

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FILED) ORDER GRANTING
BY DAKOTA COOPERATIVE) INTERVENTION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., DAKOTA)
TELECOM, INC., AND DAKOTA) TC97-014
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.)
REQUESTING THE COMMISSION TO)
DETERMINE WHETHER IT OBJECTS TO A)
WAIVER BY THE FCC OF THE DEFINITION OF)
A STUDY AREA.)

On February 10, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, Inc., and its subsidiary companies, Dakota Telecom, Inc., and Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (Dakota), requesting that the Commission determine whether it objects to a waiver by the FCC of the definition of "Study Area" contained in Part 36 Appendix-Glossary of the FCC's rules to allow Dakota to expand its South Dakota study area boundaries to include the new local exchange facilities it is constructing in Viborg and Centerville. Dakota represents that it will provide service to consumers in the Centerville and Viborg exchanges through its subsidiaries, and has begun providing such services. Dakota's current study area completely surrounds the Viborg and Centerville exchanges. Dakota represents that it is building a new, state-of-the-art switching facility in Viborg, which is centrally located with respect to Dakota's service area. If the Commission does not object to such a waiver by the FCC, Dakota requests that the Commission provide Dakota with a letter to that effect.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-13 and 49-31.

Petitions to intervene have been received from parties on February 28, 1997, as follows: South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition, Inc. (SDITC); Fort Randall Telephone Company.

At its regularly scheduled March 4, 1997, meeting, the Commission found that the Petitions to Intervene were timely filed and demonstrated good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED that the Petitions to Intervene of SDITC and Fort Randall Telephone Company, are granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of March, 1997.

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:	<u><i>Almaire Kelso</i></u>
Date:	<u>3/12/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner