

CT03-051



Gary Hanson, Chair
Bob Sahr, Vice-Chair
Dustin Johnson, Commissioner

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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1-800-332-1782

April 15, 2005

Judy Nicoles
518 3Rd Ave W
Mobridge SD 57601-

RE: Staff's motion to consolidate complaint cases against S&S Communications

Dear Judy:

The staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission has filed the enclosed Motion to Consolidate and Notice of Motion in each of the open dockets involving a customer complaint against S&S Communications for failure to provide pre-paid telephone service. The reasons for doing this are stated in the motion. Basically, what we are trying to accomplish is to put the 145 pending complaint cases and any later-filed cases into one unified case so the Commission can see the whole picture when it makes its decision in the case and so that all complaints are treated in a uniform manner rather than piecemeal. If the Commission grants the motion, from then on, all of the complaints will be under the same new docket number, which will be CT05-005.

Please note that we have scheduled the Motion to Consolidate for hearing and decision for the Commission's regular meeting on May 10, 2005 at 9:30 A.M. CDT in Room 412 of the Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD. You have the right to attend the hearing in person, by counsel or by phone and object to the motion. If you wish to participate by phone, please call the Commission at (800) 332-1782 before May 10 to set up the call (the Commission will call you so you will not incur phone charges). If you want to just listen to the proceedings, they will be broadcast live on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov beginning at 9:30 A.M. on May 10. Just click on the word "LIVE" on the Commission's home page.

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Also, we want you to know that we have opened a companion docket, TC05-047, for the purpose of administering the bond and letter of credit proceeds that we receive (currently a total of \$150,000). In the Commission's March 17, 2005 Order Regarding Notice to Potential Claimants (copy enclosed), the Commission ordered that all complaints against S&S will also constitute claims against bond or letter of credit proceeds. As proceedings are scheduled in the bond docket, you will receive notice of them, but bringing the complaints to resolution must occur first.

Thank you for your patience. We are going to do our best to wrap this up over the next three months. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to call me, Keith Senger or Sara Greff at (800) 332-1782.

Sincerely,

John J. Smith
DK

John J. Smith

Attorney for Commission Staff