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RECEIVED

MAY 18 2006

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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MARGO D. NORTHRUP, Associate

May 18, 2006

Hand delivered

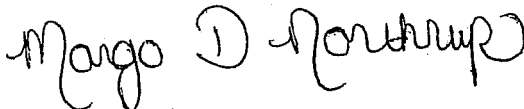
Patty Van Gerpen
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Re: WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY APPLICATION
FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR FILING OF 2006 COST STUDY

Dear Patty:

Enclosed herein are an original and ten (10) copies of the Petition for filing in the above referenced docket.

Sincerely yours,



Margo D. Northrup
Attorney at Law

MDN/ea

Enclosures

cc: Client

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

RECEIVED

MAY 18 2006

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELE-
PHONE COMPANY APPLICATION
FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR
FILING OF 2006 COST STUDY

Docket No. _____

PETITION

West River Cooperative Telephone Company ("West River") by and through its Attorney, Darla Pollman Rogers of Riter, Rogers, Wattier & Brown, LLP, respectfully requests that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") grant it an extension of the deadline for filing its 2006 cost study, as follows:

1. ARSD § 20:10:27:07 requires a carrier's carrier to file cost data in support of its switched access service tariff no less than once every three years.
2. ARSD § 20:10:27:14 requires carriers to file a cost study within six (6) months of the close of the test year upon which the carrier is relying to support a change in switched access rates. The rule also gives authority to the Commission to grant an extension of the six (6) month filing period, upon request of the carrier.
3. West River filed a cost study on or about June 30, 2003 (Docket TC03-106). Pursuant to ARSD § 20:10:27:07 and ARSD § 20:10:27:14, West River is required to file a cost study no later than June 30, 2006.
4. West River requests an extension of the six (6) month filing period, for the following reasons:

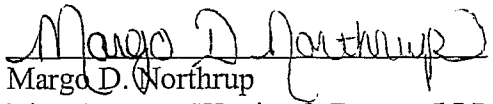
a. West River anticipates there will be a change in the intrastate switched access rules in the near future, either through new intercarrier compensation rules adopted by the FCC, or pursuant to the rule-making docket currently pending before this Commission. West River requests an extension of the six (6) month filing deadline for submitting its 2006 cost study until such time as there is a clear indication of what will be required of carriers under the new switched access regime.

b. West River is a member of the Local Exchange Carriers Association ("LECA"). LECA is currently negotiating with Commission Staff and Intervenor in the 2005 cost study dockets for settlement of the 2005 cost study dockets, pending the events in subparagraph (a) above. Said settlement may include an agreement by individual carriers such as West River to not file a cost study in 2006. West River requests this extension to allow the settlement negotiations to continue and in order to study the effects of a settlement, if one is reached, upon West River.

c. West River will retain its current access rates, pending the outcome of the events in subparagraph (a) & (b) above, or until West River files a 2006 cost study, pursuant to the granting of its request herein to extend the filing deadline.

WHEREFORE, West River respectfully requests the Commission to grant West River an extension of the six (6) month filing deadline for filing its 2006 cost study.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2006.


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