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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE OF HAZEN, NORTH DAKOTA) ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE; ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE; ORDER GRANTING USE OF OWN COST STUDY PROGRAM TC96-119

On July 1, 1996, West River Telecommunications Cooperative of Hazen, North Dakota (West River) filed for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 1995 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study.

On July 3, 1996, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 19, 1996, to interested individuals and entities. On July 18, 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 30, 1996, at its 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, West River shall be assessed \$1,000 initially, subject to additional amounts as requested by the Executive Director up to the statutory limit. Commission staff recommended that West River be allowed to use the GVNW cost study program as its cost study. It is therefore

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

ORDERED that West River 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; and it is further

ORDERED that West River be allowed to use the GVNW cost study program as its cost study.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of August, 1996.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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: Alan Kalbo
Date: 8/7/96
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kenneth Stofferahn
KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner