

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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IN THE MATTER OF THE RULES OF THE)
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE)
STATE OF COLORADO REGULATING THE)
SERVICE OF TELEPHONE UTILITIES)
WITHIN THE STATE OF COLORADO.)

CASE NO. 5323
SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

June 10, 1969

Appearances: Akolt, Shepherd & Dick
by Luis D. Rovira, Esq., Denver,
Colorado, for The Mountain States
Telephone and Telegraph Company;
Floyd L. Reyher, Haxtun, Colorado,
for Haxtun Telephone Company and
the independent telephone companies
of Colorado;
Robert Lee Kessler, Esq., Denver,
Colorado, for the Staff of the
Commission.

S T A T E M E N T

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Colorado Legislature in 1969 passed Senate Bill 14 which amended Chapter 115, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1963, being the Public Utility Act. One of the amendments to Chapter 115 had to do with the deletion of Article 4, Section 6, Subsection 4, which prescribed the National Electrical Code published by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Standards of the United States of America. With the deletion of Subsection 4 the law no longer provides the National Electrical Safety Code as the minimum standards, and therefore the Commission believes it necessary for it to adopt by rule the National Electrical Safety Code as minimum standards.

The Commission in the above-numbered case by Decision No. 68571 adopted the "Rules Regulating the Service of Telephone Utilities," and said Rules became effective on January 1, 1967.

The Commission Staff by letter of May 7, 1969, has contacted all the telephone public utilities under Commission jurisdiction advising them that the Commission proposed to adopt the current edition of the National

Electrical Safety Code by amending the Rules that it adopted in Case 5323. The letter set forth the wording of the Rule by which the Commission would adopt as minimum standards the National Electrical Safety Code, and each utility was requested to reply by June 9, 1969, whether or not it had any objections to the adoption of this Code by the Commission.

The Commission proposes to revise Rule 18 of the Telephone Rules incorporating therein the requirement that the National Electrical Safety Code be used as the minimum standards of accepted good practice. No protests by the interested parties have been received within the time limit set, and therefore the Commission will issue its order revising Rule 18 and adopting the National Electrical Safety Code.

F I N D I N G S

THE COMMISSION FINDS:

That the Commission is fully advised in the premises.

That it appears, from the record and files herein, that all interested parties were duly informed of the proposed amendment to Rule 18 of the "Rules Regulating the Service of Telephone Utilities," and there being no objections thereto, said Rule should be amended.

That Rule 18 of the "Rules Regulating the Service of Telephone Utilities" should be amended to require that the telephone utilities under Commission jurisdiction shall use the applicable provisions of the National Electrical Safety Code as published by the United States Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards as the minimum standards of accepted good practice.

That Rule 18 of the "Rules Regulating the Service of Telephone Utilities" should be amended as set forth in the Order to follow.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

That Rule 18 of the "Rules Regulating the Service of Telephone Utilities" is amended to read as follows:

RULE 18

Construction and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment: The telephone plant of the utility shall be constructed, installed, maintained and operated in accordance with accepted good engineering practice in the telephone industry to assure, as far as reasonably possible, continuity of service, uniformity in the quality of service furnished and the safety of persons and property.

The utility shall use as the minimum standard of accepted good practice the current edition of the National Electrical Safety Code as published by the United States Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, in the following handbooks:

A. NBS Handbook H 30 containing -

USA (United States of America) Standard Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Electrical Supply Stations, C2.1-1941 (Reaffirmed 1947)

USA Standard Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Electric Utilization Equipment, C2.3-1941 (Reaffirmed 1947)

USA Standard Safety Rules for Operation of Electric Equipment and Lines, C2.4-1939 (Reaffirmed 1947)

USA Standard Safety Rules for Radio Installation, C2.5-1940 (Reaffirmed 1947).

B. NBS Handbook H81-1961 containing -

USA Standard Safety Rules for the Installation and Maintenance of Electric Supply and Communication Lines, C2.2-1960.

C. C2.2a-1965 - Supplement to C2.2-1960.

D. C2.2b-1967 - Supplement to C2.2-1960.

Each telephone utility shall adopt a program of periodic tests, inspections, and preventive maintenance aimed at achieving efficient operation of its system so as to permit the rendering of safe, adequate, and continuous service at all times. Inductive interference, cut-offs, and intelligible cross-talk are not consistent with adequate service, and maintenance should be designed to eliminate and prevent such occurrences.

In exchanges serving more than 500 subscribers, periodic leakage tests shall be made on all circuits by use of proper instruments to determine that sufficient insulation is being maintained and to further discover any substantial change in insulation values which might anticipate service difficulties. Loop resistance tests or transmission loss tests should be made on local circuit when transmission is poor, in an endeavor to locate the source of trouble.

Maintenance of open wire facilities shall include the replacement of broken or missing insulators, broken or badly deteriorated poles, crossarms and brackets, and rusted wire. Defective splices shall be replaced, slack wire retensioned, the wires properly transposed, and adequate clearance provided between the wires and trees or brush.

Switchboard maintenance shall include the replacement or repair of frayed cords, the periodic gauging of jack ferrules, and plugs, and the replacement of ferrules and plugs worn beyond reasonable tolerance. The night alarm circuit for each line and the ring-off drops on the cord circuits shall be tested periodically and adjustments made where necessary. Central office batteries shall be replaced when required to maintain good telephone service.

Dial central office equipment shall be inspected and routine tested at reasonable intervals, and such repairs, adjustments or replacements made as are found to be necessary and as are required to insure the proper functioning of dial switching equipment.

All station apparatus shall be properly maintained including replacement of transmitters and receivers when broken, damaged, or when necessary for good transmission. Station batteries or magneto systems shall be replaced whenever necessary for good service. Usually dry cell batteries must be replaced when the voltage per cell is one volt or less.

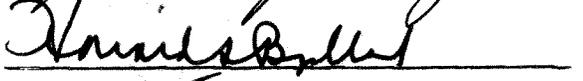
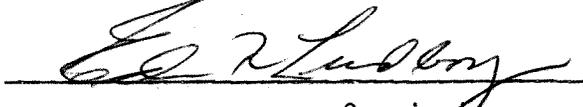
All station dry cells shall show either the date of original installation or the date of manufacture, or in lieu thereof the telephone utility may keep a record at each central office of the dates of installation of station batteries used at stations served from the central office.

Records of various tests and inspections shall be kept on file in the office of the telephone utility for a reasonable period of time. These records shall show the line or station tested or inspected, the reason for the test, the general conditions under which the test was made, the general result of the test, and such corrections as were made when the test indicated need for same.

That except as modified herein, Decision No. 68571 shall remain in full force and effect.

That this Order and Rule 18 as amended shall become effective July 1, 1969.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO




Commissioners

Dated at Denver, Colorado,
this 10th day of June, 1969.
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