

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott	Chair
Ellen Gavin	Commissioner
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
LeRoy Koppendrayner	Commissioner
Phyllis A. Reha	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area Service From Henderson to the Metropolitan Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: December 11, 2002

DOCKET NO. P-404, 407, 520, 5025, 405, 413, 426, 427, 430,421/CP-00-708

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Polling of telephone subscribers in the Henderson exchange took place between August 21, and October 11, 2002.

On October 24, 2002, the Commission met to consider the polling results for the EAS route proposed between Henderson and the metropolitan calling area (MCA).

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. Certification of Polling Results: Henderson to the MCA

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in the Henderson exchange voted in favor of EAS to the MCA. The results were as follows:

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange(s)	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Henderson	MCA	\$10.07	\$22.87	68.5	368	72.9	137	27.1

II. ORDER FOR INSTALLATION

The third and final criterion for EAS is that a majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor its installation.¹ Because a majority of Henderson customers returning their ballots voted in favor of the proposed EAS route, the third and final criterion is met.

Accordingly, the Commission will direct the telephone company for the petitioning exchange in this matter, Frontier Communications of Minnesota (Frontier or the 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 Henderson exchange with the telephone companies serving the MCA and file a schedule of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order. Frontier, the telephone company serving Henderson, 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 between Henderson and the MCA is hereby approved. Frontier Communications of Minnesota (Frontier or the Company) shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.
2. Frontier shall coordinate the implementation of EAS with the telephone companies serving the MCA and shall file an implementation schedule within 60 days of the Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedule changes, the company should immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change(s).

¹ The Commission has established three criteria for the installation of EAS. See In the Matter of an Investigation into the Appropriate Local Calling Scope, in Accordance with Minn. Stat. § 237.161 (1994), ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION (February 26, 1996). In that Order, the third and final criterion was that if a majority of subscribers vote in favor of the installation of Extended Area Service (EAS), the Commission should order the telephone companies to install the service.

3. Frontier shall file the first of two proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff within 10 days of the date of the Order. The notice shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date. After approval, Frontier shall serve the notice in the first possible billing cycle.
4. Frontier 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. Frontier must issue these notices one month before they implement EAS.
5. Frontier shall make any requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation date. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.
6. The companies serving the MCA shall file proposed customer notices for customers in the MCA for approval by Commission staff 90 days before the anticipated implementation dates for the Henderson-MCA route. The notices shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. The companies shall send the notices during billing cycles that conclude at least one month, but not more than two months, before EAS is implemented.
7. Frontier shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Order establishing the rates and terms for EAS between Frontier and the MCA. 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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