

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 Cooperative's** Request for Approval of Certified Actual Costs Associated with the **Polk County** 911 Emergency Telephone Services System

ISSUE DATE: February 22, 2001

DOCKET NO. **P423/ES-01-170**

ORDER APPROVING CERTIFIED 911 SYSTEM COSTS

BACKGROUND

On April 24, 1984, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (the Commission) approved Polk County's final plan for the establishment of a 911 Emergency Services system.

On September 17, 1987, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for nonrecurring capital costs of central office rearrangement and main stations in the Crookston, Byglund, Climax, Fisher, Neilsville, Beltrami, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Lengby, Mentor, Winger, Gully, East Grand Forks, and Mable Bay Exchanges for a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Polk County.

On March 22, 1988, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Garden Valley Telephone Company for capital costs for 911 central office equipment, and monthly recurring costs for 911 outswitching trunks and interexchange circuits to the Beltrami, Fertile, Maple Bay, Mentor, Winger, Erskine, Fosston and Gully Exchanges for a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Polk County.

On February 8, 1989, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Halstad Telephone Company for capital costs for 911 central office equipment, and monthly recurring costs for 911 Outswitching trunks and interexchange circuits for the Byglund, Fisher, Climax and Nielsville Exchanges for a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Polk County.

On November 22, 1989, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Halstad Telephone Company for monthly recurring costs for 911 outswitching trunks and interexchange circuits to the Byglund, Fisher, Climax, and Nielsville Exchanges for a portion of the 911 Emergency Services system in Polk County.

On October 24, 2000, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Independent Emergency Services, LLC (IES) for trunk ports from all of the Polk County Exchanges to the

Erskine Selective Router for Automatic Number Identification (ANI) and Automatic Location Identification (ALI) services. IES also established ALI records and databases from all of the Exchanges in Polk County and installed ALI database ports to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) from the Crookston to the Hutchinson and Annadale Exchanges.

On November 17, 2000, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Garden Valley Telephone Company for outswitch trunks and interexchange circuits from their Exchanges to the Erskine Router and PSAP for ANI service. They also installed access lines for ALI service to all of their Exchanges.

On December 5, 2000, the Commission approved actual costs incurred by Halstad Telephone Company to install interexchange circuits between their Exchanges and the Erskine Router and access lines for enhanced 911 service for both ANI and ALI service to their Exchanges.

CURRENT FILING

Polk County contracted with Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative (the Cooperative) to supply Router Services for all Exchanges in their Polk County 911 Emergency Services system.

On September 26, 2000, the Cooperative installed two interexchange circuits between the Turtle River and Erskine Routers to provide Enhanced 911 services including ANI and ALI through the Independent Emergency Services, LLC network (IES) to all of the exchanges in Polk County.

On January 12, 2001, the Cooperative certified actual costs for installing the interexchange circuits between Routers for Enhanced 911 service for all Exchanges in the Polk County 911 Emergency Services system.

The Cooperative is now requesting Commission approval of the actual costs for providing Enhanced 911 service in 911 Emergency Services system in Polk 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.

Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative 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 Polk 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 Polk 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 Polk County 911 Emergency Telephone Service Docket No. P423/ES-01-170.**

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:

JAMES R BEUTELSPACHER
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Subscribed and sworn to before me, _____

a notary public, this _____ day of

_____, 2001.

Notary Public