

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 **Kittson County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: February 9, 2001

DOCKET NO. **P423/ES-01-168**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911 SYSTEM COSTS

BACKGROUND

On April 13, 1982, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Kittson County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Telephone Services System.

On May 26, 1987, the Commission approved the actual costs Wikstrom Telephone Company incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Kittson County.

On March 16, 1988, the Commission approved the initial costs U S West Communications, Inc. (formerly known as Northwestern Bell) incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Kittson County.

On October 26, 1988, the Commission approved U S West Communications, Inc.'s second costs certification for their portion of the 911 Emergency System in Kittson County.

On November 10, 1988, the Commission approved the actual costs GTE Telephone Company (formerly known as Contel) incurred for placing a portion of a 911 Emergency Telephone Service in Kittson County.

On December 12, 1995, the Commission approved the actual costs Polar Communications incurred for their portion of a 911 Emergency System in Kittson County.

On May 1, 2000, the Commission approved actual costs Independent Emergency Services Limited Liability Company (IES, LLC) incurred for installing tandem based E911 Automatic Number Identificaton (ANI) services for the 911 Emergency Services system in Kittson County.

On August 18, 2000, the Commission approved actual costs Garden Valley Telephone Company incurred for trunk circuits to add ANI services for the 911 Emergency Services system in Kittson County.

On September 1, 2000, the Commission approved actual costs Polar Communications incurred for the provision of trunk circuits for a portion of ANI service in the 911 Emergency Services system in Kittson County.

On October 5, 2000, the Commission approved actual costs Wikstrom Telephone Company incurred for the provision of trunk and interexchange circuits to their Exchanges for the provision of a portion of ANI service in the 911 Emergency Services system in Kittson County.

CURRENT FILING

Kittson County has contracted with Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Company (the Company) to provide router services for the Exchanges in the County.

On May 18, 1999, the Company installed individual interexchange circuits between the Donaldson, Drayton, Hallock, Halma, Humboldt, Karlstad, Kennedy, Lake Bronson, Lancaster, St. Vincent, and Strandquist Exchanges to the Turtle River Router. The Company also installed two interexchange circuits from the Hallock Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) to the Turtle River Router and two interexchange circuits between the Turtle River and Erskine Routers as an upgrade to ANI service.

On January 12, 2001, the Company certified the actual costs it incurred for the provision of outswitch trunks and interexchange circuits to the Turtle River Router for enhanced ANI service.

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.

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 Kittson 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 Kittson 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 _____, 2001 (s)he served the attached **Order Approving Certified 911 System Costs for Kittson County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P423/ES-01-168.**

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:

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Subscribed and sworn to before me, _____

a notary public, this _____ day of

_____, 2000.

Notary Public