

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of) Application No. C-1118
 Hamilton Telephone Company, of)
 Aurora, Nebraska, seeking authority) to revise its basic local exchange) DENIED
 service by providing an enhanced)
 local calling area plan to sub-)
 sscribers in its Trumbull exchange)
 area.) Entered: January 9, 1995

BY THE COMMISSION:

By file opened October 14, 1994, Hamilton Telephone Company (Hamilton) of Aurora, Nebraska, seeks authority to revise its basic local exchange service by providing an enhanced local calling area (ELCA) plan to subscribers in its Trumbull exchange. Notice of the application was published in the Omaha Daily Record on October 15, 1994.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

The above-mentioned application, C-1118, is related to C-1036, which was filed November 5, 1993. C-1036 was opened pursuant to a petition filed with the Commission from residents of the Trumbull exchange requesting extended area service (EAS) to the Hastings exchange, served by the Lincoln Telephone Company. The petition satisfied the requisite requirements and accordingly, traffic usage studies were completed to determine the costs of two-way EAS for this area.

It was estimated that two-way EAS would carry substantial costs; therefore, Hamilton and the Commission agreed a new plan should be drafted for the residents. Thus, C-1036 was held in abeyance until a new proposal was offered. Hamilton formulated a new proposal, the ELCA plan, and submitted it to the Commission in the form of Application No. C-1118.

To assess the community's opinion of the ELCA plan, Hamilton conducted a customer survey. The survey results reflected 49 customers were in favor of the plan, while 40 customers were against. The surveys returned amounted to approximately 57% of Trumbull's subscribers.

In order to gain more input from the public, a hearing was held in Trumbull on December 12, 1994 in the Trumbull School Gymnasium. Hearing notices were sent to all customers, as well as the Grand Island Daily Independent and the Hastings Tribune. At the hearing, Hamilton offered information regarding the plan and members of the public were allowed to testify and also ask questions. People in attendance expressed opinions both for and against the proposal; however it is the

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Commission's determination that this plan is not in the best interest of the community.

The original petition requested two-way EAS, not an ELCA plan. The customers in Trumbull expected an additional charge in exchange for toll-free calling to Hastings. While the ELCA plan increases the charge for basic service, it still includes toll-charges for each call made outside the exchange. Many witnesses testified the most significant drawback to the present proposal is its lack of optionality.

Due to the lack of community support, we will not approve this application. This is a considerable departure from the original EAS request filed in C-1036 and is not what the community requested.

Based on the testimony, the exhibits, and the evidence adduced at the hearing, the application should be denied.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that C-1118 be, and it is hereby denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the applicant proceed with the original filed application on this matter, C-1036, and expedite its resolution.

MADE AND ENTERED in Lincoln, Nebraska this 9th day of January, 1995.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Daniel G. Unwille
Frank E. Landis

Daniel G. Unwille
Chairman

ATTEST:

John Burvanis
Deputy Director

//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//James F. Munnelly