

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition) Application No. C-2569
from the residents of the)
Petersburg exchange served by)
Great Plains Communications,)
requesting extended area service) GRANTED
(EAS) to the Albion exchange,)
served by Citizens)
Telecommunications Company of)
Nebraska.) Entered: February 20, 2002

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

A petition was filed June 12, 2001, by the residents of the Petersburg exchange served by Great Plains Communications (Great Plains), requesting extended area service (EAS) to the Albion exchange, served by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska (Citizens). On July 16, 2001, the Commission verified that the petitions contained the requisite number of signatures. Notice of this Petition was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska on July 17, 2001.

As required by Rule 002.27C3 of the Commission Telecommunications Rules and Regulations, Title 291, Chapter 5, a point-to-point usage study was commenced to determine if a community of interest exists. On July 20, 2001, the Commission verified that the traffic study information filed in the above-captioned docket represented a sufficient interest from the customers to meet Commission rules and directed Great Plains Communications and Citizens to establish proposed rates to implement the EAS plan. Proposed rates were provided by Great Plains Communications and Citizens Telecommunications for EAS between the Petersburg and Albion exchanges by the October 18, 2001, deadline.

The proposed monthly rate additives were as follows:

<u>Petersburg Customers</u>	<u>Albion Customers</u>
\$2.75 per line additive	\$0.50 per line additive

On December 10, 2001, the Commission approved balloting for the affected customers in the Petersburg exchange pursuant to Rule 002.27C6. However, because of the minimal increase proposed for the Albion customers, the Commission granted a waiver of the balloting requirement for the Albion customers.

An informational meeting was held in Petersburg on November 28, 2001. After Commission approval of the ballots on December 18, 2001, the ballots were mailed with a return date of no later than February 4, 2002. Of the 320 ballots received, 202 ballots were in favor of the EAS proposal and 108 ballots indicated opposition to the plan. Eleven ballots were duplications and 10 ballots were incomplete or invalid. Thus, 65 percent of the Petersburg subscribers voted in favor of the plan, exceeding the 50 percent benchmark required by Commission Rule. The request to implement extended area service between the Petersburg exchange and the Albion exchange should be granted, with the new service beginning on or before April 1, 2002.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-2569 be, and it is hereby, granted and the EAS between the Petersburg exchange served by Great Plains Communications and the Albion exchange, served by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska, is approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that such rates are to be implemented on or before April 1, 2002, concurrent with the availability of the new EAS.

IT IS FINNALLY ORDERED that if the April 1, 2002, implementation date cannot be met, the parties shall advise the Commission on its progress.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 20th day of February 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chair

ATTEST:

Executive Director