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**Wayne M. Johnson**  
Manager – Public Policy

April 30, 2010

Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

**RECEIVED**

**APR 26 2010**

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Re: Request to consolidate the Spearfish, Lead, Deadwood and Whitewood Rate Centers

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen,

Currently Qwest recognizes four Rate Centers within the Black Hills local calling area. The Spearfish, Lead, Deadwood and Whitewood Rate Centers are contained within a single local calling area. Qwest expects a Rate Center consolidation would help conserve telephone numbers and provide important customer benefit. Consolidating the four Rate Centers into one Rate Center will provide customers within a larger area the opportunity to move and retain their wireline telephone number. For example, after the Rate Center consolidation is implemented, customers living in Lead that move to Whitewood would have the option to retain their existing telephone number at their new address in Whitewood. West Spearfish would remain a separate Rate Center.

In order to initiate Rate Center consolidation, Qwest must first obtain approval from the Public Utilities Commission of South Dakota before Telcordia will revise its industry reference tables. Commissions in other states have approved similar requests to this one. As a reference, attached is a copy of the UT Public Service Commission's letter approving a recent Rate Center consolidation there.

Qwest respectfully requests that the PUC provide its approval for this Rate Center consolidation of the Spearfish, Lead, Deadwood and Whitewood Rate Centers into one Rate Center. If you concur, please reply with a letter similar in format to the letter attached.

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Johnson

Cc: Terri LaBrie Baker, Jon Thurber  
Enclosures: UT Approval Example



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
Governor

GARY HERBERT  
Lieutenant Governor

Public Service Commission

TED BOYER  
*Chairman*

RIC CAMPBELL  
*Commissioner*

RON ALLEN  
*Commissioner*

April 2, 2009

James B. Farr  
Qwest Communications  
250 Bell Plaza, Room 1603  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111


Dear Mr. Farr:

The Commission has reviewed your March 26, 2009, letter informing the Commission of Qwest's request to combine its various Cache County rate centers (Hyrum, Logan, Richmond, and Smithfield) into one rate center. We understand that Qwest expects benefits to accrue to customers both from a larger potential number porting area, and the general conservation of telephone numbers.

The Commission has also received the April 2, 2009, Memorandum of the Division of Public Utilities, wherein the Division recommends that the Cache County rate center consolidation be approved to facilitate number porting.

Based upon the information we have received, the Commission has concluded that there is no reason to preclude or prevent Qwest from consolidating the rate centers as planned. The Commission assumes that Qwest will provide Telecordia any additional information that may be needed relative to the consolidation of the Hyrum, Logan, Richmond, and Smithfield rate centers into one rate center.

Sincerely,

  
Julie Orchard  
Commission Secretary