BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR SULLY ES TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.	**)** **)** **)**	**ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE; ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE** **TC96-094**

On June 13, 1996, Sully es Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Sully es) filed for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 1995 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study.

On June 13, 1996, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 28, 1996, to interested individuals and entities. On June 20, 1996, the Commission received a Petition for Leave to Intervene from U S WEST Communications (U S WEST). U S WEST stated that it is the largest purchaser of switched access from local exchange carriers and it believes that intervention should be granted due to the pecuniary interests involved.

SDCL 49-31-12.6 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing.

On July 9, 1996, a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1, 49-1A-9, 49-31-12.6, 49-31-18, 49-31-19 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.05, 20:10:27:07 and 20:10:27:14.

The Commission found that U S WEST's Petition to Intervene was timely filed and demonstrates good cause to grant intervention. The Commission further finds that pursuant to SDCL 49-31-12.6, Sully es shall be assessed $1,000 initially, subject to additional amounts as requested by the Executive Director up to the statutory limit. It is therefore

ORDERED that U S WEST's Petition to Intervene is granted; and it is further

ORDERED that Sully es deposit an initial assessment of $1,000 in the SDPUC regulatory fee fund and shall deposit any additional amounts as requested by the Executive Director.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of July, 1996.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By:_____

Date:_____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner

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