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February 8, 2008

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501

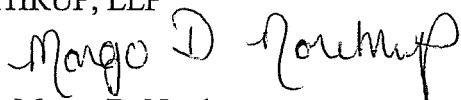
RE: In the Matter of the Petition of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.
for Suspension or Modification of Section 251(b)(2) of the Communication Act of
1934, as amended

Dear Patty:

Attached please find Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.'s Petition in
the above entitled matter. By copy of this letter, service is intended on the parties identified on
the Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,
RITER, ROGERS, WATTIER, BROWN &
NORTHTRUP, LLP

By: 
Margo D. Northrup

MDN/lma
Enclosure
cc: Client

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BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition)
of Interstate Telecommunications)
Cooperative, Inc.)
for Suspension or Modification) Docket No. _____
of Section 251(b)(2) of the)
Communications Act of 1934,)
as amended)

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Section 251(f)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act), 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(2), Section 49-31-80 of the South Dakota Codified Laws (SDCL), and the Commission's Order in Docket TC05-137, Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (Petitioner or ITC) hereby respectfully petitions the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a suspension and modification of the number portability requirement in Section 251(b)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act). As explained herein, ITC's requested modification of intermodal LNP and LNP to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers concerns the transport of ported calls. ITC's requested suspension is for the purpose of negotiating transport arrangements with wireless carriers and VoIP providers, as necessary. Petitioner also requests an immediate suspension of Section 251(b)(2) pending this Commission's consideration of the modification request until ninety (90) days following the Commission's decision.

In Docket TC04-054, this Commission granted Petitioner a suspension of local number portability (LNP). The Commission also ordered ITC to provide interim LNP to Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) in the Webster exchange and in the Waubay exchange when Midcontinent established a direct connection to ITC in those

exchanges and an interconnection agreement between the parties became effective. By agreement with Midcontinent, ITC agreed to implement intramodal LNP in the Webster and Waubay exchanges by May 1, 2006. Subsequently, in docket TC05-137, this Commission granted various incumbent LECs (ILECs), including Petitioner, a suspension of intermodal LNP until six (6) months after the public release of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) in connection with intermodal LNP. The Commission further found that the ILECs, including Petitioner, would be allowed to file a petition requesting a further suspension of intermodal LNP within three (3) months following the public release of the FCC's FRFA order. On November 8, 2007, the FCC's FRFA Order was publicly released.¹

Accordingly, Petitioner files this petition to request a suspension and modification of LNP such that it is not required to implement intermodal LNP and LNP to VoIP providers by May 8, 2008. Petitioner seeks a modification of intermodal LNP and LNP to VoIP providers such that it is not required to pay for the transport of ported calls beyond its local calling areas.

Petitioner seeks a suspension of intermodal LNP and LNP to VoIP providers in order to negotiate with the wireless carriers and VoIP providers operating in its service territory a method to transport ported calls. ITC requests that this suspension include a suspension of the requirement to route calls to numbers ported between other carriers properly.

¹ In re Telephone Number Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers, 22 FCC Rcd 19531 (FCC 2007).

II. SECTION 20:10:32:39 REQUIREMENTS

The following information is provided in accordance with Section 20:10:32:39 of the Commission's rules.

(1) The applicant is Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., 312 4th St, PO Box 920, Clear Lake, South Dakota 57226, (605) 874-2181. The designated contacts are:

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(2) In December 2007, Petitioner had 15,332 subscriber lines nationwide, with 13,724 lines in South Dakota and 1,608 lines in Minnesota.

(3) Petitioner seeks to suspend and modify the local number portability obligations in 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(2) of the Act.

(4) Petitioner seeks a suspension of intermodal LNP and LNP to VoIP providers in order to negotiate with the wireless carriers and VoIP providers operating in its service territory a method to transport ported calls. Petitioner requests a suspension until 90 days after the transport issue is resolved. Petitioner seeks a modification of intermodal LNP and LNP to VoIP providers such that it is not required to pay for the transport of ported calls beyond its local calling areas. Petitioner also requests immediate temporary suspension of the Section 251(b)(2) requirement pending this Commission's consideration of this request.

(5) Section 251(f)(2) of the Act requires the Commission to act on this application within 180 days after receipt, or August 8, 2008. However, Petitioner waives its right to action by this date, such that Commission action is not required until November 8, 2008, in order to allow time for Petitioner to negotiate transport arrangements with wireless carriers and to allow the Commission to hold the regulatory proceeding in abeyance pending negotiations. It is Petitioner's intent to notify the Commission no later than May 8, 2008 of the status of negotiations. Therefore, Petitioner requests that the suspension and modification of Section 251(b)(2) be effective no later than November 8, 2008. Petitioner requests that the temporary suspension of Section 251(b)(2) be effective immediately and in any event, no later than May 8, 2008.

(6) The information supporting this petition is contained on pages 4 through 19 of this Petition.

(7) Petitioner requests that the Commission grant a temporary stay or suspension of the local number portability requirements in Section 251(b)(2) of the Act.

III. BACKGROUND

In support of this petition for suspension and modification of Section 251(b)(2) of the Act, Petitioner respectfully submits that:

1. ITC is a South Dakota cooperative with its principal office located at 312 4th Street, Clear Lake, South Dakota, 57226. Petitioner is engaged in the provisioning of general telecommunications services in the State of South Dakota subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission. Petitioner currently provides basic local exchange service in 24 exchanges and, in 2007, had an average of 13,724 access lines in service. A list of Petitioner's switches for which a suspension of intermodal LNP is requested is attached as Exhibit 1.

2. Petitioner received a request for intermodal LNP from Western Wireless (currently Alltel), a wireless carrier. Alltel has requested LNP in all of ITC's switches. ITC also has been contacted by Verizon Wireless regarding LNP. ITC has implemented LNP in its Webster switch. Pursuant to the FCC's rules and the Commission's Order in TC05-137, ITC must implement LNP in its remaining switches and provide intermodal LNP throughout its service area, absent a grant of this suspension petition, by May 8, 2008.

3. Petitioner is a rural telephone company as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(37). Petitioner provides telephone exchange service, including exchange access, to fewer than 50,000 access lines (47 U.S.C. § 153(37)(B)), and it serves a study area of fewer than 100,000 access lines. (47 U.S.C. § 153(37)(C)).

4. Section 251(f)(2) of the Act allows a rural telephone company with fewer than two percent (2%) of the subscriber lines installed in the aggregate nationwide, (as of

December 2006, approximately 167.5 million local telephone lines)² to petition a state commission for a suspension or modification of the application of a requirement provided by 47 U.S.C. § 251(b) and (c). With 15,332 access lines, Petitioner is a 2% carrier entitled to request suspension or modification of the LNP requirements pursuant to Section 251(f)(2).

5. According to 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(2) and SDCL § 49-31-80, the Commission shall grant a petition for suspension or modification to the extent that, and for such duration as, the Commission determines that such suspension or modification:

- (A) is necessary:
 - (i) to avoid a significant adverse economic impact on users of telecommunications services generally;
 - (ii) to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome; or
 - (iii) to avoid imposing a requirement that is technically infeasible; and
- (B) is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

6. Pursuant to Section 251(f)(2) of the Act, the Commission “may suspend enforcement of the requirement or requirements to which the petition applies with respect to the petitioning carrier or carriers.” 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(2) and SDCL § 49-31-80.

IV. ARGUMENT

7. In TC04-054, the Commission granted a suspension of LNP to Petitioner, with the exception that ITC was required to provide intramodal interim LNP where Midcontinent (a competitive wireline carrier) provided service. The Commission found that a suspension was in the public interest because the cost of LNP was significant, there was limited evidence of demand for LNP, and there were a number of uncertainties in

² See “Federal Communications Commission Releases Study on Telephone Trends”, FCC News Release (rel. December 31, 2007).

connection with LNP implementation in Petitioner's service territory. The uncertainties which the Commission found persuasive in granting a suspension included the appropriate technical solution for transport of calls to ported numbers, the respective responsibilities and attendant costs of providing transport for calls to ported numbers outside the local calling area, and the routing and rating of calls to ported numbers. The Commission also found that, except for interim intramodal LNP to Midcontinent in Webster and Waubay, a suspension was necessary to avoid a significant adverse economic impact on the users of Petitioner's telecommunications services generally given the significant costs of implementing and providing LNP service, the absence of customer requests for LNP, and the apparent low demand for the availability of LNP and the absence of any alternative wireline service. Based on the same findings, and with the exception of interim intramodal LNP to Midcontinent in Webster and Waubay, the Commission further found that suspending the LNP obligation was necessary to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome to Petitioner and its customers.

8. Since the Commission's Order in TC04-054, ITC has implemented intramodal LNP in the Webster switch and provides intramodal LNP in its Webster and Waubay exchanges. Further, ITC has decided to implement LNP throughout the remainder of its service territory. However, the issue of transporting calls to numbers ported to a wireless carrier still has not been resolved and the costs of such transport still are significant. Accordingly, ITC seeks a suspension and modification of LNP in connection with the transport issue.

9. As part of this request, ITC also seeks a suspension of the requirement to route calls to numbers ported to other carriers. Currently, although ITC does not provide

intermodal LNP, customers can port numbers between wireless carriers. When an ITC subscriber dials a wireless number which has been ported, ITC relies on the wireless carrier that originally had the number to perform the LNP query and route the call. This is for two reasons. First, since ITC has not implemented LNP throughout its service territory, ITC cannot perform an LNP query in every case to determine which numbers have been ported and to which carriers. Second, even when ITC implements LNP throughout its service territory and is able to perform a query on all calls, the transport issue prevents ITC from routing the call to the correct carrier as a local call. In other words, the same transport issue described in this petition which prevents ITC from correctly routing calls to numbers ported from its subscribers to a wireless carrier, also prevents ITC from correctly routing calls to numbers ported between wireless carriers.

10. ITC notes that in TC04-054, the Commission stated that the suspension granted to ITC did not relieve ITC “of its obligation to properly route calls to numbers ported between other carriers, including wireless carriers.” ITC believes it has satisfied this requirement through its reliance on the wireless carriers. ITC notes that although certain wireless carriers have stated that they may charge ITC to perform this function on ITC’s behalf, to date, no wireless carrier has attempted to assess any charge. Moreover, an interpretation of the Commission’s Order that would require ITC to implement the mechanisms to query calls and transport calls as local where no facilities existed, would conflict with the suspension granted by the Commission. However, to remove any uncertainty, ITC intends that its request for suspension and modification in this petition apply to its obligation to properly route calls to numbers ported between other carriers.

11. Further, the FCC’s recently released Order extends the obligation to provide LNP to VoIP providers. It is not clear how call routing will be performed in connection with

numbers ported to VoIP providers. In fact, the North American Numbering Council (NANC) will not meet until February 22, 2008, to discuss the implementation of the FCC's order. However, to the extent a number is ported to a VoIP provider and the VoIP provider or its underlying carrier has no arrangement with ITC to transport calls as local, ITC would face the same transport issue as it faces with wireless carriers. Accordingly, ITC makes clear that the requests for suspension and modification discussed in this petition also apply to VoIP providers where a local call would have to be transported beyond ITC's local calling area.

A. The cost of transport in connection with LNP Would Impose a Significant Adverse Economic Impact on Users of Telecommunications Services

12. Transport continues to be an obstacle to ITC's ability to implement intermodal LNP, as found in TC04-054, because not all wireless carriers have direct connections to ITC's local calling areas. Where a wireless carrier has a direct connection to an ITC local calling area, calls from a subscriber of ITC in that local calling area to a wireless subscriber with a telephone number rated to that local calling area can be routed as a local call. Where a wireless carrier does not have a direct connection to ITC's local calling area, an ITC subscriber in that local calling area must dial the call as a toll call; ITC routes the call from its subscriber to the subscriber's presubscribed interexchange carrier (IXC); and the IXC delivers the call to the wireless carrier.

13. Currently, there is a direct connection between ITC and Alltel in ITC's Brookings, Webster and Clark exchanges. There is a direct connection between ITC and Verizon Wireless in ITC's Brookings exchange. ITC is in the process of implementing a direct connection with RCC at Clear Lake. There are no direct connections between ITC and Sprint.

14. In the context of intermodal LNP, if Verizon, Alltel and RCC maintain their direct connections, then ITC would be able to transport calls to numbers ported from an ITC subscriber in the local calling areas associated with the Brookings, Webster and Clark exchanges to Alltel, from an ITC subscriber in the local calling area associated with the Brookings exchange to Verizon and from an ITC subscriber in the local calling area associated with the Clear Lake exchange to RCC. However, if an ITC subscriber in a different local calling area seeks to port a number to Alltel, Verizon or RCC, or if an ITC subscriber seeks to port a number to Sprint or any other wireless carrier, then there would be no existing interconnection arrangement that would allow ITC to route a call to the ported number as a local call. Because numbers can be ported between wireless carriers, ITC cannot ensure transport of all ported calls to any wireless carrier unless the transport issue has been resolved with all wireless carriers operating in ITC's service territory.

1. Cost of Transport

15. Confidential Exhibit 1 contains estimates for the recurring and non-recurring cost of transport. The two different estimates reflected in Confidential Exhibit 2 attempt to show the potential range of the cost of the transport issue. In the first estimate, ITC has developed the potential cost of transport based on ITC's understanding of the current network configurations of the wireless carriers and their current points of presence. This estimate reflects the estimated cost of transport only for calls to ported wireline numbers. ITC believes this to be the low end of the potential cost. ITC also has developed the potential cost of transport if the wireless carriers seek to establish one point of interconnection in the MTA. This estimate reflects the estimated cost of transport if all

calls are routed to wireless carriers to a point of interconnection in Sioux Falls. ITC believes this to be at the high end of the potential cost.

16. ITC has included the second methodology because in a pending arbitration petition, Sprint seeks to require ITC to transport all traffic, including wireless traffic, to a point of interconnection on Sprint's network, which ITC believes to be in Sioux Falls.³ If Sprint is successful, it is likely that the other wireless carriers would seek the same method of interconnection for competitive reasons. In addition, under the Act, the other wireless carriers could opt-in to the interconnection agreement and, thus obtain the same method of interconnection.

17. Confidential Exhibit 2 shows the estimated recurring and non-recurring cost of providing transport from Petitioner's switches to the wireless carriers under scenario one. Based on Petitioner's number of access lines in South Dakota, this would equal a cost of \$0.12 per line per month. The estimated recurring and non-recurring cost of providing transport from Petitioner's switches to each of the wireless carriers under scenario two is also reflected in Confidential Exhibit 2. Based on Petitioner's number of access lines in South Dakota, this would equal a cost of \$4.04 per line per month. ITC notes that this exhibit does not include the cost to transport calls to VoIP providers because at this time such providers have not been identified. However, if ITC also must transport calls from its subscribers to a subscriber of a VoIP provider beyond its local calling areas, the cost of transport would be even greater.

18. ITC also notes that in an arbitration petition with Venture Communications, Inc., Alltel argued that it is entitled to interconnect with a LEC at a single point in the MTA for the exchange of traffic. Petitioner's service territory is within the Minneapolis

³ Docket TC06-175, Sprint Petition for Arbitration at 20.

MTA, which includes the eastern two thirds of South Dakota, parts of northern Iowa, western Wisconsin, most of Minnesota and all of North Dakota. If Petitioner is required to transport a call from its subscriber to a subscriber of a wireless carrier as a local call to any point within the MTA, the cost of transport could be even greater.

2. There is no demand for LNP

19. In TC04-054, the Commission found that the judgment of whether the cost of LNP imposed a significant adverse economic impact on customers is influenced by the benefits that flow to customers from the imposition of the impact. Petitioner contends that there is no benefit to customers of intermodal LNP. Petitioner received one request for LNP in 2004 and it has received no requests for intermodal LNP from its subscribers since then. It must be emphasized that ITC has received no requests for intermodal LNP even in Webster and Waubay, where intramodal LNP is available. On a nationwide basis, the number of customers who have ported wireline numbers to wireless carriers is a fraction of the number of intramodal ports that have occurred (customers who have ported wireline numbers to wireline carriers and customers who have ported wireless numbers to wireless carriers).

20. Further, it is unlikely that there will be demand for intermodal LNP in Petitioner's service area any time soon, if ever, because wireless service signal coverage is not available throughout Petitioner's service territory. The success of wireless service providers nationwide and in South Dakota also decreases the likelihood of demand for intermodal LNP. Simply stated, South Dakotans who already have a wireless number have no need to port their wireline number to a wireless carrier.

21. With respect to demand for VoIP LNP, ITC has received two inquiries from individuals asking whether a telephone number could be ported to a VoIP provider.

22. In light of the cost of transport, the current absence of customer requests for intermodal LNP and VoIP LNP, and the lack of demand for intermodal and VoIP LNP, the Commission should find that a modification of the intermodal and VoIP LNP obligation, such that ITC is not required to pay for the cost of transporting ported calls beyond its local service area, is necessary to avoid a significant adverse economic impact on the users of Petitioner's telecommunications services generally.

23. Confidential Exhibit 2 shows two different methods of providing transport for ported calls. Further, as discussed herein, the cost of transport could be greater than shown in Confidential Exhibit 2 if a point of interconnection other than Sioux Falls is selected by a wireless or VoIP provider. There may be other ways to transport calls to ported numbers. However, at this time, there are no other transport services available and no wireless carrier or VoIP provider has agreed to pay for the cost of transport. ITC requests a suspension of intermodal LNP and VoIP LNP to allow ITC to negotiate with wireless carriers and VoIP providers, to the extent any are identified, concerning a method of transport for which they would pay. ITC has contacted the wireless carriers operating in its service territory to begin this process. It is ITC's intent to inform the Commission no later than May 8, 2008, of its ability to negotiate transport with the wireless carriers. ITC asks the Commission to hold this proceeding in abeyance pending the outcome of the negotiation process.

B. LNP Would Be Unduly Economically Burdensome

24. In TC04-054, the Commission found that a determination as to whether the implementation of LNP would impose a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome should be applied to assess the burdensomeness of the requirement on both the consumer and the company. The Commission made this finding, in part, based on the

uncertainty of how the costs of LNP will be distributed between the Petitioner and its consumers and the difficulty in determining the surcharge amount that could be charged by the Petitioner to its customers.

25. It appears that the costs associated with the transport of ported calls may not be recovered through an LNP surcharge. To the extent that transport costs cannot be recovered through the LNP surcharge, Petitioner may be forced to increase local rates or curtail services or investment in the network. If the cost of transport is assigned to Petitioner's subscribers through a local rate increase, some segment of Petitioner's subscribers may discontinue service or decrease the number of lines to which they subscribe. The resulting reduction in line count would increase further the per-subscriber cost of transport, which, in turn, could lead to more rate increases followed by additional losses in lines.

26. Further, wireline to wireless porting under current routing protocols would impose an unduly economically burdensome requirement by making the network less efficient and by confusing consumers. Currently, for calls from a subscriber of ITC to a wireless carrier operating in ITC's service area, Petitioner does not carry local traffic to a wireless carrier's point of interconnection beyond ITC's local calling area. Therefore, if intermodal LNP is implemented before the transport issue has been resolved with all wireless carriers, in certain circumstances end users who continue to dial a ported number on a seven-digit basis will receive a message that the call cannot be completed as dialed, or a message instructing the party to redial using 1+ the area code. Thus, callers would have to dial twice, with the resulting network use, to place one call. It appears that these issues also may be associated with calls to numbers ported to VoIP providers.

27. For these reasons, and in light of the cost of transport, the current absence of customer requests for intermodal LNP and VoIP LNP, and the lack of demand for intermodal LNP and VoIP LNP, the Commission should find that a modification of the intermodal and VoIP LNP obligation, such that ITC is not required to pay for the cost of transporting ported calls beyond its local calling areas, is necessary to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome on Petitioner and its customers. The Commission also should find that a suspension of the intermodal and VoIP LNP obligation, to allow ITC to negotiate transport with the wireless and VoIP providers, is necessary to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome on Petitioner and its customers.

C. Suspension of the Requirement to Implement LNP is consistent with the Public Interest, Convenience, and Necessity.

28. In TC04-054, the Commission found that at least part of the determination of whether a suspension is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity involves weighing the costs to the LEC and/or its users against the benefits to be derived from the incurrence of such costs. The Commission found that the benefits to consumers from LNP in the rural area served by Petitioner had not been sufficiently demonstrated to outweigh the burden that imposing LNP implementation would place on Petitioner and its rural citizens who rely on Petitioner for essential, provider-of-last resort telephone service.

29. For purposes of the public interest evaluation, the Commission also found significant the level of uncertainty that existed in connection with aspects of LNP, including the transport of ported calls, the demand for number porting, and the extent to which the presence of LNP is a marginal factor in the consumer's purchasing decision for

alternative services such as wireless service. Further, the Commission found that the public interest decision appropriately considered the duty to provide and preserve universal service and Petitioner's responsibility for providing essential telecommunications services to all persons within its service territory as the carrier of last resort.

30. As shown herein, the cost of transport is significant; there is uncertainty in connection with the transport issue and in connection with the implementation of LNP for VoIP providers; and intermodal LNP will provide no benefit to consumers, as reflected in the total lack of demand for intermodal LNP.

31. In addition to a lack of demand for LNP, there also is no evidence that intermodal LNP is a factor in the consumer's purchasing decision for wireless service or that a lack of intermodal LNP prevents consumers from purchasing wireless service. On the contrary, even though the Commission granted a suspension of LNP in 2004 and many rural LECs in South Dakota have not implemented LNP, the number of consumers subscribing to wireless service has grown significantly and continues to increase. In the fourth quarter of 2006, the number of wireless subscribers in South Dakota was estimated at 270,210. Of this total, 176,502 wireless subscribers were estimated in current Qwest service areas and 93,708 wireless subscribers were estimated within ILEC service areas. For the first quarter of 2008, the number of wireless subscribers in South Dakota is estimated at 287,122. Of this total, 182,283 wireless subscribers were estimated in current Qwest service areas and 104,839 wireless subscribers were estimated within ILEC service areas. This increase in wireless subscribers represents approximately a three percent (3%) growth rate in wireless customers in Qwest areas and a twelve percent

(12%) growth rate in wireless customers in ILEC service areas.⁴ While the Petitioner does not have wireless subscriber estimates specific to its service territory, it is likely that the wireless subscriber growth rates in the Petitioner's service area mirror the South Dakota ILEC wireless subscriber growth estimates derived from the USAC reports.

32. At this time, there also is no evidence of demand for VoIP LNP and no evidence that LNP is a factor in the consumer's purchasing decision for VoIP service.

33. In addition, the Petitioner's ability to provide and preserve universal service and to meet its responsibility for providing essential telecommunications services to all persons within its service territory as the carrier of last resort will be adversely impacted if Petitioner is required to implement intermodal and VoIP LNP before the transport issue is resolved. If Petitioner is required to expend its available resources on intermodal and VoIP LNP transport, its investment in broadband or other network improvements and in the services that it is able to provide to customers may be delayed or reduced.

34. Further, if intermodal and VoIP LNP is implemented before the transport issue is resolved, the rating and routing issue associated with LNP, and the resulting customer confusion, is contrary to the public interest.

35. As shown, while the costs of transport associated with intermodal and VoIP LNP are significant, intermodal LNP provides no benefit to consumers. Further, the uncertainties associated with VoIP LNP and the lack of evidence concerning demand for VoIP LNP demonstrate that there is no benefit to consumers of VoIP LNP. Accordingly, grant of the requested modification and suspension is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

⁴ These wireless subscriber estimates were calculated using wireless loop data reported in USAC's High Cost Loop Projected by State Study Area (USAC Appendix HC05) and the USAC CETC Reported Lines by Incumbent Study Area – Interstate Access Support (USAC Appendix HC020) for the appropriate time periods.

V. IMMEDIATE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION REQUESTED

36. Pursuant to Section 251(f)(2), SDCL § 49-31-80, and the Commission's Order in Docket TC05-137, Petitioner requests immediate temporary suspension of the Section 251(b)(2) requirement pending this Commission's consideration of this suspension and modification request. An immediate temporary suspension is necessary so that Petitioner is not required to implement intermodal and VoIP LNP by May 8, 2008, and while this proceeding is pending. Without immediate suspension, Petitioner may be required to take various implementation steps immediately in order to meet a May 8, 2008 implementation date.

VI. CONCLUSION

37. As demonstrated, Petitioner has met the criteria set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(2)(A) and the modification and suspension requested in this proceeding is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity requirement set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(2)(B). Accordingly, the Commission must grant the petition for suspension and modification.

38. Petitioner also requests immediate temporary suspension of the Section 251(b)(2) requirement pending this Commission's consideration of this request until ninety (90) days following this Commission's final decision. Immediate temporary suspension is necessary so that Petitioner does not have to incur LNP implementation costs until after the Commission acts on the petition.

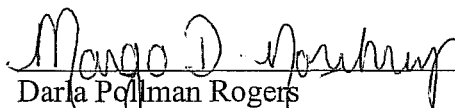
WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests the Commission to:

(A) Issue an interim order that suspends any obligation for Petitioner to provide intermodal or VoIP LNP;

(B) Issue a final order that grants a modification of Petitioner's obligation to provide intermodal and VoIP LNP as requested herein and a suspension of Petitioner's obligation to implement intermodal and VoIP LNP until the transport issue is resolved; and

(C) Grant Petitioner such other and further relief that may be proper.

Dated: February 8, 2008.



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