

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Petition of John Barnett)
and Numerous Other Subscribers of the)
Junction City Exchange of United Telephone)
Company of Ohio dba Sprint,)

Complainants,)

v.)

Case No. 00-1019-TP-PEX

United Telephone Company of Ohio dba)
Sprint and Ameritech Ohio,)

Respondents,)

Relative to a Request for Two-Way, Non-)
Optional Extended Area Service Between the)
Junction City Exchange of United Telephone)
Company of Ohio d.b.a. Sprint, on the One)
Hand, and the Lancaster and Zanesville)
Exchanges of Ameritech Ohio, on the Other)
Hand.)

SUPPLEMENTAL FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) By finding and order of February 6, 2002, the Commission directed the United Telephone Company of Ohio d.b.a. Sprint (Sprint) and Ameritech Ohio (Ameritech) to institute two-way, nonoptional, flat-rate extended area service (EAS) between the Junction City and Lancaster exchanges contingent upon the completion of a canvass of the Junction City Exchange subscribers that demonstrates that a substantial majority is willing to pay the increased monthly service rates associated with the implementation of such service. The order set forth the increased rates that Sprint would be allowed to charge upon implementing EAS and directed the complainants to file all returned ballots and report the results of the canvass to the Commission by no later than April 15, 2002.
- (2) By entries of May 7 and 31, 2002, complainants were granted extensions of time to file the ballots and results of the canvass.
- (3) The complainants filed the returned ballots and their canvass results on June 25, 2002. A review of the ballots shows that, of a total 987 access lines, 593 ballots were returned with 591 votes

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in favor of the service and two votes against the service. The complainants noted that a large number of ballots were not returned because many of the subscribers live in the country and were not informed about the case and also do not regularly visit town. Ms. Thompson also stated that, in a recent Commission EAS case, Sprint sent ballots out to inquire whether subscribers were interested in paying for EAS to the Logan and Bremen exchanges. She noted that, in that case, the Commission counted a nonreturned ballot as a "yes" vote. Ms. Thompson requested that nonreturned ballots in this case also be treated as a "yes" vote.

- (4) Sprint filed a response to the canvass results on July 3, 2002. Sprint found that, of a total 903 access lines, 585 ballots were filed in favor of EAS, five were filed against EAS, 13 ballots were unmarked, and seven ballots had invalid or no telephone number identified. Sprint concluded that the complainants have shown that 64.8 percent of Junction City subscribers wish to have flat-rate service. Sprint stated that it does not wish to have a hearing on the EAS results.
- (5) The Commission finds that a substantial majority of Junction City subscribers is willing to pay the increased rates associated with the implementation of two-way, flat-rate EAS between the Junction City and Lancaster exchanges. Although the complainants and Sprint reached different conclusions concerning the percentage of subscribers in favor of EAS, in either case, the percentage is sufficiently high to show that a substantial majority of subscribers is willing to pay the increase in rates.
- (6) The remaining issue is the time period within which EAS will be instituted. In the stipulation, the parties agreed that EAS should be instituted at the earliest practicable time that can be accomplished by Sprint and Ameritech, but not later than 12 months after issuance of an order approving the stipulation. Therefore, Sprint and Ameritech should implement two-way, nonoptional, flat-rate EAS between the Junction City and Lancaster exchanges as soon as practicable and, in any event, within 12 months of this supplemental finding and order.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That Sprint and Ameritech institute two-way, nonoptional, flat-rate EAS between the Junction City and Lancaster exchanges as soon as practicable and, in any event, within 12 months of this supplemental finding and order. It is, further,

ORDERED, That Sprint and Ameritech establish an in-service date within two months of this supplemental finding and order, inform the Commission and the spokesperson for the complainants of the in-service date, and advise the Commission and the spokesperson for the complainants not later than 30 days prior to the in-service date in the event the date cannot be met. It is, further,

ORDERED, That, prior to the in-service date of the EAS, Sprint and Ameritech provide information, through press releases to customers and the media describing the new EAS services, explaining any new dialing procedures, stating the date and time that the services will become available, and explaining the rates for the service. Sprint and Ameritech shall work with our communications management division to coordinate press releases pertaining to the implementation of EAS. It is, further,

ORDERED, That Sprint and Ameritech are authorized to file revised tariff sheets reflecting the establishment of two-way, nonoptional, flat-rate EAS between the Junction City and Lancaster exchanges. Sprint and Ameritech should each file their tariff sheets with a cover letter, which references Case No. 00-1019-TP-PEX and each company's "TRF" case number. These tariff sheets shall be effective upon the institution of the service. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this supplemental finding and order be served upon Ameritech Ohio and United Telephone Company of Ohio d.b.a. Sprint and their counsel; the spokesperson for the complainants; and all interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Alan R. Schriber, Chairman

Ronda Hartman Fergus

Judith A. Jones

Donald L. Mason

Clarence D. Rogers, Jr.

SEF/geb

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A True Copy

Cary E. Vigorito

CASE NUMBER: 00-1019-TP-PEX
CASE DESCRIPTION: JOHN BARNETT/UNITED DBA SPRINT
DOCUMENT SIGNED ON: 7/13/2002
DATE OF SERVICE: 7/18/02

PARTIES SERVED

PARTIES OF RECORD

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