

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 **Hutchinson Telephone Company's** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **McLeod County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: August 31, 2000

DOCKET NO. **P412/ES-00-443**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911 SYSTEM COSTS

BACKGROUND

On February 9, 1982, the Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved McLeod County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone System.

On November 17, 1983, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by Hutchinson Telephone Company for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in McLeod County.

On September 24, 1984, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in McLeod County.

On January 9, 1985, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by United Telephone Company for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in McLeod County.

On June 24, 1985, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by Winsted Telephone Company for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in McLeod County.

On November 19, 1985, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by United Telephone Company for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in McLeod County.

On December 29, 1992, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by Hutchinson Telephone Company for installing a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in McLeod County.

On October 23, 1995, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by Hutchinson Telephone Company for installing a portion of Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and Automatic Location Identification (ALI) in the 911 Emergency Services system in McLeod

County.

On October 22, 1996, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by Hutchinson Telephone Company for installing a portion United Telephone Company's 911 Emergency Service system in McLeod County (Hutchinson is paid by the State and then passes funds on to United).

On October 10, 1997, the Commission certified actual costs incurred by Hutchinson Telephone Company for installing additional interexchange circuits for ALI in the 911 Emergency Services system in McLeod County.

CURRENT FILING

In April, 1994, McLeod County contracted with Hutchinson Telephone Company (the Company) to modify their 911 Emergency Telephone Services to add tandem based ANI, Automatic Location Identification (ALI), and Selective Routing (SR) services.

On February 23, 2000, the Company added SR for the Hutchinson and Steward Exchanges, which included database changes for SR charges and the removal of ANI trunk charges and replacing them with Routing Port charges. The Company also reactivated the Hutchinson and Glenco Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs), added second ANI trunks to the Steward and Plato Exchanges, added an additional PSAP trunk for the Glencoe Exchange, and added two emergency lines for alternative routing. The Company also noted tariff rate changes for PSAP trunks and port charges for ALI circuits.

On April 1, 2000, the Company will no longer be certifying costs on behalf of Sprint, United and Winsted Telephone Company. They will have to bill their own charges directly to the state for reimbursement of costs incurred for installing 911 Emergency Services.

On March 16, 2000, the Company certified the actual costs it incurred for the provision of SR changes and the addition of trunks/circuits installed for PSAP's and ANI services.

The Company is now requesting Commission approval of the actual system costs for the SR changes and additional trunks and lines installed. The Company also wishes to note their change in policy of certifying charges on behalf of other Local Exchange Carriers in the County. 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.

Hutchinson 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 McLeod 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 McLeod 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 McLeod County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P421/ES-00-443.**

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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BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION
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ST PAUL MN 55155

Subscribed and sworn to before me, _____

a notary public, this _____ day of

_____, 2000.

Notary Public