

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendraye
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Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of DOC/TAM's Annual Report
for CY 2003

ISSUE DATE: April 5, 2004

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ORDER ACCEPTING ANNUAL REPORT

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 31, 2004, Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) submitted its CY 2003 Annual Report.

The Commission met on March 25, 2004, to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. BACKGROUND

In 1987, the Minnesota Legislature created the Telecommunications Access for Communication-Impaired Persons (TACIP) to make Minnesota's telecommunications system fully accessible to communication-impaired persons.

In 1995, the Legislature eliminated the TACIP Board and transferred the administration of TAM to the Minnesota Department of Public Service, now the Department of Commerce (the DOC). TAM is funded by a monthly surcharge on all access lines, increased in 2003 from 10 cent to 13 cents per wired and wireless telephone access line.

The DOC administers the TED through an interagency agreement with the Department of Human Services. TED provides specialized telecommunications equipment to eligible deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-impaired and mobility-impaired persons to allow them access to the telecommunications network. Minnesota Relay, on the other hand, allows communication between a person using a telecommunications device for the deaf/teletypewriter (TDD/TTY) and any other telephone user.

Beginning in July of 1996, DOC/TAM contracted with Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) for the management and human resources components and Sprint Communications Company (Sprint) for the facilities, maintenance, and access to the company's telecommunications network.

On April 8, 2002, the Governor of Minnesota signed into law HF 3125 changing the name of the TACIP program to Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM), effective August 1, 2002. The program has two components:

- the Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) program, and
- the Minnesota Relay Service (MRS).

II. THE 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The DOC/TAM 2003 annual report filed January 31, 2003 presented information on the major activities of DOC/TAM for the year 2003. It provided the history, a description of Minnesota Relay Service (MRS) and TED projects, financial and statistical data, progress report and anticipated operations, and included the governing statutory references and the current organizational structure.

The report showed revenues and expenditures for FY's 2003 and 2004 (projected). The contract payments for MRS and TED operations were also shown. TAM showed revenues of \$10.4 million in FY 2003 and projects revenues of \$10.2 million in FY 2004. According to the report, the fund balance is projected at \$3.2 million at the end of FY 2003.

The monthly surcharge of \$0.10 is expected to remain in place.

III. COMMISSION ACTION

The Commission has reviewed the Annual Report, finds it reasonable, and will accept it as submitted.

ORDER

1. The annual report submitted by DOC/TAM for 2003 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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