KC/HB TC97-087 -087 DOCKET NO. 26 JL IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BALTIC TELECOM COOPERATIVE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE **TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER** Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota DATE MEMORANDA TE fait Villing; Opter for and Mater of Searing; panderigt of Searing hild on "1)19/97; Terdings Fact, Conducansof Tow, Order and Mater of Entry of Octor, Dechit Classe Filed and Aschetel; 6/17 97 199 yelene and Fenk Up Plan for Easter

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol 500 E. Capitol Pierre, SD 57501-5070 Phone: (800) 332-1782 Fax: (605) 773-3809

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FILINGS

These are the telecommunications service filings that the Commission has received for the period of:

06/13/97 through 06/19/97 If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five days of this filing.

DATE

FILED

INTERVENTION

DEADLINE

DOCKET NUMBER

TITLE/STAFF/SYNOPSIS

	REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY				
TC97-076	Application by Journey Telecom International, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/TZ)	06/13/97	07/07/97		
TC97-091	Application by Calls for Less, Inc. d/b/a CfL for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/TZ) Applicant seeks authority to originate and terminate "intrastate, intraLATA and interLATA calls of business and residential customers, to operate as a Travel and Debit (Prepaid Caling) Card reseller, and to provide COCOT/COPT service."	06/17/97	07/07/97		
TC97-103	AppScation by Crystal Communications, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/TZ) Applicant seeks authority to provide local telecommunications services and interexchange telecommunications services. The Applicant will not offer any local telecommunications services within a Rural Telephone Company service area without seeking separate Commission authority.	06/19/97	07/07/97		
TC97-104	Application by Quintelco, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Dakota. (Staff: TS/TZ) Applicant "intends to subscribe to and resell all forms of inter-exchange and intra-exchange telecommunications services in the state of South Dakota, including local dial tone services. Message Telephone Service, Wide Area Telephone Service, WATS-like services, foreign exchange service, private lines, te lines, access service, cellular service, local switched service and other services and facilities of communications common carriers and othe entities."	06/19/97	07/07/97		
	REQUEST FOR ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY STATUS	\$			
	Intrastate Telephone Company, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Intrastate				

DECIJEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTUORITY

TC97-077 services in the following exchanges in South Dakota: Bradley (784), Castlewood (793), Clark (532), Florence (758), Hayti (783), Lake Norden (785), Waubay (947), Webster (345), Willow Lake (625) and Bryant (628). Intrastate Telephone Company, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)

TC97-078	Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota: Goodwin (795), Clear Lake (874), Gary (272), Estelline (873), Brandt (876), Astoria (832), Toronto (794), West Hendricks (479), Elkton (542), White (629), Brookings Rural (693), Sinai (826), Nunda/Rutland (586), Wentworth (483) and Chester (489). Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/13/97	07/07/97
TC97-080	West River Cooperative Telephone Company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. West River Telephone is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Bison (244), Buffalo (375), Camp Crook (605-797) and (406-972), Meadow (788) and Sorum (866) West River Telephone, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/16/97	07/07/97
TC97-081	Stateline Telecommunications, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Stateline is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Newell (456), Nisland (257) and Lemmon (605-374) and (701-376). Stateline, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the ADV (1997).	06/16/97	07/07/97
TC97-083	Accent Communications, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. Accent is the facilities-based exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Bristol (492), Doland (635), Frederick (329), Hecla (994), North Hecla (701-992) and Mellette (887). Accent, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/17/97	07/07/97
TC97-084	James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company is the facilities-based exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota. Andover (298). Claremont (294). Columbia (396). Conde (382). Ferney (395). Groton (397). Houghton (885) and Turton (897). James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company. to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/17/97	07/07/97
TC97-085	Heartland Communications, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Heartland Communications is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota. Platte/Geddes (337). Heartland Communications, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/17/97	07/07/97

	Law and the second s		HERE'S ALL THE STATE
TC97-086	Midstate Telephone Company, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Midstate Telephone Company is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the tollowing exchanges in South Dakota: Academy (726), Delmont (779), Ft. Thompson (245), Gann Valley (293), Kimball (778), New Holland (243), Pukwana (894), Stickney (732) and White Lake (249). Midstate Telephone Company, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/17/97	07/07/97
TC97-087	Baltic Telecom Cooperative pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. Baltic Telecom Cooperative is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Baltic (529) and Crooks (543). Baltic Telecom Cooperative, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/17/97	07/07/97
TC97-088	East Plains Telecom, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. East Plains Telecom, Inc. is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Alcester (934), Hudson (984), and East Hudson (712-982). East Plains Telecom, Inc., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/17/97	07/07/97
TC97-089	Western Telephone Company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Western Telephone is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Cresbard (324), Faulkton (598) and Orient (392). Western Telephone, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/17/97	07/07/97
TC97-090	Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Stockholm is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota. Stockholm-Strandburg (676, Revillo (623) and South Shore (756). Stockholm, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/17/97	07/07/97
TC97-092	Kennebec Telephone Cc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Kennebec Telephone Co. is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges. Kennebec (869) and Presho (895). Kennebec Telephone Co., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/18/97	07/07/97
TC97-093	Jefferson Telephone Co., Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Jefferson Telephone Co., Inc. is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchange: Jefferson (966). Jefferson Telephone Co., Inc., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/18/97	07/07/97

PAGE 3 OF 6

TC97-094	Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. Sully Buttes Telephone is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: West Onida (264), Hitchcock (266), Seneca (436), Tolstoy (442), Onaka (447), Wessington (458), Langford (493), Rosholt (537), Tulare (596), Highmore (852), Harrold (875), Ree Heights (943), Hoven (948), Blunt (962) and East Onida (973) Sully Buttes Telephone, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the observements in the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the observement of the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the observement of the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the observement of the telephone, to its knowledge is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the observement of the telephone, to its knowledge is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the observement of the telephone.	06/19/97	07/07/97
TC97-095	above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH) Venture Communications, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. Venture Communications is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Onida (258), Bowdle (285), Roscoe (287), Pierpont (325), Britton (448), Britton, ND (701-443), Roslyn (486), Wessington Springs (539), Selby (649), Gettysburg (765) and Lebanon (768). Venture Communications, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/19/97	07/07/97
TC97-096	SANCOM, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. SANCOM is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota. Wolsey (883), Parkston (928) and Tripp (935). SANCOM, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchange telecommunications services in the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications. Services in the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/19/97	07/07/97
T:C97-097	Sanborn Telephone Cooperative pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Sanborn Telephone is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota: Ethan (227), Mt Vernon (236), Letcher (248). Forestburg (495), Artesian (527), Woonsocket (796) and Alpena (849). Sanborn Telephone, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	05/19/97	07/07/97
TC97-098	Berestord Municipal Telephone Co. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Berestord Tel. is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchange: Berestord (763). Berestord Tel., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/19/97	07/07/97
TC97-099	Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54 201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges. North New Effington, ND (701-634), New Effington (637) and Claire City (652). Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association, to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/19/97	07/07/97

TC97-100	06/19/97	07/07/97	
TC97-101	Splitrock Properties, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Splitrock Properties, Inc. is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota: Howard/Carthage (772) and Oldham/Ramona (482). Splitrock Properties, Inc., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/19/97	07/07/97
TC97-102	Splitrock Telecom Cooperative, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. Splitrock Telecom Cooperative, Inc. is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges: Brandon (582) and Garretson (605-594) and (507-597). Splitrock Telecom Cooperative, Inc., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/KC)	06/19/97	07/07/97
TC97-105	Tri-County Telecom, Inc. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 214(e) and 47 CFR 54.201 hereby seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area in South Dakota. Tri-County Telecom, Inc. is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges in South Dakota: Clayton (825) and Emery (443). Tri-County Telecom, Inc., to its knowledge, is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas. (Staff: HB/CH)	06/19/97	07/07/97
	FILING OF TYPE 1 PAGING AGREEMENT		
TC97-079	U S WEST Communications, Inc. filed for approval by the Commission the Type 1 Paging Agreement between KJAM Mobile Paging and U S WEST. "This Agreement was reached through voluntary negotiations without resort to mediation or arbitration and is submitted for approval pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996K.IAM Mobile Paging and U S WEST further request that the Commission approve this Agreement without a hearing and without allowing the intervention of other parties. Because this Agreement was reached through voluntary negotiations, it does not raise issues requiring a hearing and does not concern other parties not a part of the negotiations. Expeditious approval would further the public interest."	06/16/97	07/07/97
	NONCOMPETITIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FILINGS		2
TC97-082	U S WEST Communications filed tariff sheets that remove references to exchanges that have been sold by U S WEST. The sale was effective June 1, 1997. In addition, this filing includes some text changes and clean-up items. U S WEST has requested an effective date of June 1, 1997, for this filing. (Staff: DJ/CH)	06/17/97	NA

	FILING OF INFORMATIONAL INTRASTATE PAYPHONE TARIFFS		
NA	East Plains Telecom, Inc. on June 13, 1997	NA	NA

Important Notice: The Commission is compiling a list of internet addresses. If you have an internet address please notify the Commission by E-mailing it to Terry Norum at terryn@puc state sit us. Faxing the address to the Commission at 605-773-3809



South Dakota Public Utilities Commission



State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

October 1, 1997

Mr. Richard D. Coit Executive Director SDITC P. O. Box 57 Pierre, SD 57501

Capitol Office Telephone (605)773-3201 FAX (605)773-3809

Transportation/ Warehouse Division Telephone (605)773-5280 FAX (605)773-3225

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Jim Burg Chairman Pam Nelson Vice-Chairman Laska Schoenfelder Commissioner

William Bullard Jr. Executive Director

Edward R. Anderson Hartan Rest Martin C. Bettmann Charlie Bolle Sur Cichos Karen E. Cremer Marlette Frichbach Shirleen Fugitt Lewis Hammond Leni Healy Camron Hoseck Dave Jacobson Bob Knadle Delaine Kolbo Terri J. Lesmeister Jeffrey P Lorensen Terry Nonum Gregory A Rislov Tammi Stangohr Steven M. Wegman **Rolayne Ailts Wiest**

RE: Eligible Telecommunications Carrier application, TC97-087 Baltic Telecom Cooperative

Dear Mr.Coit:

The above-referenced application has been reviewed by the staff of the Public Utilities Commission. The following additional information is needed in order for the Commission to consider this application:

1. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.101(a)(4), single-party service or its functional equivalent must be made available by an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) to receive universal service support mechanisms. Does the above-referenced company have this service?

2 Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.405 and 54.411, Lifeline and Link Up services must be made available by an ETC to qualifying low-income consumers. Does the applicant company, as referenced above, make these services available to qualifying consumers?

3. Please provide a verification by an authorized officer, under oath, to the Commission in which the applicant represents to the Commission that the facts stated in the Request for ETC Designation and the response to data request nos. 1 and 2, above, are truthful.

Please respond by October 14, 1997. Upon receipt of this information, it will be evaluated by staff and the matter will be scheduled for consideration by the Commission. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

PLEASE NOTE THAT STAFF'S POSITION IS THAT THE COMMISSION CAN ONLY MAKE AN ETC DESIGNATION FOR THOSE EXCHANGES WHICH ARE LOCATED IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

Sincerely.

arm Cremen.

Karen Cremer Staff Attorney

cc: Harlan Best

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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
HEARTLAND COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	}	TC97-085
MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.	}	TC97-086
BALTIC TELECOM COOPERATIVE	}	TC97-087
EAST PLAINS TELECOM, INC.	}	TC97-088
WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY	}	TC97-089
STOCKHOLM-STRANDBURG TELEPHONE)	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	}	TC97-117
KADOKA TELEPHONE COMPANY	}	TC97-121

BROOKINGS MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE	;	TC97-125
HANSON COMMUNICATIONS INC. D/B/A HANSON COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY	}	TC97-130
HANSON COMMUNICATIONS INC. D/B/A	}	TC97-131
WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE	}	TC97-154
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

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 e 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

day of November, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE The undersigned hereby certifies that this

B143.42.7

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.

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

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

WILLIAM BULL

Executive Director

	THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMI OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DA	
-		RECEIVED
1 5	N THE MATTER OF THE FILINGS BY THE POLLOWING TELECOMMUNICATIONS	DEC 0 2 1997
0	COMPANIES FOR DESIGNATION AS ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS:	SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
1	VIVIAN TELEPHONE COMPANY) TC97-068
	GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.) TC97-069
	VALLEY CABLE & SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)) TC97-070)
	VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATES, INC.)) TC97-071)
-	SIOUX VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY)) TC97-073
1	OUNT RUSHMORE TELEPHONE COMPANY	TC97-074
1	FORT RANDALL TELEPHONE COMPANY) TC97-075
	INTRASTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY COOPERATIVE, INC.) TC97-077)
	INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.)) TC97-078)
	VEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE)) TC97-080)
-	STATELINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.)) TC97-081
1	ACCENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)) TC97-083
	JAMES VALLEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE) TC97-084
	TEARTLAND COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)
	AIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.) TC97-085)) TC97-086
	BALTIC TELECOM COOPERATIVE)) TC97-087
	AST PLAINS TELECOM, INC.)) TC97-088

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2	WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY) TC97-089
3	STOCKHOLM-STRANDBURG TELEPHONE COMPANY) TC97-090
4	KENNEBEC TELEPHONE CO., INC.) TC97-092
5	JEFFERSON TELEPHONE CO., INC.)) TC97-093
6	SULLY BUTTES TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.) TC97-094
7		;
8	VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.) TC97-095
9	SANCOM, INC.) TC97-096
10	SANBORN TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE) TC97-097
11	BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE CO.) TC97-098
12	ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION) TC97-099
13	RC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)) TC97-100
14	SPLITROCK PROPERTIES, INC.) TC97-101
15	SPLITROCK TELECOM COOPERATIVE, INC.) TC97-102
16	TRI-COUNTY TELECOM, INC.)) TC97-105
17	FAITH MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY)) TC97-108
18	ARMOUR INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE)) TC97-113
19		1
20	BRIDGEWATER - CANISTOTA INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY) TC97-114
21	UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY)) TC97-115
22	MCCOOK COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY)) TC97-117
23	PADOVA BELEDUONE CONTRACTOR	;
24	KADOKA TELEPHONE COMPANY) TC97-121
25	BROOKINGS MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE	TC97-125
	HANSON COMMUNICOATIONS INC., D/B/A) TC97-130

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1	HANSON COUNTY TELE	PHONE COMPANY)
2	HANSON COMMUNICATI MCCOOK TELECOM	ONS INC., D/B/A) TC97-131
3	WEST RIVER TELECOM	MUNICATIONS)) TC97-154
4	COOPERATIVE		
5	MOBRIDGE TELECOMMU	NICATIONS CO.) TC97-155
6	U S WEST COMMUNICA	TIONS, INC.) TC97-163
7	THREE RIVER TELCO		TC97-167
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9			
10	HEARD BEFORE	THE PUBLIC UTILITI	ES COMMISSION
11			
12	PROCEEDINGS:	November 19, 1997	
13		1:30 P.M. Room 412, Capitol	Building
14		Pierre, South Dak	ota
15			
16	PUC COMMISSION:	Jim Burg, Chairma Laska Schoenfelde	r. Commissioner
17		Pam Nelson, Commi	ssioner
18	COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:		
19	PRESENT	Rolayne Ailts Wie: Camron Hoseck	st
20		Karen Cremer Harlan Best	
21		Bob Knadle Gregory A. Rislov	
22		David Jacobson	
23			
24			
25	Reported by: Lori	J. Grode, RMR	
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		INDEX	
Witn	ess		Page
	Don Lee		12
	Bill Haugen, Bob Barfield	Jr.	46
	Harlan Best		52 54
	Jon Lehner		67
	Harlan Best		86

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	CHAIRMAN BURG: Okay. We'll go ahead and get
3	started. I'll begin the hearing for the dockets
4	relating to the eligible telecommunications carriers
5	designation. The time is approximately 1:50. The date
6	is November 19, 1997; and the location of the hearing
7	is Room 412, State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.
8	I am Jim Burg, Commission Chairman.
9	Commissioners Laska Schoenfelder and Pam Nelson are
.0	also present. I'm presiding over this hearing. The
1	hearing was noticed pursuant to the Commission's Order
2	For and Notice of Hearing issued November 7, 1997.
3	The issues at this hearing shall be as
4	follows: One, whether the requesting
5	telecommunications company should be granted
6	designation as eligible telecommunications carriers;
7	and, two, what service areas shall be established by
8	the Commission.
9	All parties have the right to be present and
0	to be represented by an attorney. All persons so
1	testifying will be sworn in and subject to
2	cross-examination by the parties. The Commission's
3	final decision may be appealed by the parties to the
4	State Circuit Court and the State Supreme Court.
5	Rolayne Wiest will act as Commission

6 counsel. She may provide recommended rulings on 1 procedural and evidentiary matters. The Commission may 2 overrule its counsel's preliminary rulings throughout 3 the hearing. If not overruled, the preliminary rulings 4 will become final. 5 At this time I'll turn it over to Rolayne for 6 7 the hearing. MS. WIEST: I'll take appearances of the 8 parties. Rich, who do you represent? 9 MR. COIT: I'm here today representing all of 10 the SDITC member companies, and also Kadoka which has 11 recently applied for membership with the coalition. 12 And Darla Rogers is here representing some companies, 13 and I guess she could indicate for the record which 14 15 ones she's representing. MS. ROGERS: I'm here representing Valley; 16 Stockholm-Strandburg; Golden West, including Vivian; 17 and Sully Buttes and Venture. 18 MS. WIEST: Could you repeat those again? 19 Valley, Stockholm-Strandburg, Vivian, Golden West. 20 MS. ROGERS: Golden West, Sully Buttes and 21 22 Venture. 23 MS. WIEST: U S West. MR. HEASTON: Bill Heaston and Tammy Wilka 24 25 for U S West Communications.

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1	MS. CREMER: Karen Cremer, Commission staff.
2	MR. HOSECK: Camron Hoseck, Commission
3	staff.
4	MS. WIEST: We have had a request to take one
5	of these dockets first and that's TC97-075. Do any of
6	the parties want to make an opening statement before we
7	begin?
8	Why don't you proceed with 075 then.
9	MR. COIT: Sure, that's fine. I really don't
10	have an opening statement. There are a couple of
11	exhibits that we would like to admit. And I understand
12	there's also been some letters sent to the Commission
13	that we would like to admit into the record as evidence
14	on the ETC questions. And that would be Exhibit Number
15	1, which is the application of Fort Randall for ETC
16	designation, and Exhibit No. 2, which is the response
17	of Fort Randall to a data request from staff, dated, I
18	believe, October 1st. And there are two letters. I
19	don't know if we've marked those yet.
20	(EXHIBITS NO. 3 and 4 WERE MARKED FOR
21	IDENTIFICATION.)
22	MR. COIT: There are two other exhibits that
23	have been marked Exhibit No. 3. Kathy Marmet, is that
24	the letter of Dakota or is Exhibit 3 the letter.
25	MS. MARMET: Exhibit 3 is the letter of

Dakota. 1 MR. COIT: So the Exhibit 3 is the letter 2 from Robert Marmet to the Commission, and Exhibit 4 is 3 a letter from Mike Bradley to the Commission. 4 MS. WIEST: What's the date of that letter, 5 the letter from Bradley? 6 7 MR. COIT: November 18th. 8 MS. WIEST: Because I have one dated November 18th and one the 19th. 9 MR. COIT: I think so. Is that right, 10 11 Exhibit 3, is that the 19th? Okay. I had a letter that was dated yesterday, but the ones we have marked 12 for admission today, I believe both the letters are 13 dated the 19th, November 19th. 14 15 MS. WIEST: So the letter from Mr. Bradley is 16 dated the 19th? MR. COIT: Yes. Sorry about that. 17 MS. WIEST: And that's Exhibit 4. 18 MR. COIT: I don't know why they're dated 19 differently. The 19th is the one we're seeking 20 21 admission on, I believe. Yes, they are identical so we're seeking admission of the 19th letter. 22 23 MS. WIEST: I think they're not exactly identical but we'll go with the 19th. Could I see the 24 25 letter from Dakota? I don't believe we got copies of

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1	that one. (Pause.) So at this time are you offering
2	Exhibits 1, 2, 3 and 4?
3	MR. COIT: Yes, that's correct.
4	MS. WIEST: Is there any objection to those
5	exhibits being admitted? If not, 1, 2, 3 and 4 have
6	been admitted in TC97-075. Then at this time I would
7	ask if any of the parties have any questions pertaining
8	to TC97-075, including the Commissioners?
9	The only question I would have, Rich, is on
10	the response to the data request, Exhibit 2. And the
11	first question it talks about single party service. I
12	guess it's not absolutely clear that it's available to
13	all the customers the way that the statement is written
14	and answered.
15	MR. COIT: Oh, because they said does the
16	above-referenced company have this service.
17	MS. WIEST: Right.
18	MR. COIT: Yeah, I guess that is correct.
19	And I am not here today to serve as a witness.
20	MS. WIEST: No.
21	MR. COIT: If that's a concern that you feel
22	you need addressed, and I hate to say this, but I was
23	led to believe that if there were some questions on
24	applications and there was not a witness here to answer
25	that, those questions could be dealt with between now

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1	and December 2nd. There are witnesses here today for
2	some of the other applications, but there is not a
3	witness here today with respect to Fort Randall's
4	application.
5	MS. WIEST: The only other thing I would
6	suggest is that perhaps the Commission could just have
7	it clarified by another affidavit from the person.
8	CHAIRMAN BURG: We could approve it on the
9	basis of that clarification.
10	MS. WIEST: A late-filed exhibit just
11	clarifying that since we are taking affidavits from the
12	witnesses on other issues.
13	MR. COIT: I appreciate that option.
14	MS. WIEST: Otherwise, are there any other
15	questions relating to 075?
16	CHAIRMAN BURG: Can we make bench decisions?
17	MS. WIEST: Staff will have something too,
18	They'll have testimony on all of the cases. Does staff
19	want to go now, or do you want to go at the very end?
20	MR. HOSECK: Originally we had planned to go
21	after the applicants had.
22	MS. WIEST: All the applicants?
23	MR. HOSECK: Yes. And if these are treated
24	en mass or something fairly close to that, then we
25	would be prepared to put on our case in a similar

11 manner. 1 CHAIRMAN BURG: That's fine. 2 MS. WIEST: Let's just go through them and 3 then we'll have Harlan as the witness. Let's go back 4 to TC97-068. Does anyone have any questions on 5 TC97-068? 6 7 CHAIRMAN BURG: Just a clarification. What data request response is this? 8 MS. WIEST: Yes. That would be in that 9 10 packet. 11 MR. COIT: Is there a chance that we could consider or deal with these en mass as Mr. Hoseck has 12 13 indicated or suggested? MS. WIEST: I'd rather not just because on a 14 few of them I have a couple questions on some of them. 15 16 MR. COIT: Okay. Should I go ahead and introduce the exhibits? 17 18 MS. WIEST: Yes. 19 MR. COIT: With respect to Docket TC97-068 there are two exhibits. Exhibit No. 1 is the actual 20 ETC request filed by Vivian Telephone Company. And 21 Exhibit No. 2 is the response of Vivian Telephone 22 Company to a data request from Commission staff. We 23 would move the admission of those exhibits. I do not 24 have the dates. I don't have them here with me. 25

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12 Okay. Yeah, the date on the Exhibit No. 1 is 6-1997, 1 and the date on the response to the data request is 2 3 10-14-97. CHAIRMAN BURG: 6-9; right, not 6-19? 4 MR. COIT: 6-19 -- 6-9, excuse me. 5 MS. WIEST: Okay. Is there any objection to 6 admitting Exhibits 1 and 2 in 068? If not, they've 7 been admitted. Again, Rich, on Exhibit 2, the first 8 question, it says we provide single party service 9 throughout. I guess I'll assume that means all 10 11 customers? MR. COIT: I would call Don Lee. Don Lee is 12 here representing Vivian as well as some of the other 13 companies. Don Lee, do you want to take a seat? 14 15 DON LEE, 16 called as a witness, being first duly sworn, 17 was examined and testified as follows: 18 DIRECT EXAMINATION 1.9 BY MR. COIT: Q. Could you respond to Commission counsel's 20 21 question, please? A. Yes. The answer to your question is, yes, it 22 does indicate that they provide service private line 23 throughout the study area. 24 25 MS. WIEST: Single party to all customers?

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1	It's available to all customers?
2	A. Right.
3	MS. WIEST: Thank you. That's the only
4	question I have. Does anybody else have any questions
5	for this witness for 068? If not, thank you. I did
6	admit Exhibit 1 and 2. 069.
7	MR. COIT: We would move the admission of
8	Exhibits No. 1 and 2 in 069, and that is an ETC request
9	or application dated 6-9-97 and response to a staff
10	data request dated 10-14-97.
11	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've
12	been admitted.
13	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Excuse me, I do
14	not have the data request up here with me for some
15	reason. I'm sorry about this, but I need to go back
16	and ask Mr. Lee about the Lifeline, Link Up. I think
17	was that covered in the data request? I'm sorry to be
18	behind the eight ball, but I did not have that and so I
19	need to know whether this company is doing Lifeline,
20	Link Up now or whether you need to whether you
21	intend to have that implemented by 1-1?
22	A. You're referring to the Vivian Telephone
23	Company?
24	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Yeah, Vivian is
25	what we're doing now.

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14 Vivian Telephone Company does provide 1 Α. Lifeline and Link Up throughout its system with the 2 exception of the Vivian Exchange, and they anticipate 3 providing it in the Vivian Exchange by January 1, 4 5 1998. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: But anticipated 6 and doing it are two different things. And I think I'm 7 going to have to be assured that you're either going to 8 do it or that you're going to ask for something from 9 10 us. A. Do you want a commitment that we will do it 11 12 by that date? COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I think that's 13 one of the requirements, if I'm reading the Act right. 14 15 Α. Yeah. 16 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: And I think that's important that we have that on the record. 17 A. Certainly, Commissioner. The answer is, yes, 18 they are committed to providing it by 1-1-1998. 19 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Thank you. 20 CHAIRMAN BURG: Just a question, a general 21 one on that. On the toll, what do we call it toll 22 control? Do we need a statement on those, too, or a 23 24 request for a waiver? MS. WIEST: They did actually request waivers 25

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1	in their original applications.
2	MR. COIT: I was at the conclusion of going
3	through, I guess, the questions and so forth, I was
4	basically before the Commission acts on any of
5	these, going to restate the request. But if the
6	Commission has questions of Mr. Lee with respect to
7	certain aspects of providing it, I would yeah, I
8	would suggest you go ahead and ask it.
9	CHAIRMAN BURG: No, I don't have a problem as
10	long as we know all of them that's going to apply to.
11	In other words, if it applies to every one of them,
12	then the statement at the end saying it applies on all
13	of them is adequate for me. Or if you have some that
14	already could do the toll control, we need to know
15	that. I doubt if there are any at this time.
16	MR. COIT: No, we don't. And the waiver
17	request is included in all the applications. But just
18	to make sure it was ruled on, I was intending on
19	bringing it up again at the end.
20	CHAIRMAN BURG: Okay. That's fine with me.
21	MS. WIEST: Any other questions of this
22	witness regarding 068 and 069? If not, we will go to
23	TC97-070.
24	MR. COIT: Again, I would move for the
25	admission of two exhibits in TC97-070, and that is the

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1	ETC application or request dated 6-10-97 and response
2	to staff's data request dated 10-97.
3	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits
4	1 and 2 have been admitted. Are there any questions
5	with regard to this docket? If not, let's go to
6	TC97-071.
7	MR. COIT: We would move for the admission of
8	Exhibits No. 1 and 2, request for ETC status dated
9	6-10-97 and response to data request of staff dated
10	10-9-97.
11	MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1 and
12	2? If not, they've been admitted. Are there any
13	questions regarding TC97-071? If not, we will go to
14	TC97-073.
15	MR. COIT: We would move for the admission of
16	Exhibit No. 1, ETC request dated 6-11-97 and Exhibit
17	No. 2, response to staff data request dated 10-14-97.
18	MS. WIEST: Any objections to Exhibits 1 and
19	2 being admitted? If not, they have been admitted.
20	Any questions regarding 073?
21	MR. COIT: I would note that Dennis Law, who
22	is the current manager of Sioux Valley Telephone
23	Company, is available if the Commissioners have any
24	questions.
25	MS. WIEST: Any questions? If not, we'll go

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1	to TC97-074.
2	MR. COIT: We would move for the admission of
3	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-12-97
4	and Exhibit No. 2, response to staff data request dated
5	10-31-97.
6	MS. WIEST: Are there any objections? If
7	not, 1 and 2 have been admitted. Are there any
8	questions concerning 074? I have the same question on
9	this one, Rich, with respect to the data request number
10	one.
11	MR. COIT: Would an affidavit be adequate?
12	MS. WIEST: Yeah, as far as all customers.
13	MR. COIT: Okay. I will make sure that gets
14	filed.
15	MS. WIEST: Any questions on 074? If not,
16	let's go to TC97-077.
17	MR. COIT: We would move for the admission of
18	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request and that's
19	dated 6-13-97. Also move for admission of Exhibit No.
20	2, which is a response to data request dated 10-9-97.
21	And there is also an Exhibit No. 3 in this docket, a
22	supplemental response to staff data request. It's
23	dated 10-28-97. We move the admission of all three
24	exhibits.
25	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, those

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18 three exhibits have been admitted. Are there any 1 questions regarding this docket? 2 MR. COIT: I believe Mr. Lee is representing 3 4 ITC today as well? 5 MR. LEE: That's right. MS. WIEST: Okay. Let's go to TC97-078. 6 7 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-13-97 8 and move for the admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is 9 response to staff data request dated 10-9-97. 10 MS. WIEST: Any objection to those exhibits? 11 If not, they've been admitted. Any questions 12 concerning this docket? Let's go to TC97-080. 13 14 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-16-97, 15 and also move for admission of response to staff data 16 request Exhibit No. 2, which is dated 10-14-97. 17 18 MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1 and 2? If not, they've been admitted. Any questions 19 regarding this docket? If not, let's move to 20 TC97-081. 21 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC 22 request dated 6-16-97, which is Exhibit No. 1, and also 23 Exhibit No. 2, response to staff data request, dated 24 25 10-15-97.

MS. WIEST: Are there any objections to 1 and 1 If not, they've been admitted. Any questions 2 2? regarding this docket? So, Rich, with respect to this 3 one, you will be asking at the end about the waiver for 4 the single party and all the other waivers; is that 5 6 right? MR. COIT: Is there a waiver request in the 7 Stateline on the single party issue? 8 MS. WIEST: Yes. 9 10 MR. COIT: I wasn't aware of that. I understood there were some companies that had purchased 11 U S West exchanges that were still in the process of 12 converting some party lines. But, yes, if they need a 13 waiver, I guess so. I'll renew that request. I don't 14 have any factual information I can provide. I don't 15 believe, Mr. Lee, are you here representing Stateline? 16 17 MR. LEE: I am. And in conversations with 18 Stateline management yesterday, they indicated that they would likely need a waiver request until March, 19 April time frame when they can finish the construction 20 to provide all one party service. 21 MS. WIEST: And in their application they're 22 actually asking for a one-year waiver; correct? 23 24 MR. LEE: But they're willing to shorten it 25 up.

MS. WIEST: So you probably just need a 1 waiver until June? 2 MR. LEE: That would be adequate. 3 MS. WIEST: June 1st? 4 CHAIRMAN BURG: Do we need to act on the 5 waivers now? 6 7 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Do you want a motion on the waiver now? 8 MS. WIEST: Let's talk about that. The thing 9 is that all of these, I believe, are going to also need 10 11 a motion on the waivers for the one year on the toll control, and we haven't been doing any of those motions 12 13 at this time. CHAIRMAN BURG: We have to take each of those 14 separate motions, do you think, at the end for the toll 15 16 control? MS. WIEST: Yes. If we want to go --17 18 MR. COIT: We could pick it up here now and start doing waivers. That might be the easiest way. 19 CHAIRMAN BURG: If we got to go through each 20 21 one. MR. COIT: Rule on them as you go through. 22 CHAIRMAN BURG: Easier than going back. 23 MS. WIEST: Okay. For 081 with respect to 24 25 the waiver until June 1st, 1998, concerning single

1 party service to all customers, and the second waiver on toll control for one year -- one year from what 2 3 date, Rich? MR. COIT: I think I would guess that that 4 would be from the date of the order. 5 6 MS. WIEST: Okay. MR. COIT: On the toll control? You're 7 speaking to the toll control; correct? 8 9 MS. WIEST: Yes, toll control. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I have a question 10 as long as we're talking about the waivers both on toll 11 control and on the single party service. As long as 12 you're asking for waivers, let's make sure it's done 13 properly and that we're not back here in two months 14 asking for more waivers. I would hate to go through 15 this process, or would not like to go through this 16 process again. I think we need to be accurate when 17 we're doing it. I also have a question about what 18 meets the requirements of the Act? How much of a 19 waiver can we give? I don't know as I know the answer 20 21 to that. MS. WIEST: Right. The time actually in the 22 FCC Order is not specified. But it does say in 23 paragraph 89, I believe, that the Commission must, upon 24 a finding of exceptional circumstances, you can make a 25

waiver for single party services for a specified period 1 of time. And also on the toll limitation the company 2 must also show exceptional circumstances exist and need 3 for additional time to upgrade. They should have to 4 5 show individual hardship, individualized hardship or inequity warrants additional time to comply and that 6 would better serve the public interest that is in 7 8 strict adherence to the time period and it should extend only as long as the exceptional circumstances 9 10 exist.

MR. COIT: I would note that in the 11 applications, while we've requested a year, we've also 12 13 indicated that within that period of time we would file some information with the Commission indicating, you 14 know, when the capability is available. If the 15 Commission -- what we have -- and Mr. Lee, I think, can 16 17 answer some questions in the area of toll control that I can't answer. But we're faced with a situation today 18 where the capabilities are just not available. If a 19 year is too long, you know, from our perspective we 20 really didn't know when it would be available and 21 that's why we requested a year. But if there's better 22 23 information on that, maybe the time period can be 24 different. But right now we really don't know when the capability is going to be available. 25

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1	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I hate to belabor
2	the point, and I know everyone wants to get through
3	this, but to me it's very important that we do it
4	right. And so if it means that we need to answer the
5	question when we grant these waivers and we send these,
6	or you send them on to the FCC, we need to be sure that
7	you have spelled out why these companies at least
8	this is what I'm understanding why these companies
9	can't do toll control and why it's going to take that
10	long of a period of time to do single party service.
11	And so I think that should be in the application
12	somewhere, or at least in our motion as we approve it.
13	or we should have something on the record to support
14	where we're going.
15	MS. WIEST: They do explain the reasons in
16	their application, their original application, with
17	respect to toll control.
18	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Okay.
19	MS. WIEST: But if there are any further
20	questions that the Commission would like to ask at this
21	time, if you need more information on that, we could do
22	that now.
23	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I would like to
24	know and this probably isn't true of all companies.
25	But of the ones you're testifying for at least,

Mr. Lee, where they're at in deploying the technology that we need to do these two things and what kind of delays you might expect. Because I don't want this to not go forward the way that it's been perceived that it should go forward.

MR. LEE: Sure. Okay. I might respond to 6 that in general; and then if there are specific 7 questions, I'd be happy to do that. But the issue of 8 toll limitation, which I believe under the FCC's 9 description identifies a toll restriction and a toll 10 control, and the issue at hand is in the toll control, 11 which my understanding is to indicate that the end user 12 subscriber is to be able to control the amount of its 13 monthly bill, at which time a restriction automatically 14 15 kicks in and disallows access to the long distance 16 network. To my knowledge, there is no switch vendor in the United States today who provides that capability 17 within its switch. I know that the vendors are working 18 19 on it. I could not sit here with a clear conscience 20 and indicate that on X date that I would expect it will be available. Given my honest opinion, I would doubt 21 that it's available to the general population within a 22 year's time period. And therein is the reason I 23 24 believe that SDITC members ask for the one-year period because we don't anticipate it being available. 25

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1	The second or alternative to that is a
2	software provisioning of toll control. And, again, to
3	my knowledge, there is no interface between a software
4	system and a switch that has that capability.
5	Primarily because it would take real time rating of a
6	customer's usage; and because the customer control
7	switch interexchange carrier it's choosing, there are a
8	myriad of optional call plans and rate structures that
9	would be applied. And, to my knowledge, there just is
10	no technology, nor software, available to carry out
11	that program.
12	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: And if I recall
13	right, it doesn't it's not permissive, one or the
14	other. You really to need to do all of the above.
15	MR. LEE: It includes both, that's correct.
16	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I believe some
17	companies have asked the FCC for clarification, that
18	sort of thing. And as far as I know, you might have
19	better information than I do that that decision has not
20	been handed down by the FCC.
21	MR. LEE: A, I doubt I have better
22	information; and, B, I agree it has not been handed
23	down, to my knowledge. There is that clarification
24	procedure request in front of the FCC.
25	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BURG: To my knowledge, everybody 1 can offer toll limitation; right, from what we've had 2 to get a general statement? 3 MR. LEE: I'm going to define as toll 4 restriction, if I can, instead of toll limitation, yes. 5 6 CHAIRMAN BURG: Toll blocking is what I mean. Everybody can offer that? 7 8 MR. LEE: To my knowledge, that's a true 9 statement. CHAIRMAN BURG: And I guess my position is to 10 11 me, the other -- I really don't see, you know, since you said it's not available. I can't see them implying 12 it or even putting it into here. I think it satisfies 13 all of our needs. I have no problem giving the full 14 year or more as long as it gets through FCC, which at 15 16 this time it appears it should. So I don't see this point to me in making it a shorter limit because I 17 don't think it will interfere with the ETC 18 2.9 establishment. MR. LEE: I would agree with that and then 20 would point out in the applications the companies have 21 indicated that they will investigate and will work with 22 23 their switch vendors so that when it doer become available, they're willing to implement it. I think 24 25 that the telephone companies feel that once it becomes

27 available, it is in the public interest and would be 1 2 very supportive of that concept. CHAIRMAN BURG: With that I'll move that we 3 grant the one-year waiver on toll -- what is it 4 5 called? Toll limitation? Toll control? COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second. 6 7 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I'm going to concur with that as long as the motion is understood 8 that there will be some formal way to limit toll for 9 these customers just so that everybody understands the 10 11 motion. CHAIRMAN BURG: I think in every application 12 you agreed that you can do toll restriction --13 14 MR. LEE: Right. CHAIRMAN BURG: -- if I remember reading the 15 applications, and that to me is satisfactory. 16 17 MR. LEE: Thank you. CHAIRMAN BURG: Do you want them as a 18 separate motion? Okay. I'll also move -- which one do 19 we need on this one? 20 MS. WIEST: The single party service until 21 22 June 1st. 23 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant a waiver in TC97-081 in the single party requirement 24 25 until June 1, 1998.

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28 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second. 1 2 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 3 MS. WIEST: Any other questions in 081? Do you want to go back now? 4 CHAIRMAN BURG: It might be easier to go back 5 and get these others. 6 MR. COIT: Whatever. 7 MS. WIEST: We'll go back to 068, and the 8 motion in 068 will be for the one-year waiver on toll 9 control. 10 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant the 11 waiver of toll control in TC97-075. 12 13 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 14 15 MS. WIEST: 068. CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the toll 16 -- I mean I'll move we grant the waiver for toll 17 limitation. 18 19 MS. WIEST: Toll control. I'm sorry, we have to be accurate because what the FCC did is they call it 20 combined toll control and toll blocking as toll 21 22 limitation. 23 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the waiver 24 for toll control in TC97-068. COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded. 25

29 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 1 2 MS. WIEST: For one year? CHAIRMAN BURG: Yes. 3 MS. WIEST: 069. 4 5 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll keep making them. I'll 6 move we grant the toll control waiver in TC97-069 for 7 one year. 8 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded. 9 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 10 MS. WIEST: 070. CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant toll 11 control in TC97-070 for one year, the waiver for one 12 13 year. 14 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Second it. 15 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 16 MS. WIEST: 171. 17 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant toll control, the waiver for toll control, in TC97-071 for 18 19 one year. 20 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 21 22 MS. WIEST: 073. CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the waiver 23 for toll control in TC97-073 for one year. 24 25 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded.

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1	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
2	MS. WIEST: 074.
3	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the waiver
4	for toll control in TC97-074 for one year.
5	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded.
6	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
7	MS. WIEST: 077.
8	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the waiver
9	for toll control in TC97-077 for one year.
10	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded.
11	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
12	MS. WIEST: 078.
13	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the waiver
14	for toll control in TC97-078 for one year.
15	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded.
16	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
17	MS. WIEST: 080.
18	CHAIRMAN BURG: And I'll move we grant the
19	waiver for toll control in TC97-080 for one year.
20	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded.
21	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
22	CHAIRMAN BURG: We did 81; right, and we are
23	done with 81.
24	MS. WIEST: Any further questions on 081?
25	083, TC97-083.

31 MR. COIT: We would move for the admission of 1 the ETC request filed by Accent, dated 6-17-97, and 2 Exhibit No. 2, the response to staff data request which 3 4 is dated 10-8-97. 5 MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, 1 and 2 have been admitted. Any questions regarding 083? 6 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the toll, 7 the waiver for toll control in TC97-083 for one year. 8 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded. 9 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 10 11 MS. WIEST: TC97-084. MR. COIT: We move for the admission of the 12 ETC request dated 6-17-97, which is marked Exhibit No. 13 1, and we move for the admission of Exhibit No. 2, the 14 15 response to staff data request dated 10-8-97. MS. WIEST: Are there any objections? 16 If not, they've been admitted. 17 18 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the waiver for toll control in TC97-084 for one year. 19 20 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Seconded. 21 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I'll concur. Does this have a single party question on this one? 22 MS. WIEST: No. They said in their original 23 application that they are offering single party service 24 25 to all consumers.

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1	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I got a sticky on
2	it. Sorry. James Valley; right?
3	MS. WIEST: I believe in their okay.
4	Yeah, that was Bob's question. And the reason he had
5	the question is it was actually in the original
6	application. So if you look at the original
7	application on page two, under question number three,
8	they do state that they provide single party service to
9	all consumers in their service area. Number four down
10	on that list.
11	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Okay.
12	MS. WIEST: Thank you. Okay. Let's go to
13	TC97-085.
14	MR. COIT: We move for admitting of Exhibit
15	No. 1, the ETC request, dated 6-17-97, and Exhibit No.
16	2, the response to staff data request dated 10-10-97.
17	MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, they've
18	been admitted. I have the same question here with
19	respect to question number one.
20	MR. COIT: Mr. Benton is available to respond
21	to questions, I believe. Is this Heartland? Right?
22	Or, Don, can you respond to any questions?
23	MR. LEE: Mark has asked me to respond on his
24	behalf, which will be Heartland Communications, and
25	they are offering all single.

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1	MS. WIEST: Single party was offered to all
2	customers? Any other questions concerning this
3	docket? Is there a motion?
4	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant the
5	waiver for toll control to TC97-089 for one year.
6	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
7	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
8	MS. WIEST: 085, I believe.
9	CHAIRMAN BURG: Excuse me, 85.
10	MS. WIEST: TC97-086.
11	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC
12	request, Exhibit No. 1, dated 6-17-97, and response to
13	staff data requests, Exhibit No. 2, which is dated
14	10-10-97.
15	MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, they
16	have been admitted. Same question, can you answer
17	that, Mr. Lee?
18	MR. LEE: I'm sorry, I don't have the
19	associated companies with the exhibit numbers. Which
20	company are we referring to?
21	MR. COIT: Midstate.
22	MR. LEE: They are currently all private line
23	services.
24	MR. COIT: Single party; correct?
25	MS. WIEST: Single party to all customers?

34 1 MR. LEE: Correct. 2 MS. WIEST: Any other questions in this docket? 3 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant the toll 4 control waiver in TC97-086 for one year. 5 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 6 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 7 8 MS. WIEST: TC97-087. MR. COIT: We move for the admission of 9 Exhibit No. 1, ETC request, dated 6-17-97, and Exhibit 10 No. 2, response to staff data request, dated 10-16-97. 11 MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, Exhibits 12 1 and 2 have been admitted. 13 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant toll 14 control waiver in TC97-087 for one year. 15 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 16 17 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 18 MS. WIEST: Again, I'd have a question on 19 this one, Rich. MR. COIT: Mr. Lee is representing Baltic as 20 21 well. MR. LEE: Baltic is currently all private 22 line. I'm sorry, single party. I should use the right 23 24 term, single party service. 25 MS. WIEST: To all customers?

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1	MR. LEE: Correct.
2	MS. WIEST: Thank you. TC97-088.
3	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of
4	Exhibit No. 1, ETC request dated 6-17-97, and response
5	to staff data request, which is Exhibit No. 2, which is
6	dated 10-17-97.
7	MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, Exhibits
8	1 and 2 have been admitted.
9	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
10	on toll control in TC97-088 for one year.
11	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
12	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
13	MS. WIEST: Can you answer my question on
14	this one, Mr. Lee?
15	MR. LEE: Company name, please?
16	MS. WIEST: East Plains.
17	MR. LEE: Currently is all single party
18	service.
19	MS. WIEST: Thank you.
20	MS. WIEST: TC97-089.
21	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of
22	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-17-97,
23	and the admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is a response
24	to staff data request, dated 10-21-97.
25	MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, they've

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36 been admitted. Same question. 1 2 MR. COIT: I don't believe that Mr. Lee is here representing Western today. What did they say in 3 the response? 4 MS. WIEST: They said Western Telephone 5 offers single party service. My question is do they 6 7 offer to every customer again? MR. COIT: Well --8 9 MS. WIEST: Can you do a late-filed on that? MR. COIT: We can do an affidavit on that 10 11 one, I guess. CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 12 on toll control for TC97-089 for one year. 13 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 14 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 15 MS. WIEST: Okay. Let's go on to TC97-090. 16 17 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-17-97, 18 and Exhibit No. 2, which is the response to staff data 19 20 request dated 10-24-97. MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've 21 been admitted. Any questions concerning this docket? 22 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant a 23 waiver on toll control in TC97-090 for one year. 24 25 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.

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1	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
2	MS. WIEST: TC97-092.
3	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of
4	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request of Kennebec
5	Telephone Company dated 6-18-97, and move for the
6	admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is the response to
7	staff data request dated 10-10-97. And I would note
8	that Mr. Rod Bauer is here to respond to any questions
9	that the Commissioners or staff may have concerning
10	their request.
11	MS. WIEST: Any questions concerning this
12	docket? If not, do you have a motion?
13	CHAIRMAN BURG: Did we admit both those?
14	MS. WIEST: I'm sorry, I did not. I will
15	admit Exhibit Numbers 1 and 2.
16	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant a
17	waiver on toll control in TC97-092 for one year.
18	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
19	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
20	MS. WIEST: TC97-093.
21	MR. COIT: We would move for the admission of
22	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request of Jefferson
23	Telephone Company, dated 6-18-97, and move also for the
24	admission of Exhibit No. 2, response to staff data
25	request, which is dated 10-10-97. And I would note

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1	that Mr. Dick Connors is available to answer any
2	questions concerning the Jefferson request.
3	MS. WIEST: Any objection to the exhibits?
4	If not, they've been admitted. Any questions
5	concerning this docket?
6	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
7	for toll control in TC97-093 for one year.
8	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
9	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
10	MS. WIEST: TC97-094.
11	MR. COIT: We'd move for the admission of
12	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-19-97,
13	and move for the admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is
14	the response to data request dated 10-15-97.
15	MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1 and
16	27 If not, those exhibits have been admitted. Do you
17	have any witnesses for this one?
18	MR. COIT: Mr. Lee is available for both
19	Sully Buttes and Venture.
20	MS. WIEST: I just had a question, I guess,
21	concerning single party service because in this one it
22	does say should facilities not allow immediate single
23	party service, Sully Buttes may offer multi-party
24	service until the facilities are restored or installed
25	to allow for single party service. Has that occurred

39 1 in the past? 2 A. Currently Sully Buttes Telephone has no multi-line. The fact is all single party service. I 3 think they added that language such that if there were 4 a disaster that they had to respond to, they wanted to 5 reserve the right to offer party line under the 6 emergency basis only. But they have for a number of 7 years been all single party service. 8 9 MS. WIEST: Any other questions? 10 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver on toll control for TC97-094 for one year. 11 12 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 13 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Well, I'll concur. 14 15 MS. WIEST: TC97-095. MR. COIT: We would move for the admission of 16 ETC, Exhibit No. 1, dated 6-19-97, and admission of 17 Exhibit No. 2, response to data request dated 18 10-15-97. I would point out that I believe that there 19 might be an issue with respect to single party service 20 waiver in this case as well. 21 22 MS. WIEST: Right. At this time are there any objections to Exhibit 1 and 2? If not, they've 23 been admitted. Yes. And it would appear they would 24 need a waiver. And my question for apparently they 25

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40 have three multi-party customers and they plan to 1 install single party service during the 1988 2 construction season. So I guess my question is 3 apparently they haven't asked for a waiver. Are you 4 5 doing so at this time? MR. COIT: Yes, we would on their behalf. 6 And I think Mr. Lee would be able to respond to 7 questions on that. I assume so anyway. 8 9 MR. LEE: Sure. But that would be correct, we do need a waiver. The same June 1 date would be 10 acceptable to us. 11 MS. WIEST: June 1, okay. 12 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 13 in single party service to June 1, 1998, in TC97-095. 14 15 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I would second that. 16 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Sure, I'll 17 concur. CHAIRMAN BURG: And I'll also move that we 18 grant a waiver for toll control on TC97-095 for one 19 20 year. COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 21 22 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 23 MS. WIEST: TC97-096. 24 MR. COIT: I move for the admission of ETC request, Exhibit No. 1, dated 6-19-97, and move for the 25

admission of Exhibit No. 2, response to data request 1 dated 10-10-97. 2 MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, they've 3 been admitted. Any questions concerning this docket? 4 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 5 on toll control in TC97-096 for one year. 6 7 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 8 MS. WIEST: TC97-097. 9 10 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of Exhibit No. 1, ETC request, dated 6-19-97, and Exhibit 11 No. 2, response to data request dated 10-10-97. 12 13 MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, they've been admitted. Does anybody have any questions 14 15 concerning this docket? CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 16 17 for toll control in TC97-097 for one year. 18 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 19 20 MS. WIEST: TC97-098. 21 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC request dated 6-19-97, which is marked Exhibit No. 1, 22 and admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is the response 23 to data request dated 10-14-97. 24 25 MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1 and

2? If not, they've been admitted. Are there any 1 questions concerning this docket? 2 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant a 3 waiver for toll control in TC97-098 for one year. 4 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 5 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 6 MS. WIEST: TC97-099. 7 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of 8 9 Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC dated 6-19-97, and 10 admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is the response to 11 data request dated 10-9-97. 12 MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've 13 been admitted. I have the same question on this one. 14 The question is do we have single party service, and 15 the answer is yes? 16 MR. COIT: Mr. Lee, are you here for Roberts 17 County or not? 18 MR. LEE: No. MR. COIT: Then we probably need to handle 19 that, I suppose, by the affidavit. 20 21 MS. WIEST: Okay. MR. LEE: Rich, are we talking about Roberts 22 23 County or --24 MR. COIT: Roberts County. 25 MR. LEE: I know from another source other

43 1 than this that as manager of the South Dakota 2 Association of Telephone Co-ops and the daily requests 3 we've had there that they do, in fact, provide all single party service throughout Roberts County Co-op, 4 if that will suffice for your information here. 5 MS. WIEST: Is that sufficient? 6 MS. CREMER: That's sufficient. 7 8 MS. WIEST: Okay. CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 9 for toll control in TC97-099 for one year. 10 11 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 12 MS. WIEST: TC97-100. 13 14 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-19-97, 15 and admission of Exhibit No. 2, response to data 16 17 request dated 10-9-97. MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've 18 been admitted. Same question on this one. 19 MR. LEE: I don't know the answer. 20 MR. COIT: There is -- Mr. Lee is not here 21 representing RC Communications today, so I suspect 22 we'll have to deal with that with a late-filed exhibit 23 24 if that's okay. 25 MS. WIEST: Okay.

1	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
2	for toll control in TC97-100 for one year.
з	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
4	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
5	MS. WIEST: TC97-101.
6	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of
7	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-19-97,
8	and Exhibit No. 2, response to staff data request dated
9	10-14-97.
10	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've
11	been admitted. Any questions concerning this docket?
12	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant waiver for
13	toll control in TC97-101 for one year.
14	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
15	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
16	MS. WIEST: TC97-102.
17	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of
18	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC dated 6-19-97, and
19	Exhibit No. 2, which is a response to data request
20	dated 10-14-97.
21	MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, 1 and 2
22	have been admitted. Any questions concerning this
23	docket?
24	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
25	for toll control in TC97-102 for one year.

admission of Exhibit No. 2, response to data request 1 2 dated 10-10-97. MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, they've 3 been admitted. Any questions concerning this docket? 4 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 5 on toll control in TC97-096 for one year. 6 7 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 8 9 MS. WIEST: TC97-097. 10 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of Exhibit No. 1, ETC request, dated 6-19-97, and Exhibit 11 12 No. 2, response to data request dated 10-10-97. MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, they've 13 been admitted. Does anybody have any questions 14 15 concerning this docket? CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 16 for toll control in TC97-097 for one year. 17 18 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 19 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 20 MS. WIEST: TC97-098. 21 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC request dated 6-19-97, which is marked Exhibit No. 1, 22 and admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is the response 23 to data request dated 10-14-97. 24 MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1 and 25

42 2? If not, they've been admitted. Are there any 1 questions concerning this docket? 2 3 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we grant a waiver for toll control in TC97-098 for one year. 4 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 5 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 6 7 MS. WIEST: TC97-099. 8 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC dated 6-19-97, and 9 admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is the response to 10 data request dated 10-9-97. 11 MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've 12 been admitted. I have the same question on this one. 13 The question is do we have single party service, and 14 15 the answer is yes? MR. COIT: Mr. Lee, are you here for Roberts 16 County or not? 17 18 MR. LEE: No. MR. COIT: Then we probably need to handle 19 that. I suppose, by the affidavit. 20 21 MS. WIEST: Okay. MR. LEE: Rich, are we talking about Roberts 22 23 County or --24 MR. COIT: Roberts County. 25 MR. LEE: I know from another source other

than this that as manager of the South Dakota 1 2 Association of Telephone Co-ops and the daily requests we've had there that they do, in fact, provide all 3 single party service throughout Roberts County Co-op, 4 if that will suffice for your information here. 5 6 MS. WIEST: Is that sufficient? 7 MS. CREMER: That's sufficient. MS. WIEST: Okay. 8 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 9 for toll control in TC97-099 for one year. 10 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 11 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 12 MS. WIEST: TC97-100. 13 14 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-19-97, 15 and admission of Exhibit No. 2, response to data 16 17 request dated 10-9-97. MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've 18 been admitted. Same question on this one. 19 20 MR. LEE: I don't know the answer. 21 MR. COIT: There is -- Mr. Lee is not here representing RC Communications today, so I suspect 22 we'll have to deal with that with a late-filed exhibit 23 24 if that's okay. MS. WIEST: Okay. 25

CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 1 for toll control in TC97-100 for one year. 2 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 3 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 4 MS. WIEST: TC97-101. 5 6 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of 7 Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request dated 6-19-97, and Exhibit No. 2, response to staff data request dated 8 10-14-97. 9 MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've 10 11 been admitted. Any questions concerning this docket? CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant waiver for 12 toll control in TC97-101 for one year. 13 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 14 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 15 MS. WIEST: TC97-102. 16 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of 17 Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC dated 6-19-97, and 18 19 Exhibit No. 2, which is a response to data request 20 dated 10-14-97. 21 MS. WIEST: Any objections? If not, 1 and 2 22 have been admitted. Any questions concerning this docket? 23 24 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver for toll control in TC97-102 for one year. 25

45 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 1 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 2 MS. WIEST: TC97-105. 3 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC 4 request, Exhibit No. 1, dated 6-19-97, and admission of 5 Exhibit No. 2, response to data request dated 10-14-97. 6 MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits 7 1 and 2 have been admitted. Any questions concerning 8 this docket? 9 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 10 for toll control in TC97-105 for one year. 11 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 12 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 13 MS. WIEST: TC97-108. 14 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC 15 request, Exhibit No. 1, dated 6-23-97, and the 16 admission of Exhibit No. 2, response to staff data 17 request dated 10-14-97. 18 MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits 19 1 and 2 have been admitted. Same question. Can you, 20 Mr. Lee, answer that one? Is that single party service 21 22 available for --MR. COIT: For Faith. 23 MR. LEE: I do not represent them, I'm sorry. 24 25 MR. COIT: We would request permission to

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1	provide that via affidavit.
2	MS. WIEST: Okay.
3	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
4	for toll control in TC97-108 for one year.
5	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
6	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
7	MS. WIEST: TC97-113.
8	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of
9	Exhibit No. 1, ETC request dated 6-25-97, and Exhibit
10	No. 2, response to data requests dated 10-9-97.
11	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've
12	been admitted. I have the same question on this one.
13	MR. COIT: This is Armour. Bill Haugen can
14	respond to your question.
15	MR. HAUGEN: Yes, I can answer that.
16	BILL HAUGEN, JR.,
17	called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
18	was examined and testified as follows:
19	EXAMINATION
20	MR. HAUGEN: Good afternoon.
21	MS. WIEST: And I would just like to ask you
22	if you currently provide single party service to all of
23	your customers in your area.
24	MR. HAUGEN: Single party service is
25	available to all of our customers in Armour Independent

Telephone Company service area. It has been since the 1 late seventies. 2 MS. WIEST: Are there any others questions of 3 this witness? Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move ve grant a waiver 5 for toll control in TC97-113 for one year. 6 7 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 8 MS. WIEST: TC97-114. 9 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC 10 request of the Bridgewater-Canistota Telephone Company, 11 which is dated 6-25-97, that's Exhibit No. 1. And also 12 move for the admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is 13 14 response to data requests of staff dated 10-9-97. And Mr. Haugen is here as well to respond to any questions 15 in this docket. 16 17 MS. WIEST: First of all, any objection to Exhibits 1 and 2? If not, they've been admitted. And 18 19 I would ask the same question. 20 MR. HAUGEN: Single party service is 21 available to all the customers in the 22 Bridgewater-Canistota Exchanges. MS. WIEST: Thank you. Any other questions 23 of this witness? 24 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 25

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1	for toll control in TC97-114 for one year.
2	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
3	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
4	MS. WIEST: TC97-115.
5	MR. COIT: We would move the admission of
6	Exhibit No. 1, the ETC request of Union Telephone
7	Company, dated ϵ -25-97, and Exhibit No. 2, response to
8	data request which is dated 10-9-97.
9	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits
0	1 and 2 have been admitted. And I would ask the same
1	question in this docket.
2	MR. HAUGEN: Single party service is
.3	available to all the customers in the Union Telephone
4	Company service area, Hartford and Wall Lake Exchanges
5	again, has been since late seventies.
6	MS. WIEST: Thank you. Any other questions
7	of this witness?
8	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
.9	for toll restriction in TC97-115 for one year.
0	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
1	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
2	MS. WIEST: Thank you. TC97-117.
13	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of
4	Exhibit No. 1, ETC request dated 6-30-97, and Exhibit
5	No. 2, response to data request dated 10-14-97.

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1	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
2	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
3	MS. WIEST: TC97-105.
4	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC
5	request, Exhibit No. 1, dated 6-19-97, and admission of
6	Exhibit No. 2, response to data request dated 10-14-97.
7	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits
8	1 and 2 have been admitted. Any questions concerning
9	this docket?
10	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
11	for toll control in TC97-105 for one year.
12	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
13	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
14	MS. WIEST: TC97-108.
15	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC
16	request, Exhibit No. 1, dated 6-23-97, and the
17	admission of Exhibit No. 2, response to staff data
18	request dated 10-14-97.
19	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits
20	1 and 2 have been admitted. Same question. Can you,
21	Mr. Lee, answer that one? Is that single party service
22	available for
23	MR. COIT: For Faith.
24	MR. LEE: I do not represent them, I'm sorry.
25	MR. COIT: We would request permission to

46 provide that via affidavit. 1 2 MS. WIEST: Okay. CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 3 for toll control in TC97-108 for one year. 4 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 5 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 6 7 MS. WIEST: TC97-113. MR. COIT: We move for the admission of 8 Exhibit No. 1, ETC request dated 6-25-97, and Exhibit 9 No. 2, response to data requests dated 10-9-97. 10 11 MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've been admitted. I have the same question on this one. 12 13 MR. COIT: This is Armour. Bill Haugen can 14 respond to your question. 15 MR. HAUGEN: Yes, I can answer that. 16 BILL HAUGEN, JR., 17 called as a witness, being first duly sworn, 18 was examined and testified as follows: 19 EXAMINATION 20 MR. HAUGEN: Good afternoon. 21 MS. WIEST: And I would just like to ask you if you currently provide single party service to all of 22 your customers in your area. 23 24 MR. HAUGEN: Single party service is available to all of our customers in Armour Independent 25

Telephone Company service area. It has been since the 1 late seventies. 2 MS. WIEST: Are there any others questions of 3 this witness? Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move ve grant a waiver 5 for toll control in TC97-113 for one year. 6 7 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 8 MS. WIEST: TC97-114. 9 10 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of ETC 11 request of the Bridgewater-Canistota Telephone Company, 12 which is dated 6-25-97, that's Exhibit No. 1. And also 13 move for the admission of Exhibit No. 2, which is 14 response to data requests of staff dated 10-9-97. And Mr. Haugen is here as well to respond to any questions 15 16 in this docket. 17 MS. WIEST: First of all, any objection to Exhibits 1 and 2? If not, they've been admitted. And 18 19 I would ask the same question. 20 MR. HAUGEN: Single party service is 21 available to all the customers in the 22 Bridgewater-Canistota Exchanges. MS. WIEST: Thank you. Any other questions 23 of this witness? 24 25 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver

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1	for toll control in TC97-114 for one year.
2	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
3	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
4	MS. WIEST: TC97-115.
5	MR. COIT: We would move the admission of
6	Exhibit No. 1, the ETC request of Union Telephone
7	Company, dated 6-25-97, and Exhibit No. 2, response to
8	data request which is dated 10-9-97.
9	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits
10	1 and 2 have been admitted. And I would ask the same
11	question in this docket.
12	MR. HAUGEN: Single party service is
13	available to all the customers in the Union Telephone
14	Company service area, Hartford and Wall Lake Exchanges,
15	again, has been since late seventies.
16	MS. WIEST: Thank you. Any other questions
17	of this witness?
18	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
19	for toll restriction in TC97-115 for one year.
20	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
2 1	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
22	MS. WIEST: Thank you. TC97-117.
2.3	MR. COIT: We move for the admission of
24	Exhibit No. 1, ETC request dated 6-30-97, and Exhibit
25	No. 2, response to data request dated 10-14-97.

49 MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits 1 1 and 2 have been admitted. Any questions concerning 2 3 this docket? CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 4 for toll control in TC97-117 for one year. 5 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it... 6 7 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. MS. WIEST: TC97-121. 8 MR. COIT: We move for the admission of 9 Exhibit No. 1, the ETC request of Kadoka, dated 7-3-97, 10 and the admission of Exhibit No. 2, response to data 11 requests dated 10-28-97. 12 MS. WIEST: Any objections to Exhibits 1 and 13 2? If not, they've been admitted. Any questions 14 concerning this docket? 15 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 16 for toll control in TC97-121 for one year. 17 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'll second it. 18 19 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER. Concur. 20 MS. WIEST: TC97-125. MR. COIT: We'd move for the admission of ETC 21 request, Exhibit No. 1, dated 7-7-97, and Exhibit No. 22 2, response to data request of staff, which is dated 23 24 10-29-97. MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1 and 25

If not, they've been admitted. Any questions 1 2? concerning this docket? 2 CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 3 for toll control in TC97-125 for one year. 4 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 5 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: COncur. 6 7 MS. WIEST: TC97-130. MR. COIT: We would move for the admission of 8 Exhibit No. 1, the ETC request dated 7-10-97, and 9 Exhibit No. 2, the response to data request dated 10 11 10-14-97. MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1 and 12 2? If not, they've been admitted. Any questions 13 14 concerning this docket? CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver 15 for toll control in TC97-130 for one year. 16 17 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I would second it. 18 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur. 19 MS. WIEST: TC97-131. MR. COIT: We would move the admission of ETC 20 request Exhibit No. 1, which is dated 7-10-97, and 21 Exhibit No. 2, response to data request dated 10-14-97. 22 MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1 and 23 27 If not, they've been admitted. Any questions 24 25 concerning this docket?

	51
1	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
2	for toll control in TC97-131 for one year.
3	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it.
4	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
5	MS. WIEST: TC97-154.
6	MR. COIT: We would move into the record
7	Exhibit No. 1, the ETC request, dated 9-10-97, and also
8	Exhibit No. 2, the response to data r quest dated
9	10-16-97.
10	MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibit 1 and
11	2? If not, they have been admitted. Let's see, on
12	this one this was one of a couple that no time period
13	was requested for the waiver. I assume you still want
14	the one year?
15	MR. COIT: Mr. Barfield is here. He could
16	respond. He's Mr. Bob Barfield, manager for West
17	River.
18	MS. WIEST: They request a waiver but this is
19	one of the few ones that didn't ask for one year, as
20	far as I can see, or any time period. So I was
21	wondering if there was any different time period that
22	was being requested.
23	BOB BARFIELD,
24	called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
25	was examined and testified as follows:

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1	EXAMINATION
2	MR. BARFIELD: In response to your question,
3	since the vendor does not have a date, as far as we
4	know, at this time to provide this, that's the reason
5	we didn't ask for a certain time pariod on the waiver.
6	MS. WIEST: But we will need a time period.
7	MR. COIT: Would you be willing to accept the
8	one-year time period that is being granted to other
9	companies?
10	MR. BARFIELD: We sure would.
11	CHAIRMAN BURG: And I think the thought
1.2	behind it is if there still isn't any solution, then it
13	would be renewed or we'd request. With that, I'll move
14	that we grant a waiver for toll control in TC97-154 for
15	one year.
16	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I would second it.
17	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
8 1	MS. WIEST: Let's go to TC97-155.
19	MR. COIT: We would request admission of
2 0	Exhibit No. 1, which is the ETC request of Mobridge
21	Telecommunications, which is dated 9-10-97, and also
22	Exhibit No. 2, which is the response to data request
23	dated 10-16-97.
24	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, Exhibits
25	1 and 2 have been admitted. And I would have the same

question with respect to the length of the waiver. 1 MR. BARFIELD: And the response would be the 2 same. We would ask for a year on the waiver. 3 MS. WIEST: Thank you. Any other questions? 4 CHAIRMAN BURG: With that I'll move that we 5 grant a waiver on toll control in TC97-155 for one 6 7 year. COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second it. 8 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I concur. 9 MS. WIEST: Thank you. Let's skip to 10 11 TC97-167. MR. COIT: I would just note that Three River 12 Telco is not an SDITC member company, so I'm not really 13 14 here today to represent Three River Telco. 15 MS. WIEST: Nobody is here? 16 CHAIRMAN BURG: Do we have any questions on 17 it, or do we have to have representation? 18 MS. WIEST: Somebody needs to move it in. 19 MR. COIT: Well, if you're looking for a 20 body, I guess I can serve as the body. 21 MS. CREMER: Otherwise, I can move to admit 22 the two exhibits, Number 1, 10-10-97, the request for ETC, and 11-7-97, the amended -- oh, I'm sorry, that's 23 24 U S West. Let me try that again. 10-16 of '97 is the 25 request and 11-13-97 is the amended request, and I

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1	would ask that they be admitted in.
2	MS. WIEST: Any objection? If not, they've
3	been admitted. Are there any questions concerning this
4	docket? I would note that their application does
5	request a waiver for one period for toll control.
6	CHAIRMAN BURG: There isn't a question on the
7	single party line, though, is there?
8	MS. WIEST: No.
9	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move we grant a waiver
10	for toll control in TC97-167 for one year.
11	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'd second.
12	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Concur.
13	MS. WIEST: At this time did you want to go
14	to U S West, or is Harlan going to speak to these
15	dockets?
16	MS. CREMER: We'll finish up these first.
17	MS. WIEST: Okay.
18	(STAFF'S EXHIBIT NO. 1 WAS MARKED FOR
19	IDENTIFICATION.)
20	HARLAN BEST,
21	called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
22	was examined and testified as follows:
23	DIRECT EXAMINATION
24	BY MR. HOSECK:
25	Q. Would you state your name for the record,

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1	please.	
2	Α.	Harlan Best.
3	Q.	And what is your job?
4	Α.	I am deputy director of fixed utilities for
5	the Publi	c Utilities Commission, South Dakota.
6	Q.	And have you been present in the hearing room
7	this afte	rnoon for the hearing on t'ese applications?
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	And have you had the opportunity to review
10	the capti	on in the notice of this hearing which lists
11	the cases	which are before the Commission on this date?
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	And are you familiar with the applications in
14	each of t	hese cases?
15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	As a part of your job, have you reviewed
17	those app	olications?
18	Α.	Yes, I have.
19	Q.	You have before you an exhibit numbered
20	Staff's 1	No. 1; is that correct?
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	And is that an exhibit that you prepared in
23	the cours	se of your duties?
24	Α.	Yes, it is.
25	Q.	Just briefly explain to the Commission,
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1	please, what that exhibit entails.
2	A. What I have done on this exhibit is across
3	the top is listed each of the companies requesting
4	eligible telecommunications carrier status, the
5	associated docket number, and the staff counsel that is
6	assigned to the respective dockets. Down the side, the
7	left-hand side, is the requirements that are set forth
8	for ETC status. Populated within the columns is the
9	responses that the respective companies gave within
10	their exhibits 1 and Exhibit 2 that have been admitted
11	into the record.
12	Q. And are there any changes or corrections to
13	this exhibit that you would like to make at this time?
14	A. One that I am aware of is under Vivian
15	Telephone, Docket TC97-068, under the Lifeline and Link
16	Up it shows that it will be available 1-1-97. It
17	should be 1-1-98. I'm not aware of any other
18	corrections.
1.9	MR. HOSECK: Okay. At this point in time I
20	would move Staff's Exhibit No. 1 into evidence. This
21	is intended as testimony for all of the dockets en mass
22	with the exception of U S West.
23	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: U S West is on
24	here though.
25	MR. HOSECK: That would be handled later.

57 MS. WIEST: Is there any objection? 1 MR. COIT: My comment would be that I just 2 3 received this so I haven't had an opportunity to go through to make sure this is all accurate. I quess I 4 can take Mr. Best's word that it is accurate and I'll 5 have to do that, I guess. Other than that, I don't 6 have any comment. 7 MS. WIEST: Do you want an opportunity to 8 9 look it over? MR. COIT: Well, it might take me a while, so 10 11 I don't have any objection. MS. WIEST: Okay. Then Staff Exhibit No. 1 12 will be admitted into all of the dockets that we have 13 14 gone through so far. MR. HOSECK: Okay. Thank you. 15 Based on the review of these dockets that you 16 0. 17 have done and relying to whatever extent you may on Staff's Exhibit No. 1, did the applicant companies meet 18 19 the requirements of becoming an eligible 20 telecommunications carrier? Yes, they have, with the noted late-filed 21 Α. affidavits that will be done in a number of the 22 23 dockets. 24 Q. And with regard to advertising services 25 exchange-wide, do you have a recommendation to the

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1	Commission for a provision to be included in an order
2	which would come out of these proceedings?
3	A. Yes. Staff's recommendation for advertising
4	would be that the ETC carrier be required to advertise
5	at least once each year; and if they have any rate
6	change, that that rate change be advertised when it
7	does change.
8	Q. And in conclusion, do you have an opinion as
9	to whether or not the applicants contained on Exhibit
10	1, with the exception of U S West which has not had its
11	case heard yet at this time, whether or not those
12	applicants meet the qualifications as an eligible
13	telecommunications carrier?
14	A. With staff's review that has been undertaken,
15	yes, they do meet the requirements for ETC status.
16	MR. HOSECK: I have no further questions of
17	this witness.
18	MS. WIEST: Are there any questions of this
19	witness? Mr. Coit?
20	CROSS-EXAMINATION
21	BY MR. COIT:
22	Q. I assume when you talked about advertising
23	rate changes that you're referencing the rates just for
24	the essential services that are supported by universal
25	service?

59 Α. Yes. 1 MR. COIT: No further questions. 2 3 MS. WIEST: Ms. Rogers? 4 MS. ROGERS: No, no questions. 5 MS. WIEST: Mr. Heaston? 6 MR. HEASTON: No. CHAIRMAN BURG: The only question I'd have is 7 there any -- is advertising identified in any way? Is 8 there any criteria for what advertising means in the 9 context of this? Is the methods in the FCC Order as 10 11 well? 12 MS. WIEST: I'm sorry, what was the 13 question? CHAIRMAN BURG: The question I had for Harlan 14 or anybody else is, is there a meaning, is there a 15 description, definition for advertising, what that 16 17 constitutes? MS. WIEST: Under the statute itself 18 214(e)(1)(B) they must advertise the availability of 19 such services and if you're referring to the services 20 that are supported by federal universal service and the 21 charges therefore using media of general distribution. 22 CHAIRMAN BURG: Okay. I think that satisfies 23 24 me. 25 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Does that mean for

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60 Lifeline and Link Up, they have to advertise this 1 once? 2 3 MS. WIEST: That would be under staff's recommendation, I believe. 4 A. Yes, once each year. 5 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Well, frankly, I don't 6 think it's adequate. 7 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Are you doing 8 that? Are you -- to follow up -- excuse me, to follow 9 up on Commissioner Nelson's question, are you 10 recommending that they advertise once each year after? 11 I believe our order said that you have to send an 12 application to everyone once initially and then to 13 every new customer. You're requesting this 14 advertisement of Lifeline, Link Up in addition to, 15 would that be accurate or not? 16 A. Right. The Lifeline, Link Up under TC97-150, 17 which was issued yesterday, states that it shall be --18 a form shall be, or a letter shall be sent to present 19 customers, and then this would be an advertisement of 20 it. They'd have to do advertisement of this for at 21 22 least once each year. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Okay. Thank you. 23 COMMISSIONER NELSON: So is the answer to 24 Laska's questions it's in addition to? 25

Α. Yes. They would do it originally, and once a 1 2 year after. MS. WIEST: How would they advertise? 3 Where? 4 Where would they advertise? 5 Α. MS. WIEST: Yes. 6 7 A. Whatever general distribution it meets according, I assume, it means newspapers and those 8 9 types of publications. MS. WIEST: So it could be any type of 10 general distribution media once a year? 11 A. Whatever is available within their given 12 exchanges that they serve. 13 MS. WIEST: And it would only be for those 14 services supported right now by federal universal 15 16 service? A. Yes. 17 18 MS. WIEST: And every time they changed a rate for one of those services, then that would have to 19 be re-advertised at that time? 20 A. Yes. 21 MS. WIEST: Are there any other questions of 22 this witness? If not, thank you. Actually, I do. 23 Could you retake the stand, Harlan? I guess we have a 24 question for you. Could you look at your exhibit for 25

Venture Communications, TC97-095? 1 A. Yes. 2 MS. WIEST: Does the answer to number four, 3 single party service, we did grant them a waiver 4 5 because currently they do not have single party service apparently to three customers? 6 A. Yes. 7 MS. WIEST: So would that be incorrect there. 8 your question there? 9 A. It would be a clarification there to it, yes. 10 MS. WIEST: Okay. Thank you. Do you have 11 12 anything further, Mr. Hoseck? 13 MR. HOSECK: Staff has nothing further. Thank you. 14 15 MS. WIEST: Do you want to take a short break until we go to U S West? 16 MR. COIT: When does the Commission -- are 17 18 you going to wait until the end to rule on all of these with respect to the actual ETC designation? 19 MS. WIEST: That's why we're taking a short 2.0 21 break. (AT THIS TIME A SHORT RECESS WAS TAKEN.) 22 MS. WIEST: Let's get started again. And we 23 will go to TC97-163. 24 MR. HEASTON: And I would move admission of 25

Exhibit 1, which is the request, and Exhibit 2, which
 is the amended request, and Exhibit 3, which is the
 service territory map. That's Exhibit 1, 2 and 3
 respectively in the docket.

63

MS. WIEST: Any objection to Exhibits 1, 2 and 3? Do you have a copy of the service territory map? Are there any objections to Exhibits 1, 2 and 3? If not, they've been admitted. You may proceed, Mr. Heaston.

10 MR. HEASTON: We would also join in the motion on the toll control. The reason we did not seek 11 a waiver in the initial application is because as I 12 read Paragraph 388 of the Order in the DA 97-157 13 indicated that toll blocking would be sufficient in the 14 meantime and it was dependent upon when you upgraded 15 switches. And so we do not feel we need a waiver of 16 toll control, but the common wisdom seems to be there 17 needs to be a waiver, so we will follow the herd here 18 and request the toll control waiver also. 19

And we are also one of the parties to the request of the FCC to reconsider the toll limitation, that this includes both toll blocking and toll control. And I guess we would also point out that with the implementation of number portability that is going to impact toll control somewhat significantly. And so

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1	while we agree with Bob Barfield in his observation
2	that since we don't know when it's going to happen,
3	that's why we wouldn't want a time limit on it, but we
4	are willing to accept the one year with the
5	understanding that if there is not the ability to
6	implement it or if the ability is too expensive to
7	implement, that we would be able to come back to this
8	Commission and seek further waiver of that, of
9	implementing toll control with part of the essential
10	telecommunications carrier obligation.
11	MS. WIEST: Okay. Would the Commissioners
12	CHAIRMAN BURG: Did we admit the exhibits?
13	MS. WIEST: Yes.
14	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'll move that we waive toll
15	control for TC97-163 for one year.
16	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Well, I'm going to
17	second it, but I heard an expansion of what we've been
18	waiving in the past from giving them one year with the
19	idea we're going to renew it. And the reason I was
20	willing to grant it is because technology is not out
21	there. Now, the Act requires that it be there and it
22	didn't say anything about how much it cost. So I
23	didn't hear anything about one of the reasons we were
24	waiving it in the past was because that it might be
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65 there. I can understand why technology wasn't there, 1 but I didn't -- I wasn't in Congress when they voted 2 3 that was part of the Act. 4 MR. HEASTON: It's not part of the Act. I 5 guess that's the first thing. It's an FCC --6 COMMISSIONER NELSON: It's a rule. 7 MR. HEASTON: It's an FCC dictate. COMMISSIONER NELSON: But it has the same 8 weight as the rules and statute unless it's changed in 9 10 court; right? MR. HEASTON: That's true. But unless the 11 FCC changes, as we've urged them to do. 12 13 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Right. So I'm seconding your motion with the understanding it's 14 exactly as we had stated it originally; is that 15 16 correct? 17 CHAIRMAN BURG: I mean the motion was for one 18 year. 19 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I believe the motion was for one year, a waiver for one year, and I 20 didn't know that the motion had anything more than 21 22 that, than just a waiver from toll control for one 23 year. 24 CHAIRMAN BURG: It doesn't. 25 COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Then I'll concur

1	COMMISSIONER NELSON: All I'm saying, though,
2	is I voted for it and there will be a record that I
3	voted for it; and the reason I voted for it was the
4	technology wasn't available. And that's a lot
5	different in my mind than it's cost prohibitive.
6	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I think
7	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Not that that wouldn't
8	be an issue in my mind that you could debate. I don't
9	want a record that I'm supporting something for a
10	different reason than I did.
11	CHAIRMAN BURG: Just a comment that I'd make
12	on it, I guess. If there isn't a technology, I really
13	hate to see all 50 or 75 filings just for an
14	extension. If there is some way we could certify there
15	is no technology and extend it as we come up towards
16	that year, I'd welcome that solution rather than go
17	through this with this many of them. I, personally, in
18	my own mind, cannot see a solution when we're going to
19	have multiple companies in number portability. It
20	boggles my mind to see how that's even going to happen
21	that you could end up with any kind of toll
22	limitation. So I'm guessing when we come up to the
23	year, we're still not going to have a solution, and $I^\prime\pi$
24	not looking toward to requiring all of you I mean
25	that's the name of a bureaucrat to file that many

67 pieces of paper. So if we can find a way to 1 consolidate it at that time, I would welcome any 2 suggestions. That's all I have. 3 MR. HEASTON: I have Mr. Lehner available 4 5 here, and we do have a couple questions to ask him. 6 JON LEHNER, 7 called as a witness, being first duly sworn, 8 was examined and testified as follows: 9 DIRECT EXAMINATION 10 BY MR. HEASTON: Q. Mr. Lehner, in our application we described 11 the issue of eliminating multi-party services and going 12 to single party service throughout U S West service 13 areas. Can you update the Commission on the status of 14 that consistent with what we've already put in the 15 16 application? A. Yes. As of October 31 of this year the 17 number of multi-party or two- and four-party customers 18 in U S West's territory is 612. 612. 19 CHAIRMAN BURG: What was the date on that, 20 21 Jon? 22 A. As of 10-31-97. And what can you tell the Commission about 23 Q. our continuing effort to eliminate the multi-party 24 25 service?

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A. The plan right now is to eliminate all of 1 those 612 except for 52 of them. And the time frame 2 for that will be by the end of the second guarter. 3 which I suppose we could put for a date of 6-30 of 4 '98. So all but 52 of those will be completed by 6-30 5 of '98. 6 3 Q. And what about the remaining 52? A. The remaining 52 are extremely high cost 8 9 upgrades. And until other technology or other means 10 become available, there are no plans right now. We have no plans to move ahead with those 52. 11 12 Q. With that we still believe that it is appropriate for us to -- we still believe the waiver is 13 appropriate in this case; is that correct? 14 15 A. That is correct. MR. HEASTON: That's all the questions I 16 17 have. MS. WIEST: Ms. Cremer? 18 19 CROSS-EXAMINATION 20 BY MS. CREMER: Q. Mr. Lehner, where are those 52 located? Are 21 22 they spread throughout, or are they in a specific area, do you know? 23 A. I could read them off for you. There's about 24 a dozen exchanges. Or I could give you a late-filed 25

69 exhibit. Let me just read them off. Arlington is 1 four; Belle Fourche, six; De Smet, four; Huron, three; 2 Lake Preston, one. 3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Do you want to start 4 5 over? A. Arlington, four; Belle Fourche, six; De Smet, 6 four; Huron, three; Lake Preston, one; Madison, two; 7 Milbank, four; Pierre, two; Redfield, two; Sisseton, 8 six; Spearfish, two; Volga, five; Watertown, ten; 9 10 Yankton, one. Q. Is there a particular reason? Is it like 11 Anaconda line or something? 12 A. It's a combination of many factors, but you 13 mean as far as the 52 are concerned? 14 15 Q. Yes. 16 Α. It's a combination of many factors. We're talking about feeder distribution, we're talking about 17 in some cases a PAIR GAIN systems like Anaconda that 18 would need to be replaced. 19 MS. CREMER: Okay. That's all the questions 20 21 I have. CHAIRMAN BURG: Have you investigated any 22 other technical solutions other than to a single party 23 24 other than line extension? A. You mean in order to provide a single party 25

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1	service to these customers?
2	CHAIRMAN BURG: Yes.
3	A. Yes. I think the answer is we are constantly
4	looking for a cheaper way to do this because in some
5	cases, Commissioner, we're talking about over \$100,000
6	to upgrade a single customer, and it just doesn't make
7	sense to do that. And the answer would seem to lie
8	probably in some form of wireless, but so far the
9	wireless technologies, whether then satellite or fixed
10	wireless, are still pretty expensive. I see that as
11	the ultimate solution, though, to some of these.
12	CHAIRMAN BURG: I'm going to move to grant
13	the waiver.
14	MS. WIEST: Just a second. Do the
15	Commissioners have any other questions? As opposed to
16	the other ones, I'm going to have to ask you some
17	questions to verify things that were in the application
18	because that was signed by Mr. Heaston. It wasn't
19	signed by a witness with an affidavit, as all the
20	others were. So bear with me for a second.
21	A. I've never trusted his signature either.
22	MS. WIEST: First one, does U S West provide
2.3	voice grade access to the public switched network to
24	all in its service area?
25	A. Yes.

MS. WIEST: And does it provide local usage? 1 A. Yes. 2 MS. WIEST: Do you provide dual tone 3 multi-frequency signalling or its functional 4 equivalent? 5 A. Yes. 6 MS. WIEST: Do you provide access to your 7 emergency services? 8 9 A . Yes. MS. WIEST: Do you provide access to operator 10 services? 11 12 A . Yes. MS. WIEST: Do you provide access to 13 interexchange service? 14 15 A. Yes. MS. WIEST: And do you provide access to 16 directory assistance? 17 18 A. Yes. MS. WIEST: And you've already talked about 19 toll control and the waiver. Do you provide or are you 20 21 able to provide toll blocking? A. Yes. 22 MS. WIEST: Then getting back to your request 23 for the waiver on single party service, I know in your 24 application you talked about the ones that you have no 25

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1	plans, you know, of providing service due to the cost
2	and everything. My problem, I guess, is that I don't
3	see that there is any de minimus exception within the
4	FCC rules with respect to single party service. Have
5	you been granted any of this type of de minimus
6	exception to that requirement, do you know, in any of
7	the other states?
8	A. I am not aware.
9	MS. WIEST: And what I'm getting at is that
10	it appears, according to the FCC rules and I'm
11	looking at 47 54.101(c), that in order to grant any
12	additional time to complete network upgrades for single
13	party or enhanced 911 or toll limitation, that the
14	Commission does in fact have to set a time period for
15	you to complete those network upgrades. Is your
16	contention that we do not?
17	A. I would not make that contention. I'm going
18	to let my attorney argue with you about that.
19	MS. WIEST: Well, then, I do have a couple
20	other questions. My other question is on service
21	area. And it is also a requirement of the state
22	Commission to designate service areas as opposed to
23	study areas for nonrural telecommunications companies.
24	First of all, you would agree that you are a nonrural
25	telecommunications company?

1	A. Yes.
2	MS. WIEST: And in the FCC's public notice
3	96-45 issued 9-29-97, it does state that we must send
4	to USAC the names of the ETC's and the designated
5	service areas for nonrural carriers no later than
6	December 31st, 1997. And I know you made some
7	reference to these things in your application, but I
8	don't think you really told us what you want your
9	service area to be. Because the FCC has told us that
10	we better not adopt your study area as your service
11	area for large ILEC's. Do you have service areas for
12	your company that you want the Commission to adopt at
13	this time?
14	A. Well, I suppose that and, Bill, jump in
15	here, I guess, to help me with this. But I suppose
16	that our service area ought to be our exchanges in the
17	state of South Dakota. Now, the study area is a
18	different issue and that has not been determined yet.
19	But I would think that our service area would be our
20	exchanges that we serve in the state of South Dakota.
21	MR. HEASTON: If I may from a legal
22	standpoint, there is no definition yet; and certainly
23	our service area would be those areas within which we
24	are authorized to provide the supported services.
25	MS. WIEST: Right. And that's my question.

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1	MR. HEASTON: From a general perspective, I
2	guess, if that's what you're looking for is what you
3	would designate to the FCC would not be anything
4	outside the area where we're authorized or certified to
5	provide service. When it comes to where the areas are
6	going to be that would be where the services would be
7	supported by a universal service fund, whether it's
8	high cost or low income or libraries or whatever it
9	happens to be, you know, that's an area that's
0	currently under debate depending upon which proxy cost
11	model is going to be accepted. And so that's why we
2	are somewhat vague on that term because what this
13	Commission has not done and nor has the FCC come out
4	with any final decision as to what model it is going to
1.5	accept. So I think if we're required to take a look at
16	a "service area." I would do it from the standpoint of
17	what Jon to comply with the law. If that's what
18	we're looking for, to comply with the FCC requirement.
9	I think that's what we would look at is an area,
2.0	though, no larger than an exchange area, which we would
21	equate to a wire center or an exchange area. And we
2	have however many are on that.
2.3	MS. WIEST: He how many exchanges do you
4	still have?
15	MR. HEASTON: It's on the list we submitted.

75 A. I can't answer that exactly. It's 1 2 approximately 35. 3 MS. WIEST: It would be attached? MR. HEASTON: It's on our exhibit to our 4 application. 5 MS. WIEST: So however many with the 6 amendment the three that were missed. That's how many 7 service areas you would like the Commission to 8 9 designate for U S West at this time? 10 A. I guess I'm not sure whether we would want to 11 designate each exchange. MS. WIEST: My problem is we are supposed to 12 tell the FCC by December 31st what your designated 13 14 service area is. A. Then I suppose we ought to do it exchange by 15 16 exchange. 17 MS. WIEST: If you want more time to think 18 about it --19 MR. HEASTON: Yes, I think I would. I mean this is not something that's come up in the other two 20 states that I've done this in, and I had the same basic 21 application. I will have to -- I will do a late-filed 22 exhibit on that if I could with an affidavit from Jon. 23 MS. WIEST: Okay. 24 25 MR. HEASTON: What are you relying on again,

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Rolayne? 1 MS. WIEST: Actually what as far as the FCC's 2 public notice, that was docket 96-45 DA 97-1892 issued 3 9-29-97. 4 MR. HEASTON: 1892. 5 MS. WIEST: And I'm also relying on 6 7 paragraphs 185, 192, 193 of the FCC's universal service 8 order. 9 MR. HEASTON: 197, 175. MS. WIEST: 157 or --10 MS. CREMER: 185, 192. 11 MS. WIEST: The docket number for the FCC 12 13 universal service. 14 MR. HEASTON: Not the docket number but the order number, the order number. 15 16 MS. WIEST: Okay. I was looking at 185, 192 17 and paragraph --18 MR. HEASTON: I got those. Was it FCC 19 97-157? MS. WIEST: 157, right. And the other thing 20 you might want to address in paragraph 185, for 21 example, it does say if a state PUC adopts its existing 22 service areas for large ILEC's, their study area, this 23 would erect significant barriers to entry. We are also 24 25 encouraged to consider designating service areas that

require an ILEC to serve areas other than they have not
 traditionally served.

MR. HEASTON: Yes. And, see, this -- what 3 the problem this causes is where you have not 4 considered and have left to the FCC to determine how 5 that's going to be modeled from a proxy standpoint. 6 And, yes, we are advocating smaller geographic elements 7 than the wire center for universal high cost support 8 but I do not have a South Dakota specific look because 9 this Commission decided not to do their own earlier 10 this -- a couple months ago, as opposed to Wyoming and 11 North Dakota where I do have that because those two are 12 13 looking at doing their own, or suggesting their own cost study. So I do have the small grids, as we call 14 it, and I could identify that for you. I cannot 15 identify anything smaller than right now than a wire 16 17 center.

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MS. WIEST: Okay.

MR. COIT: Excuse me, may I comment briefly on this? And I understand that I'm not a party but I do believe it was my understanding today that the whole issue of disaggregated service areas for U S West or any other company may come up. But I would like to say we certainly have an interest in the issue. And I think that the FCC rules indicate that -- the orders

1	and the rules indicate that before changing an existing
2	service area, that the Commission at the state level
3	needs to find that it's consistent with universal
4	service requirements. So I think it's a really
5	involved involves a lot more than the review of
6	actually looking at ETC service obligations. You're
7	talking about making changes in a U S West service area
8	that could significantly change the level of support it
9	might receive under a federal universal service fund.
10	Decisions on U S West service area disaggregation and
11	so forth could certainly impact rural telephone
12	companies as well. And I guess going into this
13	proceeding it was our understanding that there are
14	certain established incumbent LEC service areas, and we
15	didn't understand. I guess, that we that the issue
16	in this U S West docket or any of the other ones would
17	be with regard to disaggregating service areas.
18	MS. WIEST: I'm not talking about
19	disaggregating service areas. And I think you have to
20	recognize the distinction that was made between
21	nonrurals and rural companies with respect to service
22	area. If we want to look at doing anything to rural
23	companies with respect to disaggregation, we have to
24	specifically petition the FCC. That's all I'm talking
25	about, and that's the reason why I only brought up this

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1	issue with respect to U S West. And it's just my
2	understanding the Commission does have to do the
3	service area in order for U S West to get your
4	universal service money.
5	MR. HEASTON: If I could have until whatever
6	date was suggested earlier on getting the additional
7	affidavits in, I'll have a recommendation for you from
8	U S West on that.
9	MS. WIEST: Okay. Are the e any other
10	questions of this witness? One more question,
11	Mr. Lehner. Do you have any observation to what
12	Mr. Best suggested as advertising requirements for your
13	company?
14	A. I'm not sure that I understood exactly what
15	he was requiring. If the requirement is to advertise
16	it once a year in the newspaper, I don't think we have
17	a problem with that.
18	MS. WIEST: And getting back to single party
19	service is high cost, the only barrier is to provide
20	single party service to those 52 customers?
21	A. Yes.
22	MS. WIEST: Is it also U S West's position
23	that the settlement agreement that you've stated is
24	suspended concerning single party service no longer
25	applies where I believe you stated you would have
	appress where i believe you stated you would have

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1	single party service to all customers by the year 2000?
2	A. Had the 121 investment program continued, I
3	would have been out here talking to the staff and to
4	you about these anyway, because as we honed down to
5	some to the last few on some of these exchanges, it
6	became obvious that this was this is foolish to
7	spend that kind of money with the current technology.
8	Just doesn't make any sense.
9	MS. WIEST: That's all I have. Mr. Heaston,
0	you might also want to address the question of whether
.1	the Commission has the authority to provide any de
2	minimus exception to the single party without putting
3	the time line on it.
4	MR. HEASTON: I don't know that de minimus is
5	the issue, but I do think that you could put a time
6	line on it and make it renewable that we would have to
7	come in. I think what the rule would allow you to do
8	is require us to come in on a regularly-scheduled
9	basis, maybe annually, maybe semi-annually, to update
2.0	the Commission of where we are technologywise in taking
21	care of these last 52. That would be my position on
22	this is that that puts a time limit on and it makes it
13	driven by the technology and the affordability of it.
4	MS. WIEST: Okay. Any other questions?
5	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I have a question

ï	of Mr. Lehner. And the reason I have a question is
2	because in your amended application you might have
3	addressed it, however, I don't have a copy of that and
4	I apologize. But you addressed in here and you have an
5	exhibit on your original application that regards
6	Lifeline, Link Up. And basically what it is it's your
7	tariff, or a page that looks like a tariff page to me.
8	Now, U S West really intends to comply with the
9	Commission order in Lifeline, Link Up?
10	A. Absolutely.
11	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: I need to know
12	that.
13	A. And that page doesn't apply any more.
14	COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: Thank you.
15	MS. WIEST: Any other questions? Thank you.
16	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I guess I have a
17	question. You know, you when you were talking about
18	why you shouldn't have to provide this single party
19	systems for these areas that you listed like Spearfish
20	and Pierre and all the list that you went through
21	A. Yes.
22	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Why would it it just
23	seems weird to me that it would be that expensive to
24	provide those services in some areas. Like Pierre and
25	Huron, those are pretty I mean can you explain that
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1	to me a little bit because I find that a little odd.
2	A. The high cost we're talking about in many
3	cases, not only replacing, we're talking about
4	customers that were engineered probably back in the
5	sixties and seventies to multi-party service with no
6	intention of having single party service. So we're
7	talking in many cases miles and miles of distribution
8	cable, some cases six pair, 11 pair, maybe even greate
9	pair. So we're talking about now having to replace
10	that cable with probably 50 pair or a hundred pair
11	cable. And we're also talking about many cases where
12	at the end of that cable we have to extend what some
13	people will call a drop, what I call a pair of wires,
14	sometimes several miles. And in order to provide
15	single party service well, I take that back in that
16	case. The drop piece of that will be okay. I was
17	thinking of if they have more than one line. But we'r
18	talking about distribution cable, we're talking about
19	feeder, and we're talking in some cases about PAIR GAI
20	systems that are just plain full. I'm talking about
21	systems that you've heard like Anaconda that are going
22	to need to be replaced. It's expensive,
23	COMMISSIONER NELSON: I guess in my mind it
24	seems to me that cost prohibitive I didn't exactly
25	envision exactly what you were just explaining to me
	And the second

because I was thinking maybe these lines had to be run 1 2 out miles and miles and miles and there's nobody out there or something. But if this is in a fairly 3 populated area, and it doesn't seem to me that these 4 people should have to live with just two party 5 telephone system when most of the world doesn't, as we 6 know it in South Dakota, doesn't have to do that 7 8 because the lines are all filled up. I mean I'm looking for some reason why that's acceptable, 9 especially when some of those little companies are 10 saying that they got maybe three or four people left 11 that they don't have that service for and they've made 12 every effort to say, well, we want a waiver but we will 13 do it by the end of the year or whatever. 14 15 A. I think that most of the companies you've

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16 been listening to up until now -- and I obviously can't 17 speak for them, but I think you're talking about 18 engineering that was done probably 15, 20 years ago in most of these companies' cases where they at the time 19 spent the money to do that. We did not do that. 20 We 21 provided distribution systems that were literally designed not to provide single party service. There 22 23 are different funding mechanisms and different 24 requirements that we've had. They've had the ability to spend that kind of money and recover it. Now, I can 25

spend \$100,000 or \$150,000 or 50,000, whatever it is, to do these, but somewhere that has to be recovered and it isn't going to be recovered from a customer. That customer isn't going to pay for that.

5 COMMISSIONER NELSON: It seems to me this 6 flies in the face of what the governor's bill said last 7 year. I mean here we're talking making available high 8 technology to everybody in South Dakota. Basically 9 that's what the bill says. And we're talking here some 10 people that aren't even going to have single party 11 telecommunication in this state.

A. Commissioner, all I can tell you is what the cost is. And I think that's -- I think that's, unless there's a recovery mechanism, it would make no sense to spend that kind of money. And I certainly wouldn't recommend it.

17 CHAIRMAN BURG: The question I have in the 18 LEC industry when we have these kind of situations once 19 in a while there's another provider that is closer that 20 can do it. Would that be the case to any of these? 21 Would that be a reasonable solution ever?

A. Yes, it would. And, Commissioner, if there any company in this room that would like to serve any of these 52, I would be happy to negotiate.

25

CHAIRMAN BURG: I think maybe when we're down

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1	to 52, we ought to get a list of those names and see if
2	we could work it out. I share what Counsel has said.
3	I'm not sure we can make the exception. I know that
4	U S West's counsel has given us what I call a short
5	term one, that in other words, we could give the waiver
6	for a limited period of time, but I don't know that's
7	an indefinite solution and we probably ought to work
8	look at working together to meet and find the solution
9	to meet the FCC rules I think if we can. But so many
10	maybe, I guess, what I would like to request is the
11	actual name and location of those 52 filed at some
12	time. I don't care whether it's part of this docket or
13	not.
14	A. I think that can be provided.
15	MS. WIEST: Any other questions? If not,
16	thank you.
17	CHAIRMAN BURG: I suppose we do need some
18	type of waiver in order to grant them an ETC status.
19	MS. WIEST: Sorry, for which now?
20	CHAIRMAN BURG: For single party.
21	MS. WIEST: At this time staff has a witness
22	on this case first.
23	MS. CREMER: Staff would call Harlan Best.
24	HARLAN BEST,
25	called as a witness, being previously sworn,

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1	was examined and testified as follows:
2	DIRECT EXAMINATION
3	BY MS. CREMER:
4	Q. Harlan, were you the analyst assigned to
5	TC97-163, U S West's application?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. And have you reviewed that application by U S
8	West?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. And would you agree with Mr. Lehner when he
11	testified earlier that they met all the requirements of
12	47 CFR 54-101?
13	A. That they have met those?
14	Q. Yes.
15	A. Yes, with the discussion that we've had on
16	single party.
17	Q. Right. Okay. And at your recommendation for
18	advertising, would that be the same for U S West as it
19	was for the others?
2.0	A. Yes.
21	Q. And what would your recommendation be for the
22	Commission in defining a service area for U S West?
23	A. It would be the wire center.
24	MS. CREMER: That's all the questions I would
25	have.

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87 MS. WIEST: Any questions, Ms. Wilka? 1 2 MS. WILKA: No questions. MS. WIEST: Commissioners? 3 4 CHAIRMAN BURG: The question I'd have is based on that, should we not -- I mean is this -- what 5 do I call it? Is this a document that is filed in 6 7 these hearings? 8 MS. CREMER: Yes. CHAIRMAN BURG: I guess I think we ought to 9 correct that exhibit to put no on each of those that 10 we've made a waiver for on the single party because I 11 believe the answer is no and we've made a waiver to 12 13 satisfy that. 14 MS. CREMER: Okay. 15 CHAIRMAN BURG: Since that's filed. COMMISSIONER SCHOENFELDER: We have not moved 16 for a waiver in that area, have we? 17 CHAIRMAN BURG: Yes, for six months on one 18 19 other company. 20 MS. WIEST: We have two single party waivers so far, but U S West we haven't moved yet; right? 21 CHAIRMAN BURG: But if we do and for any we 22 do, since he's a witness on the stand and this is his 23 document, I think that this document should be 24 corrected to reflect, no, they do not meet that to 25

1 coincide with the waivers we've given. MS. CREMER: Okay. 2 CHAIRMAN BURG: I guess I don't know. 3 What do we need to do to make sure that correction is made? 4 MS. WIEST: I believe there are three 5 companies that do not at this time provide single party 6 service, so all they would have to do is change that 7 yes to no for those Stateline, Venture, and U S West; 8 right? 9 CHAIRMAN BURG: And the testimony on the 10 record is adequate to accomplish that? 11 12 MS. WIEST: Yes. CHAIRMAN BURG: Okay. That's all I 13 14 wondered. MS. WIEST: So how many wire centers does U S 15 16 West have? 17 38. A. MS. WIEST: 38. Thank you. Any other 18 19 questions of this witness? 20 MS. CREMER: No. MS. WIEST: Would you like to admit this 21 docket for the purposes of this docket? Before I only 22 admitted it for the other dockets. 23 MS. CREMER: Actually I wasn't going to move 24 it into this one because people testified to it, so I 25

didn't really need it in mine. But I can certainly 1 2 move it. MS. WIEST: It's up to you. 3 MS. CREMER: We don't need it in this docket. 4 MS. WIEST: Any other questions of this 5 6 witness? Thank you. Anything else from any of the parties? At this time I believe the Commission will 7 take these matters under advisement. We are waiting 8 for some late-filed exhibits in some dockets, and it 9 will be possible that perhaps the Commission will make 10 the decisions either at a Commission meeting or at the 11 12 December 2nd hearing on some other related ETC dockets. Are there any questions from anybody or any 13 14 comments? MR. COIT: I would just, for the record, like 15 to formally request that the Commission designate each 16 of the -- based upon the record, the affidavits yet to 17 be submitted, that the Commission designate each of the 18 rural telephone companies, SDITC member companies, as 19 ETC's and that their study areas be designated as their 20 service area. That's all I have. 21 22 MS. WIEST: Thank you. That will close the 23 hearing. 24 (THE HEARING CONCLUDED AT 3:50 P.M.) 25

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1	STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
2	COUNTY OF HUGHES
3	
4	I, Lori J. Grode, RMR, Notary Public, in and
5	for the State of South Dakota, do hereby certify that
6	the above hearing, pages 1 through 89, inclusive, was
7	recorded stenographically by me and reduced to
8	typewriting.
9	I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing
0	transcript of the said hearing is a true and correct
1	transcript of the stenographic notes at the time and
2	place specified hereinbefore.
3	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or
4	employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties,
5	nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel,
6	or financially interested directly or indirectly in
7	this action.
8	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
9	hand and seal of office at Pierre, South Dakota, this
0	1st day of December, 1997.
1	
2	
3	Lori J. Grode, RMR
4	
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response 10/14/97 cell by J. Brown	10/167 Meter: response due		will do so poing forward in accord with any specific advertising standards that the Commission may density	Ye Soofi Ardinem, NE Soofi Capinoor, WY Soofi Carlon, NE Welai Carl, NE	CiviCaug does not currently offer within its service areas 11/108 will be offered under 1 throng of 47 CFR 54.400 - 417, 10/14/97	-tol control not prevened responsibly a wave for one year	tol becary	1	î	1	1	AN 131455	1	1	1	Concernant Concernant Concernant Concernant Concernant Concernant Concernant Concernant Concernant
nesponse 104/07 selfs by D. Quaschrisch	NOTION MEAN IMPORTANT CAR		will do so going forward in sociard with any specific advertising standards that the Commission may service	1	VCSC currently offers without the service server. 1/1700 with the otherwell all offers without the otherwell all offers without any ECDPUC decisions. 1004071	Ad ones of product	a many	1	1	1	1	The to business and	1	1	1	Viety Case & See Conversion Conversion CH
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response 11/3/97 cath by B. Hanson	by 101487 man more day		duel as as or a going forwar basis in accordance with an specific advantany particulars that the Commission may density	î	Ar, Rubner des no corrects offer within to there areas, 11/28 with offered under terms of 7 CFR 54 400 - 417, 11/247	-sai santra nai provided. respectivy a waive for one	And provide the	í	1	i	1		1	i	1	Mount Rushmore Telephone Conversity TCB1-074 CH
response 11/247 oath by B. Hanson	by 101497 letter, response due	Intervention granted to DTI and DTS - 7/2907	and do to or a going Soward will do to on a going Soward Basis in accordance with trights in accordance with trig specific adversion sandards that the commission may develop Commission may develop	Yee Law Ander 40 ME 7 Law Ander 40 ME 7	M. Rushmore does not currently offer within its service areas. 11/38 and so its and a service areas devoid under larger dir to chande under larger dir to chande under larger dir C/R 54.400 - 417, 11/367 and any SCPUC accessor. 11/377	-tal control not provided, requesting a waver for one year	-tol biodany	ĩ	í	1	1	Y	1	i	1	Fort Randal Telephone Company TC01405 CH



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torist unit, records for by torist? reports torist? with by it income	uti da ta parq Troward n accord set are yande at-articul accurate has the Commission may drawing	Via Nume Balan, ND	Values currently offer white its served areas a 11/08 and an alternative rest serves at the filled and a 11 and any SCPUC secondary SCPUC secondary SCPUC	and construined provided.	Average and	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	Commentation IV
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NOTAT VALUE AND	uel do so gong tarvard in descrittang andr any specific descrittang randomit that tha Communion may densing	Via North New Ellippion, NO	All Long tons on currents of the second seco	-tal control not provided. requesting a waiver for cost	(I see 1)	î	1	1	Ĩ	Yes. 108407	1	1	1	Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association TC017-009 KC
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ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER REQUEST

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	ADVERTIGE NEW AND	47 U.S.C. 214(4)(3) security and another area (by NCA)	all C.F.R. Skubb and M. etc. man any advanced from the course toronomet		 val instation for qualifying two modern components 	1 MORE IN STREAM AND STREAM	7 SCORE IS PRESENTATION REPORTS	1. ACCESS IN OCCUPANT MANAGER	1 works to envery services	A suggestion of the second second	3 due time multitrepancy separate to its functionel equal	2 was used.	and/at research to public	11 S.L.R. M. 1910
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10/107 adar, mapones for by 10/1487 mapones 10/1487 adb by 1 Exerced	vel () to pany forward in accord with any specific annesting streament that The Commission may annesig	1	The County states not a conversity offer welfore the service areast. 11/160 and discrete under the states of 47 CFR 54.400 - 417. 10/1407	-of sover or provided	And proceeding	1	1	1	1	YM. 101442		1	1	TacCounty Tomona Ma China China China China Chin
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	wild to pay breat in constant with any seal that commute may the Commute may smally	1	Whence does not currently other writen its service area to make at 25 others of under the service of 47 C/R 54 400 - 417, 108907	-tel sorter or proved.	ad Property	1	1	1	1	Ven. 10597	1	1	1	Annual Independent Teleptone Company TC97-113 CH
10107 actor, response due by 101427 response 10047 seth by 8 Heavyon, Sr. Pres	will do as gang forward in concentration with any spectra transformer statistical transformation may stream	1	B-C currently offers within 1 theretics areas, 11/164 will b caffered under new larms 47 C/78 54 400-417 and larms 47 SDPUC decisions, 10/947	tal control net provided	for process par	1	1	:	1	Yes 10007	1	1	1	Toppendert Teachors Company CON-114 CH
10167 Maler, response due 10167 Maler, response due 10167 Maler, response due by 101467 by 101457 by 101457 by 101467 by 101467 response 10667 response 10697 response 10697 self by 8 Haugen, Sr. Pres each by 8 Haugen, Sr. Pres	n will do to going toward in coloradional with any second eleventing structure for the Conversion may device	1	BC currently offers within Bullwoon Blast not currently service areas. 1/168 will be offer within 18 aeroces areas offered under new terms 47 1/168 will be offered under CFR 54.400 - 411 and any terms of 41 CFR 54.400 - SDPUC decisione. 109967 417 109997	-sol control not provided, requesting a warver for over	prices la	1	1	1	1	Yes 10697	1	1	1	Lunan Teaghara Company TC01-115 CH

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	McCook Cooperative Telephone Company TC87-117	Kadoka Telephone Company TC97-121	Brockings Munispail Telephone TC97-125	Hanson Communication Inc. dbie Hanson County Talephone Co. TC87-130	Henson Communication Inc. d/b/e McCook Talecom TCIP7-131	West River Telecommunications Cooperative TC97-154	Mobridge Telecommunications Co. TC97-155
47 C.F.R. 54.101(a)	CH	CH	KC	CH	CH	KC	CH
1. voice grade access to public switched network	Y	Yes	Y	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
2 local usage	Y	Yes	Tes	Y	Yes	Yes	T
2. dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equal	-		Tes		Yes	Yes	Yes
4. single party service or its functional equivalent	Yes. 10/14/97	Yes. 10/25/97	-	Yes. 10/1497	Yes 101497	Yes. 101697	Yes. 10/1697
5. access to emergency services	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Access to operator services		Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Yes
7. access to intereschange services	Yes	Tes	Yes		-	Ym	Y
8. eccess to directory assistance	Yes	Y		Y		Yes	Y
 Ind amilation for qualifying low-income consumers 	-toll blocking	-toil blocking	-tel blocking	-tail blocking	-toil stocking	-tail blocking -tail control not provided; requesting a walver	-tol blocking -tol control not provided
	-toli control not provided; requesting a weiver for one year	toil control not provided, requesting a waiver for one year	-toil control not provided; requesting a weiver for one year	toli control not provided, requesting a valver for one year	-kall control not provided, requesting a watvier for one year		requesting a weiver
47 C.F.R. 54 405 and 54 411 Initial stratistic Children and Child Up ternicos to qualifying low-income consumers	McCook does not currently offer within its service areas 1/1/68 will be offered under terms of 47 CFR 54.400 .417 10/14/67	Kadoka does not currently offer within its service area. 1/1/68 will be offened under terms of 47 CFR 54.400 - .417. 10/28/97	Brookings does not current offer within its service area. 1/1/68 will be offered under terms of 47 CFR 54.400 - .417. 10/25/97	currently offer within its	Hanson Communications currently offers within its envice areas. 1/1/66 wit b infernal under new larms 47 CPFI 54.400 – 417 and any SDPUC decisions. 10/145	West River currently offers within its service sneas. (1/146 with the offered under new terms 47 CFR 54.400.) (417 and any SDPUC Tdeclations. 10/16/97	Mobridge Telecontraunications currently offers within its service enast. 17/80 will be offerst under new terms 47 CFR 54.400 - 417 and ety SDPUC decisions. 10/15/97
47 U.S.C. 214(4)(5)		1.00			Personal A.		
designate service area (by NXX)	¥	Y	Y	***	Yes	**	Yes
	will do so gaing lowerd in accord with any specific advertising standards that the Commission may develop	will do so going tonward in accordance with any specifi advertising standards that the Commission may develop	deccord with any specific	will do so poing forward in accord with any soledito adversing standards that the Contrassion may develop	will do so pong forward in accord with any specific edvertising standards that the Continuation may develop	will do so pong forward in accord with any specific adversing standards that the Commission may develop	will do so going forward in accord with any apeolo adverting landards that the Commission may develop
	10/1/97 letter, response due by 10/14/97	10/1/67 letter, response due by 10/14/97	10/1.97 letter; response due by 10/14/97	10/1.97 letter; response due by 10/14/97	10/1.97 letter; response due by 10/14/97	10/1.67 latter; response due by 10/14/97	10/1/07 lefter: response due by 10/14/97
		response 10/25/97 oath by P. Morea	response 10/29/97 oath by C. Oavog	response 10/14/97 oath by L. Johnson	response 10/14/97 oeth by president	response 10/15/57	response 10/16/97 oath by president

11/14/97

47 U.S.C. 214(4)(1)(0) advertise technology under	47 U.S.C. 214(p)(3) designed service area (by NCO)	47 C F R. SA 405 and SA 411 INITS WARKS TO AND AND LOT UP SERVICE IN QUARTING THE HOUSE CONSUMERT	 Val bestation for qualifying the encome consumers 	A screen to dendary mantance	7. socies to interaction of services	4. BOOMAN TO OPPORT MOVICES	5. Access to amorpancy services	4. single party service or its functional equivalent	2. And tone multi-tequency signaling or its functional equal	2. local unago	47 C.F.R. 54.101(9) 1. voide profile access to public metaboli reduces
presently attention residentially of services troughout its certified sentery	ť	⁷ Provides Leff, plans Ib signals subscribury. Programs is to draw a reduced in application	j	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	TE TORNES
All do to gang toward in sciencia with any spock constance with any spock to constance to a the Constance may strategy	You have here to	Currently provides Line Lip service. Well net Libres annound by 47 CFR 54.400 417 bagewarg 1/108	ted locative ted control inclusioned requesting a matter for one year	1	1	1	1	1	1	ž	Tour tour

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TC97-087



Baltic Telecom Cooperative

501 Second Street, P.O. Box 307 • Baluc, SD 57003-0307 Phone: 605-529-5454 • Fax: 605-529-5498

RECEIVED

June 16, 1997

JUN 1 7 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. William Bullard, Jr. Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol Building 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

Dear Mr. Bullard,

Please find enclosed eleven copies each of two filings for designation as "eligible telecommunications carrier". One filing is for Baltic Telecom Cooperative and the other is for East Plains Telecom, Inc.

If you have any questions or concerns on either request, please do not he sitate to call.

Sincorely.

Gregory R. Grablander Manager



TC97-087

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF) BALTIC TELECOM COOPERATIVE FOR) DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE) TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)

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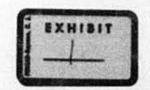
REQUEST FOR ETC DESIGNAT ON DOCKET TC97-

Baltic Telecom Cooperative pursuant to 47 United States Code Section 214(e) and 47 Code of Federal Regulations Section 54.201 hereby seeks from the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") designation as an "eligible telecommunications carrier" within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. In support of this request, Baltic Telecom Cooperative offers the following:

1. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) it is the Commission's responsibility to designate local exchange carriers ("LECs") as "eligible telecommunications carriers" ("ETCs"), or in other words, to determine which LECs have assumed universal service obligations consistent with the federal law and should be deemed eligible to receive federal universal service support. At least one eligible telecommunications carrier is to be designated by the Commission for each service area in the State. However, in the case of areas served by "rural telephone companies", the Commission may not designate more than one LEC as an ETC without first finding that such additional designation would be in the public interest. Under 47 CFR § 54.201, beginning January 1, 1998, only telecommunications carriers that have received designation from the Commission to serve as an eligible telecommunications carrier within their service area will be eligible to receive federal universal service support.

 Baltic Telecom Cooperative is the facilities-based local exchange carrier presently providing local exchange telecommunications services in the following exchanges:

> Baltic 605-529-XXXX Crooks 605-543-XXXX



Baltic Telecom Cooperative to its knowledge is the only carrier today providing local exchange telecommunications services in the above identified exchange areas.

 Baltic Telecom Cooperative in accord with 47 CFR § 54.101 offers the following local exchange telecommunications services to all consumers throughout its service area:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- Local exchange service;

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- Dual tone multi-frequency signaling;
- Access to emergency services such 911 or enhanced 911 public services;
- Access to operator services;
- Access to interexchange service;
- Access to directory assistance; and
- Toll blocking service to qualified low-income consumers.

As noted above, Baltic Telecom Cooperative does provide toll limitation service in the form of toll blocking to qualifying consumers, however, the additional toll limitation service of "toll control" as defined in the new FCC universal service rules (47 CFR § 54.400(3)) is not provided. Baltic Telecom Cooperative is not aware that any local exchange carrier in South Dakota has a current capability to provide such service. The FCC gave no indication prior to the release of its universal service order (FCC 97-157) that toll control would be imposed as an ETC service requirement and, to our information and belief, as a result, LECs nationwide are not positioned to make the service immediately available. In order for Baltic Telecom Cooperative to provide the service, additional usage tracking and storage capabilities will have to be installed in its local switching equipment. At minimum, the service requires a switching software upgrade and at this time Baltic Telecom Cooperative is investigating and attempting to determine whether the necessary software has been developed and when it might become available. Accordingly, Baltic Telecom Cooperative is faced with exceptional circumstances concerning its ability to make the toll control service available as set forth in the FCC's universal service rules and must request a waiver from the requirement to provide such service. At this time, a waiver for a period of one year is requested. Prior to the end of the one year period, Baltic Telecom Cooperative will report back to the Commission with specific information indicating when the necessary network upgrades can be made and the service can be made available to assist low income customers. The Commission may properly grant a waiver from the "toll control" requirement pursuant to 47 CFR 54.101(c).

4. Baltic Telecom Cooperative has previously and will continue to advertise the availability of its local exchange services in media of general distribution throughout the exchange areas served. Prior to this filing, Baltic Telecom Cooperative has not generally advertised the prices charged for all of the above-identified services. It will do so going forward in accord with any specific advertising standards that the Commission may develop.

Based on the foregoing, Baltic Telecom Cooperative respectfully request that the Commission:

 (a) grant a temporary waiver of the requirement to provide "toll control" service; and

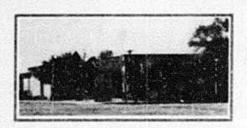
(b) grant an ETC designation to Baltic Telecom Cooperative covering all of the local exchange areas that constitute its present service area in the State.

Dated this 16th day of June, 1997.

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Baltic Telecom Cooperative

Greg Grablander, Manager



8143.42.64

Baltic Telecom Cooperative

501 Second Street, P.O. Box 307 • Baltic, SD 57003-0307 Phone: 605-529-5454 • Fax: 605-529-5498

RECEIVED

October 9, 1997

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Karen Cremer Staff Attorney Public Utilities Commission State Capitol Building 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE Eligible Telecommunications Carrier application, TC97-087, Baltic Telecom Cooperative

Dear Karen,

In response to your October 1, 1997 letter of request for additional information for the abovereferenced application is the following information

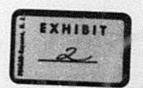
Question #1 Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.101(a)(4), single-party service or its functional equivalent must be made available by an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) to receive universal service support mechanisms. Does the above-referenced company have this service?

Answer to Question #1. Yes, Baltic Telecom Cooperative does provide single-party service.

Question #2 Pursuant to 47 C F.R. 54.405 and 54.411, Lifeline and Link Up services must be made available by an ETC to qualifying low-income consumers. Does the applicant company, as referenced above, make these services available to qualifying consumers?

Answer to Question #2 "Baltic Telecom Cooperative is not currently offering Lifeline and Link Up services within its exchanges, but will as required by the FCC rules, 47 CFR §§ 54 400 - 54 417, make the established discount programs available to its qualifying lowincome customers beginning January 1, 1998. It is our understanding that while providing the Lifeline and Link Up services is a requirement imposed on ETC's pursuant to 47 CFR §§ 54 405 and 54 411, it is not actually a precondition which must be met before ETC status can properly be granted by the Commission 47 CFR § 54 101 which lists the service obligations that must be met before a carrier can receive federal universal service support does not specifically reference Lifeline and Link Up services."





Request #3. Please provide a verification by an authorized officer, under oath, to the Commission in which the applicant represents to the Commission that the facts stated in the Request for ETC Designation and the response to data request nos 1 and 2, above, are truthful.

Response to Request #3-Verification "Jack Sluiter, being first duly sworn, states that he is the President of Baltic Telecom Cooperative for the responding party, that he has read the initial ETC application and the foregoing, and the same are true to his own best knowledge, information and belief"

Sincerely,

Mui 10

Jack Sluiter President, Baltic Telecom Cooperative

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

OU. NA. WAND

COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA

On this the 10^{77} day of October 1997, before me. Rebert R Audersen, the undersigned officer, personally appeared Jack Sluiter, who acknowledged himself to be the President of Baltic Telecom Cooperative, a corporation, and that he, as President, being authorized so to do, executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained, by signing the name of the corporation by himself as President.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

har Anderson

Notary Public

ROBERT R. ANDERSON [SEAL] OUTH DAKOTA SEAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BALTIC TELECOM COOPERATIVE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER AND NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER TC97-087

On June 17, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) from Baltic Telecom Cooperative (Baltic Telecom). Baltic Telecom requested designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area.

The Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing ar. 1 the intervention deadline to interested individuals and entities. No person or entity filed to intervene. By order dated November 7, 1997, the Commission set the hearing for this matter for 1:30 p.m. on November 19, 1997, in Room 412, State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

The hearing was held as scheduled. At the hearing, the Commission granted Baltic Telecom a one year waiver of the requirement to provide toll control service within its service area. At its December 11, 1997, meeting, the Commission granted ETC designation to Baltic Telecom and designated its study area as its service area.

Based on the evidence of record, the Commission enters the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

On June 17, 1997, the Commission received a request for designation as an ETC from Baltic Telecom. Baltic Telecom requested designation as an ETC within the local exchange areas that constitute its service area. Baltic Telecom serves the following exchanges: Baltic (529); and Crooks (543). Exhibit 1.

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2), the Commission is required to designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of section 214(e)(1) as an ETC for a service area designated by the Commission.

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Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), a common carrier that is designated as an ETC is eligible to receive universal service support and shall, throughout its service area, offer the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services. The carrier must also advertise the availability of such services and the rates for the services using media of general distribution. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated the following services or functionalities as those supported by federal universal service support mechanisms: (1) voice grade access to the public switched network; (2) local usage; (3) dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equal; (4) single party service or its functional equivalent; (5) access to emergency services; (6) access to operator services; (7) access to interexchange service; (8) access to directory assistance; and (9) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a).

IV

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As part of its obligations as an ETC, an ETC is required to make available Lifeline and Link. Up services to qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. § 54.405; 47 C.F.R. § 54.411.

1

Baltic Telecom offers voice grade access to the public switched network to all consumers throughout its service area. Exhibit 1.

VII

Baltic Telecom offers local exchange service including an amount of local usage free of per minute charges to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

VIII

Baltic Telecom offers dual tone multi-frequency signaling to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

IX

Baltic Telecom offers single party service to all consumers throughout its service area. Exhibit 2.

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Baltic Telecom offers access to emergency services to all consumers throughout its service area. Exhibit 1.

XI

Baltic Telecom offers access to operator services to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

XII

Baltic Telecom offers access to interexchange services to all consumers throughout its service area. Id.

Baltic Telecom offers access to directory assistance to all consumers throughout its service area. Id. One of the services required to be provided by an ETC to qualifying low-income consumers is toll limitation. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(9). Toll limitation consists of both toll blocking and toll control. 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(d). Toll control is a service that allows consumers to specify a certain amount of toll usage that may be incarred per month or per billing cycle. 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(c). Toll blocking is a service that lets consumers elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls. 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(b).

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Baltic Telecom offers toll blocking to all consumers throughout its service area. Exhibit 1.

XVI

Baltic Telecom does not currently offer toll control. Id. In order for Baltic Telecom to provide toll control, additional usage tracking and storage capabilities will have to be installed in its local switching equipment. Baltic Telecom is attempting to determine whether the necessary software has been developed and when it might become available. Id.

XVII

Baltic Telecom stated that it is faced with exceptional circumstances concerning its ability to make toll control service available and requested a one year waiver from the requirement to provide such service. Id. Prior to the end of the one year period, Baltic Telecom will report back to the Commission with specific information indicating when the network upgrades can be made in order to provide toll control. Id.

XVIII

With respect to the obligation to advertise the availability of services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism and the charges for those services using media of general distribution, Baltic Telecom stated that it advertises the availability of its local exchange services in media of general distribution throughout its service area. However, Baltic Telecom has not generally advertised the prices for these services. Id. Baltic Telecom stated its intention to comply with any advertising standards developed by the Commission. Id.

Baltic Telecom does not currently offer Lifeline and Link Up service discounts in its exchanges. Exhibit 2. Baltic Telecom will offer the Lifeline and Link Up service discounts in all of its service area beginning January 1, 1998, in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400 to 54.417, inclusive, and any Commission imposed requirements. Exhibit 2.

XIX

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The Commission finds that Baltic Telecom currently provides and will continue to provide the following services or functionalities throughout its service area: (1) voice grade access to the public switched network; (2) local usage; (3) dual tone multi-frequency signaling; (4) single-party service; (5) access to emergency services; (6) access to operator services; (7) access to interexchange service; (8) access to directory assistance; and (9) toll blocking for qualifying low-income consumers.

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The Commission finds that pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c) it will grant Baltic Telecom a waiver of the requirement to offer toll control services until December 31, 1998. The Commission finds that exceptional circumstances prevent Baltic Telecom from providing toll control at this time due to the difficulty in obtaining the necessary software upgrades to provide the service.

XXII

The Commission finds that Baltic Telecom intends to provide Lifeline and Link Up programs to qualifying customers throughout its service area consistent with state and federal rules and orders.

XXIII

The Commission finds that Baltic Telecom shall advertise the availability of the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism and the charges therefor throughout its service area using media of general distribution once each year. The Commission further finds that if the rate for any of the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism changes, the new rate must be advertised using media of general distribution.

XXIV

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(5), the Commission designates Baltic Telecom's current study area as its service area.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-31, and 47 U.S.C. § 214.

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Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2), the Commission is required to designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of section 214(e)(1) as an ETC for a service area designated by the Commission.

III

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1), a common carrier that is designated as an ETC is eligible to receive universal service support and shall, throughout its service area, offer the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services. The carrier must also advertise the availability of such services and the rates for the services using media of general distribution.

IV

The FCC has designated the following services or functionalities as those supported by federal universal service support mechanisms: (1) voice grade access to the public switched network; (2) local usage; (3) dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equal; (4) single party service or its functional equivalent; (5) access to emergency services; (6) access to operator

services: (7) access to interexchange service; (8) access to directory assistance; and (9) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a).

V

As part of its obligations as an ETC, an ETC is required to make available Lifeline and Link. Up services to qualifying low-income consumers. 47 C.F.R. § 54.405; 47 C.F.R. § 54.411.

VI

Baltic Telecom has met the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a) with the exception of the ability to offer toll control. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c), the Commission concludes that Baltic Telecom has demonstrated exceptional circumstances that justify granting it a waiver of the requirement to offer toll control until December 31, 1998.

Baltic Telecom shall provide Lifeline and Link Up programs to qualifying customers throughout its service area consistent with state and federal rules and orders.

VII

VIII

Baltic Telecom shall advertise the availability of the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism and the charges therefor using media of general distribution once each year. If the rate for any of the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism changes, the new rate shall be advertised using media of general distribution.

IX.

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(5), the Commission designates Baltic Telecom's current study area as its service area.

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The Commission designates Baltic Telecom as an eligible telecommunications carrier for its service area.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Baltic Telecom's current study area is designated as its service area; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Baltic Telecom shall be granted a waiver of the requirement to offer toll control services until December 31, 1998; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Baltic Telecom shall follow the advertising requirements as listed above; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Baltic Telecom is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier for its service area.

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Order was duly entered on the 12% day of December, 1997. Pursuant to SDCL 1-26-32, this Order will take effect 10 days after the date of receipt or failure to accept delivery of the decision by the parties.

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

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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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

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(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner

TC97-087 RECEIVED

LIFELINE AND LINK UP PLAN OF BALTIC TELECOM COOPERATIVE

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DEC 1 8 1997

The Baltic Telecom Cooperative submits this plan pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.401(d). Baltic Telecom Cooperative has been designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("SDPUC") and, as such, must make Lifeline and Link Up service available to qualifying low-income consumers as set forth in the Commission's *Final Order and Decision; Notice of Entry of Decision* dated November 18, 1997, issued in Docket TC97-150 (In the Matter of the Investigation into the Lifeline and Link Up Programs), which is attached as Exhibit A, and consistent with the criteria established under 47 CFR §§ 54.400 to 54.417, inclusive.

A. General

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1 The Lifeline and Link Up programs assist qualified low-income consumers by providing for reduced monthly charges and reduced connection charges for local telephone service. The assistance applies to a single telephone line at a qualified consumer's principal place of residence.

2 A qualified low-income consumer is a telephone subscriber who participates in at least one of the following public assistance programs:

- a Medicaid
- b. Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- d Federal Public Housing Assistance
- e Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP)

3 A qualified low-income consumer is eligible to receive either or both Lifeline and Link Up assistance.

4 Baltic Telecom Cooperative will advertise the availability of Lifeline and Link Up services and the charges therefore using media of general distribution and in accord with any rules that may be developed by the SDPUC for application to eligible telecommunications carriers.

5 In addition, Baltic Telecom Cooperative, as required by the *Final Order and Decision; Notice of Entry of Decision* of the SDPUC (Exhibit A), will indicate in it's annual report to the SDPUC the number of subscribers within it's service area receiving Lifeline and/or Link Up assistance. In addition, this information will be provided to the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").

6 Information as to the number of consumers qualifying for Lifeline and/or Link Up assistance cannot currently be provided by Baltic Telecom Cooperative because it has no access to the government information necessary to determine how many of its telephone subscribers are participating in the above referenced public assistance programs. Without

this information, Baltic Telecom Cooperative cannot provide, at this time, even a reasonable estimate of the number of its subscribers who, after January 1, 1998, will be receiving Lifeline and/or Link Up service. Information as to the number of its low-income subscribers qualifying for Lifeline and/or Link Up can be provided after applications for Lifeline and Link Up assistance have been received by Baltic Telecom Cooperative

7 In accord with the SDPUC's *Final Order and Decision; Notice of Entry of Decision*, Baltic Telecom Cooperative will make application forms available to all of its existing residential customers, to all new customers when they apply for residential local telephone service, and to other persons or entities upon their request.

B. Lifeline

AVT NA. WANG

 Lifeline service means a retail local service offering for which qualified low-income consumers pay reduced charges

2. Lifeline service includes voice grade access to the public switched network, local usage, dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent, single-party service or its functional equivalent, access to emergency services, access to operator services, access to interexchange service, access to directory assistance, and toll limitation.

3 Qualified low-income subscribers are required to submit an application form in order to receive Lifeline service. In applying for Lifeline assistance, the subscriber must certify under penalty of perjury that they are currently participating in at least one of the qualifying public assistance programs listed in Section A 2, above In addition, the subscriber must agree to notify Baltic Telecom Cooperative when they cease participating in the qualifying public assistance program(s).

4. The total monthly Lifeline credit available to qualified consumers is \$5.25. Baltic Telecom Cooperative shall provide the credit to qualified consumers by applying the federal baseline support amount of \$3.50 to waive the consumer's federal End-User Common Line charge and applying the additional authorized federal support amount of \$1.75 as a credit to the consumer's intrastate local service rate. The federal baseline support amount and additional support available, totaling \$5.25, shall reduce Baltic Telecom Cooperative's lowest tariffed (or otherwise generally available) residential rate for the services listed above in Section B.3. Per the attached SDPUC *Final Order and Decision; Notice of Entry of Decision,* the SDPUC has authorized intrastate rate reductions for eligible telecommunications carriers making the additional federal support amount of \$1.75 available. The SDPUC did not establish a state Lifeline program to fund any further rate reductions. (Exhibit A, Findings of Fact VII and VIII, and Conclusions of Law II and III).

5 Baltic Telecom Cooperative will not disconnect subscribers from their Lifeline service for non-payment of toll charges unless the SDPUC, pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.401(b)(1), has granted the company a waiver from the non-disconnect requirement.

6 Except to the extent that Baltic Telecom Cooperative has obtained a waiver from the SDPUC pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.101(c), the company shall offer toll limitation to all qualifying low-income consumers when they subscribe to Lifeline service. If the subscriber elects to receive toll limitation, that service shall become part of that subscriber's Lifeline service.

7. Baltic Telecom Cooperative will not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline service if the qualifying low-income consumer voluntari?? elects toll blocking on their telephone line. However, one month's local service charge, may be required as an advance payment.

C. Link Up

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1. Link Up means:

(a) A reduction in the customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a consumer's principal place of residence. The reductions shall be 50 percent of the customary charge or \$30,00, whichever is less, and

(b) A deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service, for which the consumer does not pay interest. The interest charges not assessed to the consumer shall be for connection charges of up to \$200 00 that are deferred to a period not to exceed one year.

2 Charges assessed for commencing service include any charges that are customarily assessed for connecting subscribers to the network. These charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.

3. The Link Up program shall allow a consumer to receive the benefit of the Link Up program for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which the Link Up assistance was provided previously.

Baltic Telecom Cooperative P.O. Box 307 Baltic, SD 57003 (605) 529-5454

Grablander

EXHIBIT "A"

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE LIFELINE AND LINK UP PROGRAMS FINAL ORDER AND DECISION; NOTICE OF ENTRY OF DECISION TC97-150

At its August 18, 1997, regularly scheduled meeting, the Fublic Utilities Commission (Commission) voted to open a docket concerning the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Report and Order on Universal Service regarding the Lifeline and Link Up programs. In its Report and Order, the FCC decided that it would provide for additional federal support in the amount of \$1.75, above the current \$3.50 level. However, in order for a state's Lifeline consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support, the state commission must approve that reduction in the portion of the intrastate rate paid by the end user. 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a). Additional federal support may also be received in an amount equal to one-half of any support generated from the intrastate jurisdiction, up to a maximum of \$7.00 in federal support. 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a). A state commission must file or require the carrier to file information with the administrator of the federal universal service fund demonstrating that the carrier's Lifeline plan meets the criteria set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.401.

By order dated August 28, 1997, the Commission allowed interested persons and entities to submit written comments concerning how the Commission should implement the FCC's rules on the Lifeline and Link Up programs. In their written comments, interested persons and entities commented on the following questions:

1. Whether the Commission should approve intrastate rate reductions to allow consumers eligible for Lifeline support to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support?

2. Whether the Commission should set up a state Lifeline Program to fund further reductions in the intrastate rate paid by the end user?

3. Whether the Commission should modify the existing Lifeline or Link Up Programs?

4. Shall the Commission file or require the carrier to file information with the administrator of the federal universal service fund demonstrating that the carrier's Lifeline plan meets the criteria set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(d)?

By order dated October 16, 1997, the Commission set public hearings to receive public comment on the questions listed above. The hearings were held at the following times and places:

RAPID CITY:

Monday, October 27, 1997, 1:00 p.m., Canyon Lake Senior Citizens Center, 2900 Canyon Lake Drive, Rapid City, SD PIERRE: Tuesday, October 28, 1997, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol Building, Room 412, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD

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SIOUX FALLS: Wednesday, October 29, 1997, 9:00 a.m., Center for Active Generations, 2300 West 46th, Sioux Falls, SD

At its November 7, 1997, meeting, the Commission ruled as follows: On the first issue, the Commission authorized intrastate rate reductions to allow eligible consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support. With respect to the second issue, the Commission decided to not set up a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions at this time. On the third issue, the Commission eliminated the existing TAP program that requires U S WEST and carriers that have purchased U S WEST exchanges to fund a \$3.50 reduction of local rates to low income customers age 60 and over. The Commission further ruled that the South Dakota Link Up program follow the FCC rules. In addition, the Commission ordered that staff, in consultation with the carriers, Civelop a standard form for self-certification; that these forms be sent to all of their customers prior to January 1, 1998, and thereafter, to all new customers; and that the carriers make the forms available to any person or entity upon request. On the fourth issue, the Commission ruled that the carrier be required to file with the FCC the information demonstrating that the carrier's plan meets the applicable FCC criteria and that the carrier send an informational copy to the Commission. Further, that the carriers include in their annual report to the Commission the number of subscribers who receive Lifeline and Link Up support.

Based on the written comments and evidence and testimony received at the hearings, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The current state Lifeline program is referred to as the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP). The current state Link Up program is referred to as the Link Up America program. The Commission implemented these programs in the U S WEST exchanges pursuant to its Decision and Order dated February 17, 1988, issued in Docket F-3703, In the Matter of the Investigation into Implementation of a Telephone Assistance Plan for South Dakota Customers. Exhibit 1 at page 1. Subsequent buyers of U S WEST exchanges were required to also offer the TAP and Link Up America programs. Id. at pages 1-2.

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The amount of TAP assistance is \$7.00, \$3.50 of which is federally funded, with the remaining \$3.50 funded by the local telecommunications carrier. Id. at page 3. Although U S WEST was originally allowed to charge a surcharge to fund the program, U S WEST subsequently gave up that right in Docket F-3647-8, In the Matter of the Public Utilities Commission Investigation into the Effects of the 1986 Tax Reform Act on South Dakota Utilities. Exhibit 5. In order to receive the TAP assistance, a member of the household

must be 60 years of age or older and participate in either the food stamp or the low-income energy assistance program. Exhibit 1 at page 2.

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The Link Up America program provides assistance in an amount equal to one-half of the qualifying subscriber's telephone service connection charges up to a maximum of \$30.00. Id. at page 3. In order to receive Link Up assistance, a customer must be receiving either food stamps or low-income energy assistance, must not presently have local telephone service and must not have been provided telephone service at his or her residence within the previous three months, and must not be a dependent for federal income tax purposes (dependency criteria does not apply to those 60 years of age or older). Id. The Link Up program is funded entirely out of federal funds. Id.

IV

The FCC revised the current Lifeline and Link Up programs in CC Docket No. 96-45, In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, adopted May 7, 1997. Beginning January 1, 1998, the FCC found that the federal baseline Lifeline support will be \$3.50 per qualifying low-income consumer with an additional \$1.75 in federal support if the state commission approves a corresponding reduction in intrastate local rates. 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a). Additional federal Lifeline support in an amount equal to one-half the amount of any state Lifeline support (not to exceed \$7.00) is also available. <u>Id</u>.

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The FCC further found that the federal support for Link Up will continue to be a reduction in the telecommunications carrier's service connection charges equal to one half of the carrier's customer connection charge or \$30.00, whichever is less. 47 C.F.R. § 54.413(b).

VI

Pursuant to the FCC's rules, if there is no state Lifeline or Link Up program, a consumer is eligible for support if the consumer participates in one of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps; Supplemental Security Income; federal public housing assistance; or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.409(b) and 54.415(b). In addition, if there is no state Lifeline or Link Up program, a customer must certify under penalty of perjury that the customer is receiving benefits from one of the programs listed above and agrees to notify the carrier if the customer ceases to participate in such program or programs. Id.

VII

The first issue is whether the Commission should approve intrastate rate reductions to allow consumers eligible for Lifeline support to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal

support. The Commission finds that it shall authorize intrastate rate reductions for eligible telecommunications companies providing local exchange service to allow eligible consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support. Thus, the total amount of federal support is \$5.25 per eligible customer.

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VIII

The second issue is whether the Commission should set up a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions in the intrastate rate paid by the end user. The Commission finds it will not set up a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions at this time.

IX

The third issue is whether to modify or eliminate the existing Lifeline program or Link Up program. With respect to the existing Lifeline program, the Commission finds that it shall eliminate the existing TAP program that requires U S WEST and carriers that have purchased U S WEST exchanges to fund a \$3.50 reduction of local rates to low income customers age 60 and over. The Commission further finds that the South Dakota Lifeline and Link Up programs shall follow the FCC rules. See 47 U.S.C. §§ 54.400 to 54.417. The effect of following the CC rules and not instituting further state funded reductions is that the FCC eligibility requirements and self-certification requirements will apply to the South Dakota Lifeline and Link Up programs. In addition, the Commission orders that the Commission staff, in consultation with the carriers, develop a standard form for self-certification. The carriers shall also send a form to each of their new customers. Finally, the carriers shall make the forms available to any person or entity upon request.

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The fourth issue is whether the Commission should file, or in the alternative, require the carrier to file information with the fund administrator. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(d). The Commission finds the carriers shall be required to file that information demonstrating that the carrier's plan meets the applicable FCC rules and that the carrier send an informational copy to the Commission. The carriers shall also be required to include in their annual report to the Commission the number of subscribers who receive Lifeline and Link Up support.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-1.1, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-11, 49-31-12.1, 49-31-12.2 and 12.4, and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400 to 54.417.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a), the Commission authorizes intrastate rate reductions for eligible telecommunications companies providing local exchange service to allow eligible consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support.

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The Commission declines to institute a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions a' this time. The existing South Dakota Lifeline and Link Up programs shall be modified to follow the FCC rules found at 47 U.S.C. §§ 54.400 to 54.417, inclusive, on January 1, 1998. The Commission staff, in consultation with the carriers, shall develop a standard form for self-certification. The carriers shall send these forms to each customer prior to January 1, 1998. The carriers shall also send a form to each of their new customers. Finally, the carriers shall make the forms available to any person or entity upon request.

IV

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(d), the Commission finds the carriers shall be required to file that information demonstrating that the carrier's plan meets the applicable FCC rules and that the carrier send an informational copy to the Commission. The carriers shall also be required to include in their annual report to the Commission the number of subscribers who receive Lifeline and Link Up support.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission authorizes intrastate rate reductions for eligible telecommunications companies providing local exchange service to allow eligible consumers to receive the additional \$1.75 in federal support; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission will not set up a state Lifeline program to fund further reductions at this time; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall eliminate the existing TAP program; that the South Dakota Lifeline and Link Up programs follow the FCC rules; that the Commission staff, in consultation with the carriers, develop a standard form for self-certification; that the carriers shall send these forms to all of their customers prior to January 1, 1998; that the carriers shall also send a form to each of their new customers; and that the carriers make the forms available to any person or entity upon request; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the carrier shall file with the FCC the information demonstrating that the carrier's plan meets the applicable FCC rules and that the carrier send an informational copy to the Commission. The carriers shall also include in their annual report to the Commission the number of subscribers who receive Lifeline and Link Up support.

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