# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

# OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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| **IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY DAKOTA TELECOM, INC., DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., AND DAKOTA COOPERATIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR INTERCONNECTION WITH FORT RANDALL TELEPHONE COMPANY** | **)**<br>**)**<br>**)**<br>**)** | **ORDER SUSPENDING ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF HEARING AND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**<br><br>**TC97-062** |

On June 3, 1997, Dakota Telecom, Inc., Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc., and Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, Inc. (collectively Dakota) filed a Notice of Request for Interconnection with Fort Randall Telephone Company (Fort Randall) with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

A July 15, 1997, regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission granted intervention to SDITC. At a July 18, 1997, ad hoc meeting, the Commission found Dakota's request was not a bona fide request as required by 47 U.S.C. Section 251(f)(1). The Commission further found that it would hold a hearing on whether Dakota shall be required to meet Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) requirements before being allowed to provide service in exchanges owned by Fort Randall. On July 31, 1997, the Commission issued an Order For and Notice of Hearing and Procedural Schedule setting deadlines for submission of prefiled testimony and further setting a hearing on this matter for August 26, 1997.

On August 4, 1997, Dakota filed an appeal of this matter to the Circuit Court, Sixth Judicial Circuit and sought a stay in these proceedings. On August 8, 1997, Fort Randall and intervenor SDITC filed for removal of the appeal to United States District Court, District of South Dakota. Dakota has requested that the Commission suspend these proceedings in light of these appeals. It is therefore

ORDERED that the procedural schedule for the hearing in this matter which was scheduled for August 26, 1997, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, shall be suspended until further notice.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of August, 1997.

| CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE | BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION: |
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| 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.<br><br>By:_____<br><br>Date:_____<br><br>(OFFICIAL SEAL) | Commissioners Burg, Nelson and Schoenfelder<br><br>_____<br><br>WILLIAM BULLARD, JR., Executive Director |

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