

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

RECEIVED
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION
SEP 13 2005

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT) TC04-111
OF SWITCHED ACCESS REVENUE)
REQUIREMENT FOR VENTURE) PETITION TO INTERVENE
COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC.)**

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. (“AT&T”), by its undersigned counsel, petitions the Commission as follows:

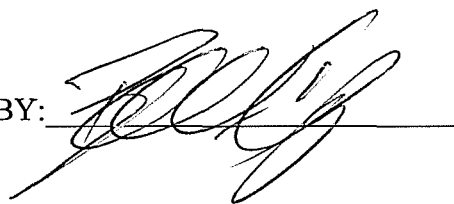
1. AT&T is a certificated communications company under the jurisdiction of the Commission.
2. Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc. (“Venture”) has or will file with the Commission, pursuant to pending staff data requests, supplemental information to justify its revised switched access separations study intended to provide a foundation for the computation of its intrastate switched access revenue requirement to be incorporated into the final LECA access tariff, which has been pending before the Commission for approximately one year.
3. AT&T recognizes this is a late filed petition for intervention. However, nothing of substance has occurred in this docket and in the LECA switched access rate dockets, TC04-119 and TC05-96. An initial filing was made, followed by an amendment to the filing. The Commission entered an order permitting the rates to go into effect subject to refund. The questions presented by this intervention and AT&T’s proposed intervention in the LECA docket constitute a matter of public interest. Overstated switched access rates by the Authority as a whole would constitute an undue burden upon Petitioner and Petitioner’s customers, thus affecting a substantial segment of telephone traffic in the state.
4. AT&T has a direct interest in the outcome of this proceeding. As a certificated local exchange carrier and long distance carrier, AT&T and its customers are subject to the payment of switched access charges in order to do business with Venture. Any increase in access rates increases the cost of doing business for AT&T and increases the cost of services that AT&T provides to its customers.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE AT&T prays that the Commission permit its intervention and participation in this proceeding to examine and cross-examine witnesses, participate in discovery and offer evidence on its own behalf.

Dated this 19th day of September, 2005.

BY: _____



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

William M. Van Camp hereby certifies that on the 14th day of September, 2005, he mailed by United States mail, first class postage thereon prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing in the above-captioned action to the following at their last known addresses, to-wit:

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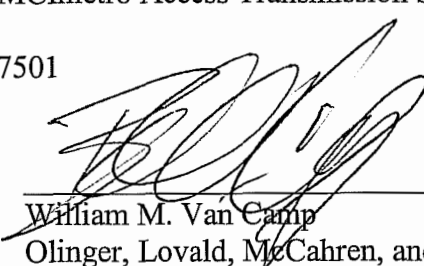
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