

Exhibit 8

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

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MAY 19 2006

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of the Filing by Northern Valley
Communications, LLC for an Extension of
an Exemption from Developing Company
Specific Cost-Based Switched Access
Rates.)**

**JOINT MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT STIPULATION
TC05197**

Northern Valley Communications, LLC (NVC) and the Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission Staff), jointly referred to as "Parties," hereby file the above referenced Motion and Settlement Stipulation with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Parties propose that the Commission adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation (Stipulation) as the settlement and resolution of all the issues in this proceeding. In support of this Motion, the Parties submit as follows:

1. This motion is made pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:19.
2. The parties move that NVC be granted a waiver from the requirements of filing cost data in support of NVC's switched access services tariff attached to the Stipulation, as required by ARSD 20:10:27:07, for the time period covered by and for the reasons set forth in the Stipulation.
3. The parties move that NVC be granted a waiver from the requirements of ARSD 20:10:27:12 for the time period covered by and for the reasons set forth in the attached Stipulation.
4. This Stipulation resolves all of the Issues in Docket TC05197.
5. The Stipulation represents a negotiated settlement of specific issues in this case. The terms of the Stipulation agreed upon are, to the belief of the Parties, just, fair, and reasonable

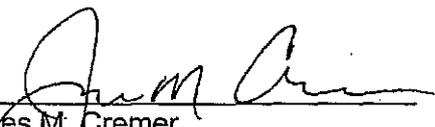
and consistent with South Dakota law. The parties respectfully request the Commission approve the Stipulation.

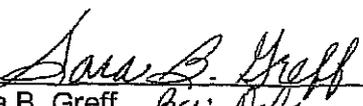
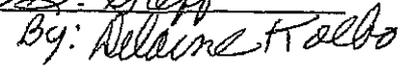
For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned parties jointly request the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to adopt the attached Stipulation for the purpose of resolving the specific issues for use in setting the intrastate switched access rates of Northern Valley Communications, LLC in docket TC05197. Should the Commission fail to adopt the attached Stipulation, or modify the same, the parties shall, at their discretion, proceed with Docket TC05197 as though no stipulation had been presented to this Commission.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2006.

Northern Valley Communications, LLC

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff

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