BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE SALE OF THE	)	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE
STOCK OF VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY	)	OF HEARING
TO PARK REGION MUTUAL TELEPHONE	)	
COMPANY	)	TC98-150

On September 3, 1998, Revering Group, Inc. (RGI), the sole shareholder of Valley Telephone Company (Valley) and Park Region Mutual Telephone Company (Park Region), jointly applied to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval of the sale of the stock of Valley to Park Region. The joint application stated, "Valley will continue to operate and provide local telephone service under its existing Certificate of Authority after the stock sale. Valley has a Certificate of Authority to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota. Valley is an independent telephone company with two exchanges, serving customers in West Browns Valley, South Dakota and Browns Valley, Minnesota. There are approximately 636 access lines located in Browns Valley and 180 access lines located in West Browns Valley."

On September 3, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 18, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31, specifically 1-26-17.1, 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 1-26-19.1, 49-31-2, 49-31-3, 49-31-3.1, 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, 49-31-10, 49-31-11, and 49-31-59. The Commission may rely upon any or all of these or other laws of this state in making its determination.

A hearing shall be held on Thursday, December 3, 1998, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 412, State Capitol Building, Pierre, South Dakota. The issue at the hearing is whether the sale of the stock of Valley to Park Region should be approved.

The public is invited to participate by testifying at the hearing. All persons so testifying will be subject to cross-examination by the parties. The order of the proceeding will be in the following sequence: (1) Valley; (2) Park Region; (3) Staff; and (4) the public in general.

The hearing is an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to attend and represent themselves or be represented by an attorney. However, such rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20.

The Commission, after examining the evidence and hearing testimony presented by

the parties, shall make Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision. As a result of the hearing the Commission may either approve or reject the proposed sale of the stock of Valley Telephone Company. The Final Decision made by the Commission may be appealed by the parties to the Circuit Court and the South Dakota Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held on the joint application for approval of the sale of the stock of Valley to Park Region at the time and place specified above.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of November, 1998.

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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:_____

Date:_____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:
Commissioners Burg, Nelson and Schoenfelder

_____
WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.
Executive Director

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