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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILINGS BY THE) FOLLOWING TELECOMMUNICATIONS) COMPANIES FOR DESIGNATION AS) ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS) CARRIERS:)	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF HEARING
VIVIAN TELEPHONE COMPANY))	TC97-068
GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS) COOPERATIVE, INC.)	TC97-069
VALLEY CABLE & SATELLITE) COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	TC97-070
VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS) COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.)	TC97-071
SIoux VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY))	TC97-073
MOUNT RUSHMORE TELEPHONE COMPANY))	TC97-074
FORT RANDALL TELEPHONE COMPANY))	TC97-075
INTRASTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY) COOPERATIVE, INC.)	TC97-077
INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS) COOPERATIVE, INC.)	TC97-078
WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE) COMPANY)	TC97-080
STATELINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.))	TC97-081

ACCENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	TC97-083
)	
JAMES VALLEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY)	TC97-084
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HEARTLAND COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)	TC97-085
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MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.)	TC97-086
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BALTIC TELECOM COOPERATIVE)	TC97-087
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EAST PLAINS TELECOM, INC.)	TC97-088
)	
WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY)	TC97-089
)	
STOCKHOLM-STRANDBURG TELEPHONE COMPANY)	TC97-090
)	
KENNEBEC TELEPHONE CO., INC.	)	TC97-092
)	
JEFFERSON TELEPHONE CO., INC.	)	TC97-093
)	
SULLY BUTTES TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.	)	TC97-094
)	
VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	)	TC97-095
)	
SANCOM, INC.	)	TC97-096
)	

SANBORN TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE))	TC97-097
BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE CO.))	TC97-098
ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE) COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION)	TC97-099
RC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.))	TC97-100
SPLITROCK PROPERTIES, INC.))	TC97-101
SPLITROCK TELECOM COOPERATIVE, INC.))	TC97-102
TRI-COUNTY TELECOM, INC.))	TC97-105
FAITH MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY))	TC97-108
ARMOUR INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE) COMPANY)	TC97-113
BRIDGEWATER-CANISTOTA INDEPENDENT) TELEPHONE COMPANY)	TC97-114
UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY))	TC97-115
MCCOOK COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE) COMPANY)	TC97-117
KADOKA TELEPHONE COMPANY))	TC97-121

BROOKINGS MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE	)	TC97-125
)	
HANSON COMMUNICATIONS INC. D/B/A	)	TC97-130
HANSON COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY)	
HANSON COMMUNICATIONS INC. D/B/A	)	TC97-131
MCCOOK TELECOM)	
WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS	)	TC97-154
COOPERATIVE)	
MOBRIDGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO.	)	TC97-155
)	
U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	)	TC97-163
)	
THREE RIVER TELCO	)	TC97-167
)	

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received requests from the above captioned telecommunications companies requesting designation as eligible telecommunications carriers.

The Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filings and the intervention deadlines to interested individuals and entities. On June 27, 1997, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc (DTS) and Dakota Telecom, Inc (DTI) with reference to Fort Randall Telephone Company (Docket TC97-075). On July 15, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission granted intervention to DTS and DTI in Docket TC97-075. No other Petitions to Intervene were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31, including 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7 1, 49-31-11, and 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) through (5).

The issues at the hearing shall be as follows: (1) whether the above captioned telecommunications companies should be granted designation as eligible telecommunications carriers, and (2) what service areas shall be established by the Commission.

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A hearing shall be held at 1:30 P.M., on Wednesday, November 19, 1997, in Room 412, State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. It shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission may either grant or deny the request from any of the above captioned telecommunications companies requesting designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier, and the Commission shall establish service areas for eligible telecommunications carriers. The Commission's decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issues of whether the above captioned telecommunications companies should be granted designation as eligible telecommunications carriers, and the Commission shall establish service areas for eligible telecommunications carriers.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17th day of November, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>Neilma Kaelo</u>
Date:	<u>11/7/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
Commissioners Burg, Nelson and
Schoenfelder

William Bullard, Jr.
WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.
Executive Director