

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FCC ORDER)	ORDER GRANTING
ESTABLISHING NEW DEADLINES FOR)	APPROVAL OF CARRIER
IMPLEMENTATION OF INTRALATA DIALING)	LETTERS
PARITY BY LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS)	TC99-030

On March 23, 1999, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an order establishing new deadlines for implementation of intraLATA dialing parity by local exchange carriers (LECs). In the Matters of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Petition of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell for Expedited Declaratory Ruling on Interstate IntraLATA Toll Dialing Parity or, in the Alternative, Various Other Relief, CC Docket No. 96-98, FCC 99-54 (released March 23, 1999). The order states that "[n]o later than April 22, 1999, all LECs must file intraLATA toll dialing parity plans with the state regulatory commission for each state in which the LEC provides telephone exchange service if a plan has not yet been filed with such state commission. Once a state commission has approved a plan, the LEC must implement its plan no later than 30 days after the date on which the plan is approved." Id. at ¶ 7. If the state commission has not acted on the plan by June 22, 1999, the LEC must file the plan with the Common Carrier Bureau of the FCC. Id.

At its March 30, 1999, meeting, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) opened a docket in order to review intraLATA toll dialing plans and established a procedural schedule that would allow other parties to file written comment on the LECs' intraLATA toll dialing plans. At its April 1, 1999, meeting, the Commission issued guidelines for LECs to follow when developing their intraLATA toll dialing plans. On the issue of cost recovery, the Commission decided that if a LEC believes that it needs cost recovery, the LEC should file for cost recovery in a separate proceeding before the Commission in accordance with FCC rules.

On April 23, 1999, the Commission electronically transmitted notice that the following companies had filed intraLATA toll dialing parity plans: Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa on April 20, 1999; Accent Communications, Inc. on April 20, 1999; Splitrock Properties, Inc. on April 21, 1999; Jefferson Telephone Company on April 21, 1999; Venture Communications, Inc. on April 21, 1999; Hanson County Telephone Company on April 21, 1999; Hanson Communications, Inc. d/b/a McCook Telecom on April 21, 1999; Vivian Telephone Company d/b/a Golden West Communications, Inc. on April 21, 1999; Stockholm Strandburg Telephone Co. on April 22, 1999; AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. on April 22, 1999; Midco Communications on April 22, 1999; Heartland Communications, Inc. on April 22, 1999; Mobridge Telecommunications on April 22, 1999; West River Telecommunications Cooperative on April 22, 1999; Dakota Telecommunications Group, Inc., DTG Community Telephone, Inc. and Dakota Telecom, Inc. on April 22, 1999; Stateline Telecommunications, Inc. on April 22, 1999; and U S WEST Communications, Inc. on April 22, 1999.

The following local exchange carriers notified the Commission that they have completed conversion to intraLATA dialing parity: Fort Randall Telephone Company on April 21, 1999; Mt. Rushmore Telephone Company on April 21, 1999; CommChoice, LLC on April 22, 1999; Kadoka on April 26, 1999; Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association on May 12, 1999; RC Communications, Inc. on May 12, 1999; Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. on May 13, 1999; Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative, Inc. on May 17, 1999; and Great Plains Communications on May 17, 1999.

Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative, Dickey Rural Communications, Inc. Consolidated Telephone Cooperative and Consolidated Telcom, Inc. formerly known as CTC Communications, Inc. petitioned the Commission for a suspension and modification of the requirement for implementation of intraLATA dialing parity in their service areas until June 30, 2000.

Kennebec Telephone Company filed its intraLATA toll dialing parity implementation plan and, pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:39 and 47 U.S.C. 251(f)(2), a petition for suspension and modification of the requirement for implementing intraLATA dialing parity until September 19, 1999.

Western Telephone Company filed its intraLATA toll dialing parity implementation plan and, pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:39 and 47 U.S.C. 251(f)(2), a petition for suspension and modification of the requirement for implementing intraLATA dialing parity until September 15, 1999.

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company filed its intraLATA toll dialing parity implementation plan and, pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:39 and 47 U.S.C. 251(f)(2), a petition for suspension and modification of the requirement for implementing intraLATA dialing parity until September 15, 1999.

SANCOM, Inc. and Valley Cable & Satellite Communications (VC&S) informed the Commission of their respective intraLATA 1+ plans prior to the FCC order. VC&S will convert to intraLATA 1+ on April 1, 1999, and SANCOM on May 3, 1999.

Heartland Communications Inc., Accent Communications, Inc., Splitrock Properties, Inc., Venture Communications, Inc., Hanson County Telephone Company, Hanson Communications, Inc. d/b/a McCook Telecom, Stockholm Strandburg Telephone Co., Mobridge Telecommunications, Stateline Telecommunications, Inc., Vivian Telephone Company d/b/a Golden West Communications, Inc., Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa, Jefferson Telephone Company, DCT & DTI, U S WEST Communications, Inc., and West River Telecommunications Cooperative (McLaughlin exchange) requested Commission approval to send out its carrier notification letters in advance of final Commission action on the proposed plan with the carrier notifications completed by June 1, 1999.

At its regularly scheduled May 12, 1999, meeting, the Commission considered the companies' request to send out carrier letters in advance of final approval of the plans. Staff recommended that the Commission grant approval to send out its carrier notification letter in advance of final Commission action on the proposed plan.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-81 and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, specifically 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252. After discussion, the Commission voted unanimously to grant approval to send out the carrier notification letters in advance of final Commission action on the proposed intraLATA dialing parity plans. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the above referenced companies that requested early approval have been granted approval to send out the carrier notification letters in advance of final Commission action on the proposed intraLATA dialing parity plans.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of May, 1999.

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>Aldine Kees</i></u>
Date: <u>5/19/99</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