

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Commission Advisory & Compliance Division
Telecommunications BranchRESOLUTION T-14010
Date November 3, 1989

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION T-14010. PACIFIC BELL (U 1001 C). ADVICE LETTER FILING TO EXPAND THE SAN FRANCISCO PAGING SYSTEM THROUGH A NEW INTERCARRIER AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN PAGING; THE OFFERING OF INTERLATA PAGING THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL PAGING; AND TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES TO ITS TONE AND DISPLAY SERVICE.

BY ADVICE LETTER No. 15601, FILED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1989.

SUMMARY

This resolution authorizes Pacific Bell to expand its San Francisco Paging System; permit its offering of InterLATA paging through the introduction of Northern California and Southern California Regional Paging; and to modify its Tone and Display Service. The Advice Letter was filed on September 1, 1989 and served on competing and adjacent utilities. One protest was received from A+ Beepers of California, Inc. on September 21, 1989. The utility has replied to the protest. The protest has been dismissed.

BACKGROUND

Pacific Bell filed Advice Letter No. 15601 to make changes to its tariff sheets to reflect the expansion of the San Francisco paging system, reduce the single unit rate, and modify its Tone and Display service. Revisions are made to Pacific Bell's Schedule Cal. PUC No. A.5, Exchange Services; and Section 5.9.3, Personal Paging Service.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of Pacific Bell's changing its paging service is to accommodate the increased demand for mobile communications services covering broader geographical areas.

Currently, Pacific Bell's San Francisco Bay Paging System has been limited to those areas north of the San Mateo Bridge. The proposed expansion will include the area generally identified as Southern San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Southern Alameda counties.

This service area expansion will be provided through an Intercarrier Agreement with American Paging, Inc, a certified California Public Radiotelephone Utility. This Agreement will enable paging traffic to occur between Pacific Bell's Northern Bay Area 158.10 MHz transmission system and American Paging's Southern Bay Area 158.10 MHz transmission system. Each utility would have the capability to provide paging service for its respective customers for the entire San Francisco Bay Area. This capability is achieved through a channel sharing system design which will allow each company to have access to the 158.10 MHz frequency airtime 50 percent of the time available.

The proposed interLATA offering for Northern and Southern California Regional Paging is made possible through a waiver of the Modified Final Judgment on Civil Action No. 02-0192 HHG granted by the United States District Court in the District of Columbia on June 16, 1988, allowing Pacific Telesis Group companies the authority to implement paging on an interLATA basis. These regional networks will be formed by linking existing common channel local paging systems into integrated and dynamic regional networks. The Northern California Regional Network will integrate the existing systems on 158.10 MHz, while the Southern California Regional System will integrate its existing systems on 152.84 MHz.

Pacific Bell also projects that the proposed modifications and restructuring to its Personal Paging Service would enhance competition in the California personal paging industry, and provide current and potential subscribers a broader range of communications alternatives to satisfy their individual communications needs.

PROTESTS

A protest was received on September 21, 1989 from A+ Beepers of California, Inc., distributors of paging services in California. A+ Beepers contends that Pacific Bell did not serve them a copy of its advice letter upon its filing, and that although there will be reductions in some areas of its Personal Paging Service, the rates remain artificially high and noncompetitive.

Pacific Bell responded to the allegations through a letter on September 29, 1989. In it, it indicated that although A+ Beepers is an agent of Pacific Bell's services, Pacific Bell was not required to serve a copy of the filing since A+ Beepers is neither a competing nor an adjacent utility. Pacific Bell further explained that it was keeping A+ Beepers informed of its intentions prior to sending the Advice Letter proposal to the Commission by providing a representative of the company with the proposed service modifications; with discussions ensuing about the modifications between representatives of both parties. Pacific Bell eventually provided A+ Beepers a copy of the advice letter on September 12, 1989.

In response to the allegations that its rates are artificially high and inconsistent with public interest, Pacific Bell contends that its current rates were approved by the Commission.

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When the Commission issued R.88-02-015, Regulation of Radiotelephone Utilities, on February 10, 1988, comments were sought from interested/affected parties of the industry. Most of the comments received were in agreement that the radiotelephone industry is competitive. We believe Pacific Bell's "high rates" are not predatory, but rather enhancing the competitiveness currently going on in the industry. The proposed rate restructuring only provides more alternatives to customers in the personal paging industry.

FINDINGS

We find the rates, charges and conditions of Pacific Bell's Advice Letter No. 15601 to be just and reasonable. The protest of A+ Beepers is dismissed.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

The request by Pacific Bell to expand its San Francisco Paging System; permit its offering of InterLATA paging through the introduction of Northern California and Southern California Regional Paging; and to modify its Tone and Display Service as described in Advice Letter No. 15601, is made effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on November 3, 1989. The following Commissioners approved it:

G. MITCHELL WILK
President
FREDERICK R. DUDA
STANLEY W. HULETT
JOHN B. OHANIAN
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
Commissioners

Wesley Franklin
WESLEY FRANKLIN
Acting Executive Director