

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott	Chair
Edward A. Garvey	Commissioner
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
LeRoy Koppendrayer	Commissioner
Phyllis A. Reha	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from Claremont, West Concord, and
Dodge Center to Kasson and Mantorville

ISSUE DATE: June 6, 2002

DOCKET NO. P-407, 539/CP-96-908

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS
AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 5, 1996, telephone subscribers in the West Concord, Dodge Center, and Claremont exchanges filed a petition for extended area service (EAS) between their respective exchanges and to the neighboring Kasson-Mantorville local calling area (LCA).¹

On March 8, 1999, the Commission approved EAS between Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord pursuant to the School District EAS statute, thus leaving only EAS from Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord to the Kasson-Mantorville LCA for further Commission action.

On November 8, 1999, the Commission issued its ORDER DENYING PETITION IN PART AND REQUIRING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES. In this Order, the Commission denied the petition for EAS between Claremont and Kasson-Mantorville for lack of traffic volume; and ordered cost studies and proposed rates for the petition for EAS between Dodge Center and Kasson-Mantorville and between West Concord and Kasson-Mantorville.

The companies duly filed their cost studies and proposed rates, but the Commission did not proceed directly to polling. Instead, in a series of Orders issued between November 1998 and May 2001, the Commission addressed a series of new issues posed by the need to adapt EAS to the competitive telecommunications market mandated by state and federal law. With these issues largely settled, the Commission met on October 30, 2001 to again consider EAS between Dodge Center and Kasson-Mantorville and West Concord and Kasson-Mantorville.

¹ West Concord, Dodge Center, and Claremont are currently served by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota (Citizens), and the Kasson-Mantorville LCA is served by Kasson and Mantorville Telephone Company.

On November 16, 2001, the Commission issued its ORDER SETTING EAS RATE ADDITIVES AND REQUIRING POLLING and telephone subscribers in the Dodge Center exchange was conducted between February 6 and March 25, 2002.

On May 2, 2002, the Commission met to consider the polling results for the Dodge Center to the Kasson-Mantorville LCA proposed EAS route and the West Concord to the Kasson-Mantorville LCA proposed EAS route.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This Order addresses the results of the polling of the Dodge Center customers regarding the EAS route proposed between Dodge Center and the Kasson-Mantorville LCA.²

I. CERTIFICATION OF POLLING RESULTS: DODGE CENTER TO KASSON-MANTORVILLE

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in the Dodge Center exchange voted in favor of EAS to the Kasson-Mantorville LCA. The results were as follows:

Polling results for Dodge Center

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange(s)	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Dodge Center	Kasson-Mantorville	\$2.89	\$5.78	42.6	519	58.2	373	41.8

II. ORDER FOR INSTALLATION

The third and final statutory criterion for EAS is that a majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation. Because a majority of Dodge Center customers returning their ballots voted in favor of the proposed EAS route, the third and final criterion is met for this petition.

² An Order addressing the results of the polling of West Concord customers regarding the proposed EAS route between West Concord and the Kasson-Mantorville LCA has been issued contemporaneously. See *In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area Service from Claremont, West Concord, and Dodge Center to Kasson and Mantorville*, Docket No. P-407, 539/CP-96-908, ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND DENYING PETITION (June 6, 2002).

Accordingly, the Commission will direct the affected telephone companies in this matter (Citizens and the Kasson-Mantorville Telephone Company) to implement the requested EAS route within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order the Company to coordinate implementation of EAS in the Dodge Center exchange with Kasson and Mantorville Telephone Company, the telephone company serving the Kasson-Mantorville LCA, and file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order. The Company will also be required to immediately file an explanation of the reasons for any subsequent change in that schedule.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Details regarding recovery of the non-recurring expenses caused by non-recurring costs of EAS balloting, further customer notices and the approval process for those notices, as well as tariff filing requirements, are addressed in the Ordering Paragraphs.

ORDER

1. The EAS route from Dodge Center to the Kasson-Mantorville LCA is hereby approved.
2. Citizens Telecommunications Company (Citizen) and Kasson and Mantorville Telephone Company, the affected telephone companies in this matter, shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.
3. Citizens shall coordinate the implementation of EAS with Kasson and Mantorville Telephone Company, the telephone company serving the petitioned exchange, and file implementation schedules within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedules change, the companies should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change(s).
4. Citizens shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff within 10 days of the date of the Order. The notices shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date (s). After approval, Citizens shall serve the notices in the first possible billing cycle in their respective exchanges.
5. Citizens shall send final, Commission approved, notices to customers in the petitioning exchange, either by bill insert or separate mailing. The final notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional monthly rates, the date of implementation and any other pertinent information. The Company must issue these notices one month before they implement EAS.

6. Citizens shall make any requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation dates. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.
7. Citizens shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Orders that establish the rates and terms for EAS between Dodge Center and the Kasson-Manterville LCA. These tariff sheets shall be filed at least 30 days before implementation of EAS. Once this is done, this docket shall be closed.
8. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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