

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

In the Matter of a Petition for Reconsideration  
of the Certification of the EAS Balloting  
Results Approving Extended Area Service from  
the Callaway Exchange to the Detroit Lakes  
Exchange

ISSUE DATE: July 15, 2003

DOCKET NO. P-507,421/CP-02-1561

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS  
AND DENYING PETITION

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On October 31, 1997, telephone subscribers in the Callaway exchange filed a petition seeking extended area service (EAS) to the neighboring exchange of Detroit Lakes. The Callaway exchange is served by Callaway Telephone Company (the Company).

On July 14, 1999, the Commission issued an Order finding that the Callaway/Detroit Lakes route met the threshold requirements of adjacency and traffic volume and directed the incumbent local exchange carriers serving Callaway and Detroit Lakes to determine the cost of installing and operating the proposed routes and to develop proposed rates to recover those costs.<sup>1</sup>

The telephone companies serving the two exchanges filed their cost studies and proposed rates. The Commission ordered the companies to poll the relevant subscribers to determine their wishes.<sup>2</sup> The Commission then certified the results and directed the companies to implement EAS between these exchanges.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Petition for Extended Area Service from Callaway to Detroit Lakes*, P-507,429,421/CP-97-1622, ORDER DENYING PETITION IN PART AND ORDERING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES (July 14, 1999).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, ORDER SETTING EAS RATE ADDITIVES AND REQUIRING POLLING (November 30, 2001).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION (June 6, 2002).

But on June 25, 2002, the Commission received a petition from approximately 191 Callaway residents opposing the rate increase resulting from the vote in favor of EAS. This petition initiated the current docket for removing the EAS.<sup>4</sup> This process involves re-polling the relevant subscribers.

Between May 7 and June 16, 2003, telephone subscribers served through the Callaway exchange were again polled about whether they wanted extended area service (EAS) to the Detroit Lakes exchange.

On July 7, 2003, the Commission met to consider the new polling results.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

**I. Background**

**A. Polling Results**

The results of the polling showed that a majority of the voting subscribers in the Callaway Exchange voted against EAS to the Detroit Lakes exchange.<sup>5</sup> The results were as follows:

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Callaway	Detroit Lakes	\$16.55	\$16.55	80.5	48	20.0	192	80.0

Since less than a majority of the Callaway customers responding to the poll voted in favor of retaining the EAS route between Callaway and the Detroit Lakes exchange, the Commission will remove this EAS route and direct the Company to notify its customers, as set forth in more detail in the Ordering Paragraphs.

**ORDER**

1. The new polling results for the Callaway exchange are hereby certified as set forth above.

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<sup>4</sup> ORDER DENYING RECONSIDERATION AND ACCEPTING FILING AS PETITION TO REMOVE EAS (November 4, 2002).

<sup>5</sup> Commission records indicate that there were 307 customer lines in Callaway that met voting eligibility requirements.

2. In accord with the results of that polling, the Commission hereby removes the EAS between the Callaway exchange and the Detroit Lakes exchange.
3. Within 10 days of this Order, the Company shall file a proposed customer notice for approval by Commission staff. The notice should list the results of the polling. After approval, the Company shall serve the notice in the first possible billing cycle.
4. At the time the notices referred to in Ordering Paragraph 3 have been served, the Company shall file copies of the final notices with the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Commission. Thereupon, these dockets will be closed.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

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