

Decision No. C03-1271

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 03M-480T

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED PETITION OF STRASBURG TELEPHONE
COMPANY FOR VARIANCE OF COMMISSION RULE 4 CCR 723-1-10 REGARDING
ELECTRONIC BILLING

DECISION GRANTING APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE

Mailed Date: November 13, 2003
Adopted Date: November 12, 2003

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of Strasburg Telephone Company's (Strasburg) application for a temporary variance from 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-2-10.1.1 (Rule 10). Rule 10 requires local exchange carriers to type or machine print their monthly bills to consumers. Strasburg requests the granting of a permanent waiver of Rule 10 to be allowed to provide electronic billing (e-billing), for the period until the Commission modifies its rules to allow e-billing.

2. In Decision No. C02-1455, the Commission granted MCImetro Access Transmission Services a temporary variance of Rule 10. Likewise, Qwest Corporation in Decision No. C02-902 was granted a temporary variance of Rule 10.

3. Notice of the application was posted on the Commission's web site on November 4, 2003. No interventions were filed.

4. We have previously stated that it is our intention to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to revise our telephone rules (Decision No. C02-902). At that time, revisions to Rule 10.1.1, which would allow all local exchange carriers (LECs) to use e-billing will likely be considered. Therefore, we grant Strasburg's request for a variance until Rule 10.1.1 is revised to allow e-billing by LECs in general, but, in any event, the variance shall not continue beyond December 31, 2004.

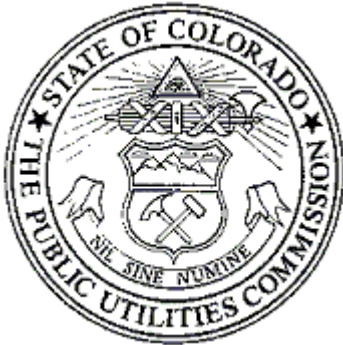
II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The application by Strasburg Telephone Company is deemed complete.
2. Strasburg Telephone Company's application for a variance from 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-2-10.1.1 is granted. The variance shall continue until that rule is revised in the Commission rulemaking docket but, in no event shall this variance continue beyond December 31, 2004.
3. Strasburg Telephone Company shall file an Advice Letter with the Commission having an effective date of no less than 14 days from the date of filing to implement optional e-billing for its customers. The tariff sheets shall include an expiration date of December 31, 2004, and the Number of this Decision as the authority that grants the ability to make the filing.
4. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
November 12, 2003.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Bruce N. Smith
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

GREGORY E. SOPKIN

POLLY PAGE

JIM DYER

Commissioners