

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendraye
Ellen Gavin
Marshall Johnson
Phyllis A. Reha
Gregory Scott

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of Qwest's Proposed Rate Change
for Business Voice Messaging Service
Mailboxes

ISSUE DATE: March 27, 2003

DOCKET NO. P-421/AM-02-2178

ORDER ACCEPTING RATE INCREASE

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 20, 2002, Qwest filed notification of its proposal to increase the rates for Business Voice Messaging Service (BVMS) mailboxes, effective January 20, 2003. The BVMS rates would increase by \$1.20 per month, making the new Voice Mail Mailbox monthly rate \$13.95. The Voice Mail Mailbox rates with additional features (e.g., call waiting, call forwarding, message waiting indication) will also increase by \$1.20 per month. BVMS with SmartSet service will increase by \$2.95 per month making the new rate \$13.95 per month.

Qwest provided notice of these increases to its customers impacted by the change by letter on or about December 20, 2002. Notice to the Wholesale Local Markets Account Teams occurred on November 25, 2002.

On January 6, 2003, the Department of Commerce (DOC) filed comments objecting to the proposed increases.

On January 14, 2003, Qwest filed a correction to its Statement in Support of its Filing, originally submitted on December 20, 2002. The correction revised some of the rates for Voice Mail Mailbox with additional features.

On January 30, 2003 the DOC filed comments withdrawing its objection to Qwest's proposed rate increases to Voice Mail Services.

On February 12, 2003, Qwest filed reply comments.

This matter came before the Commission on March 13, 2003.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. Qwest's AFOR Plan¹

Qwest's Business Voice Messaging Service mailboxes is classified as a non-price regulated service under Qwest's Alternative Form of Regulation (AFOR) plan. The AFOR plan provides that Qwest may implement price changes for non-price regulated services immediately upon notice to the Commission, the DOC and affected customers.

II. The DOC's Position

The DOC withdrew its initial objection to Qwest's proposal upon discovery that the Voice Messaging Service was a non-price regulated service under the AFOR.

III. Commission Action

The Commission recognizes that there are no objections to Qwest's proposed increase to Business Voice Messaging Services and declines to object on its own motion. The proposed rate increases will be accepted.

ORDER

1. The rate increase proposed by Qwest for Business Voice Messaging Services is accepted.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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¹ Qwest's AFOR was effective January 1, 1999.