

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendrayner	Chair
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
Ken Nickolai	Commissioner
Thomas Pugh	Commissioner
Phyllis A. Reha	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition by Eckles Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOM to Eliminate Transfer Payments in the Calculation of EAS Rates Between the New Prague Exchange and the Twin Cities Metropolitan Calling Area

ISSUE DATE: March 7, 2005

DOCKET NO. P-520/AM-04-1854

ORDER APPROVING RATE REDUCTIONS AND ENDING TRANSFER PAYMENTS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 18, 2004, Eckles Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOM filed a petition seeking authorization to stop making transfer payments to other telecommunication service providers in connection with the Extended Area Service route between its New Prague exchange and the metropolitan calling area. The Company proposed to pass through all cost savings to its subscribers by reducing monthly rates.

On December 8, 2004, Qwest Corporation filed comments opposing the Company's request. Qwest argued that although the Commission has made a policy decision to eliminate transfer payments in nearly all new EAS cases¹, it would be unfair to apply that policy to existing EAS routes in the absence of a statewide proceeding.

On January 5, 2005, the Department of Commerce filed comments recommending that the Commission grant the petition.

On February 24, 2005, the case came before the Commission.

¹ The Commission excepted School District EAS cases because the School District EAS statute requires inter-exchange cost-allocation. Laws 1997, c. 59, subd. 5.