

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF EAST PLAINS TELECOM, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF SWITCHED ACCESS RULES	) ) ) ) )	ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF SWITCHED ACCESS RULES TC98-153
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On September 14, 1998, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition by East Plains Telecom, Inc. (East Plains) for an extension of the waiver of the switched access rules granted in TC96-125. East Plains requests that it be allowed to continue charging a seven cent switched access rate in all of East Plains' exchanges that it purchased from U S WEST Communications, Inc., until the Commission approves a new rate based on a cost study using calendar year 1998 data. East Plains did not acquire the Alcester and Hudson exchanges until June 1, 1997, and it does not have twelve months of actual operations and traffic information for these two exchanges.

On September 17, 1998, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 2, 1998, to interested individuals and entities. No parties have filed for intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of November 25, 1998, the Commission considered the matter along with comments from Staff.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:27:02. Further, the Commission finds that it has good cause to grant an extension of the waiver of the switched access rules and petitioner shall file its cost study by May 1, 1999. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request for an extension of the waiver of switched access rules is hereby granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that petitioner shall file its cost study by May 1, 1999.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of December, 1998.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>Delaine Kaebo</i></u>
Date: <u>12/8/98</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