the Deer River and Turtle River Router, two circuits in the Cohasset Exchange to the Deer River Exchange, two trunks in the Marcell Exchanges that outswitch between the Deer River and Turtle River Exchanges, two circuits in the Marcell Exchange that interconnect with the Deer River Exchange, two trunks in the Coleraine Exchange that interconnect the Deer River and Turtle River Exchanges, two

circuits in the Coleraine Exchange that connect to the Deer River Exchange, two trunks in the Marble Exchange that interconnect the Deer River Exchange to the Turtle River Router, two circuits in the Marble Exchange to connect to the Deer River Exchange, two circuits in the Bear River Exchange to interconnect the Deer River Exchange to the Turtle River Router, two circuits in the Bear River Exchange that connect to the Deer River Exchange, two circuits in the Nashwauk Exchange that connect the Deer River Exchange to the Turtle River Router, two circuits in the Nashwauk Exchange that connect to the Deer River Exchange, two circuits in the Keewatin Exchange that connect the Deer River Exchange to the Turtle River Router, two circuits in the Keewatin Exchange that connect to the Deer River Exchange, two circuits in the Warba Exchange that connect the Deer River Exchange to the Turtle River Router, two circuits in the Warba Exchange that connect to the Deer River Exchange, one circuit in the Wawina Exchange that connects to the Deer River Exchange, two circuits in the Big Fork Exchange that connect the Deer River Exchange to the Turtle River Router, two circuits in the Big Fork Exchange that connect to the Big Fork Exchange, two circuits in the Washington Forest Exchange that connect the Deer River exchange to the Turtle River Router, and two circuits in the Washington Forest Exchange that connect to the Deer River Exchange. The Company also installed four Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) trunks between the Deer River and Grand Rapids Exchanges and four PSAP circuits at their Grand Rapids Exchange that connect the Turtle River and Deer River Exchanges. The Company also installed ALI circuits between the Deep River and Wadena Exchange from the Deep River to Grand Rapids Exchanges in the in the 911 Emergency Telephone Services system in Itasca County.

On March 1, 2000, the Company certified the actual costs it incurred for the provision of outswitch trunks and router circuits for ANI and ALI service.

The Company is now requesting Commission approval of the actual ANI, ALI, and outswitch trunk/circuit 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.

Paul Bunyan Rural 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 Itasca County.

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

The Commission finds that the costs for 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Itasca 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 pursuant to the Commission's March 21, 2000 Standing Order Designating Filings Requesting Certification of 911 Costs As Filings Subject to Approval Under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, Subd. 7, Docket No. P-999/CI-99-1723.
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 W. 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2000 (s)he served the attached **Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for Itasca County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P423/ES-00-557.**

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  
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Subscribed and sworn to before me, \_\_\_\_\_

a notary public, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public