

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 **Hickory Tech's (Formerly Mankato Citizens Telephone Company and Mid-Communications Inc.)** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **Blue Earth County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: September 29, 2000

DOCKET NO. **P414/ES-00-1286**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911 SYSTEM COSTS

**BACKGROUND**

On May 27, 1986, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Blue Earth County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services System.

On March 22, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Mid-Communications Telephone Company for placing central office equipment for a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone System in Blue Earth County.

On March 22, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Mankato Citizens Telephone Company for placing central office equipment for a portion of a 911 Emergency Services system in Blue Earth County.

On November 13, 1996, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Mankato Citizens Telephone Company for installing an additional 911 trunk line for a portion of a 911 Emergency Services system in Blue Earth County.

On August 4, 2000, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Hutchinson Telephone Company for installing tandem based 911 service with Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and Automatic Location Identification (ALI) for a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Blue Earth County.

On September 25, 2000, the Commission approved the actual costs incurred by Mankato Citizens Telephone Company for installing interexchange circuits for tandem based ANI service between the Mankato and Rochester exchanges for the Mankato State Patrol office and between the Mankato and Owatonna Exchanges for a portion of ANI service in the 911 Emergency Services system in Blue Earth County

## CURRENT FILING

On July 2, 2000, Hickory Tech (the Company) placed interexchange circuits from the Independent Emergency Services, LLC (IES) router located in the Ruthton Exchange to the Mankato, St. Clair, Vernon Center, Pemberton, Mapleton, Madison Lake, Lake Crystal, Good Thunder, Garden City, Eagle Lake, Cambria, and Amboy Exchanges including the Mankato Public Service Answering Point (PSAP). The Company also placed interexchange circuits from the Owatonna Exchange to the Mankato, Amboy, Cambria, Eagle Lake, Garden City, Good Thunder, Lake Crystal, Madison Lake, Vernon Center, Mapleton, Pemberton, and St. Clair Exchanges including the Mankato PSAP. These 25 interexchange circuits have been added to provide enhanced tandem based ANI service in the 911 Emergency Telephone Services System in Blue Earth County.

On September 5, 2000, the Company certified the actual costs it incurred for the provision of interexchange circuits for enhanced ANI service in the 911 Emergency Services system in Blue Earth County .

The Company is now requesting Commission approval of the actual ANI system 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.

Hickory Tech 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 Blue Earth 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 Blue Earth 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 Blue Earth County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P414/ES-00-1286.**

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  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
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658 CEDAR STREET  
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JAMES R BEUTELSPACHER  
STATE 9-1-1 PROJECT MANAGER  
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 CENTENNIAL OFFICE BUILDING  
658 CEDAR STREET  
ST PAUL MN 55155

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

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

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

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