

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

In the Matter of a Petition for Assignment of an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to Provide Service in Unassigned Territory in Northern Minnesota

ISSUE DATE: August 29, 2000

DOCKET NO. P-999/CP-98-1193

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION TO FILE REPORT

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On July 28, 1999, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING GTE TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO TERRITORY. The Order directed Contel of Minnesota, Inc., d/b/a GTE Minnesota (GTE) to provide basic telephone service to petitioners in the previously unserved areas of western Stony River Township and the North Arm of Burntside Lake by December 31, 1999.

On January 6, 2000, the Commission issued its ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AND REQUIRING INTERIM SERVICE. That Order incorporated an agreement signed by GTE and a representative of the petitioners, which, among other things, extended GTE's deadline for providing permanent landline service. However, GTE also agreed to provide wireless local loop service to all petitioners to which GTE could not provide landline service by June 30, 2000. Finally, GTE agreed to provide comments by September 1, 2000, on its experience with the provision of service using wireless loop technology.

On August 2, 2000, the Commission received a letter from GTE (now Verizon), requesting an extension to October 2, 2000 to file comments on the experience with the fixed wireless loop technology. GTE explained that it had sold its Minnesota properties to Citizens Telecommunications of Minnesota (Citizens) and the final closing of that transaction was scheduled for the end of August. Therefore, on September 1, 2000, Citizens would be the entity that owns the Minnesota exchanges. As such, it would be more appropriate for Citizens to file comments on the wireless local loop technology in the Ely area. However, on September 1, Citizens would have owned the properties less than a week. As a result, GTE requested that the Commission allow Citizens a 30 day extension to October 2, 2000 to file the comments. This would give Citizens the opportunity to review GTE's information, combine it with their own thoughts, and make the compliance filing. GTE also indicated in its letter that Citizens supported the request for an extension.

The Commission met on August 22, 2000 to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds GTE's request reasonable. The date for transferring control of GTE's service area to Citizens was not known when the parties entered into the agreement establishing the September 1 deadline. No party spoke in opposition to the request, and the Commission knows of no party that would be prejudiced by the delay of these comments by 30 days. In the absence of any reason to deny GTE's request, the request will be granted.

ORDER

1. The September 1, 2000 deadline for filing comments on the experience of providing service using wireless loop technology, arising from the Commission's ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AND REQUIRING INTERIM SERVICE (January 6, 2000), is extended to October 2, 2000.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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