

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR ) MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY )	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF HEARING TC96-091
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR THE ) LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION )	TC96-092
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR SULLY ) BUTTES TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. )	TC96-094
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR ) INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ) COOPERATIVE, INC. )	TC96-097
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR ) SPLITROCK TELECOM COOPERATIVE, INC. )	TC96-098
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR DAKOTA ) COOPERATIVE TELECOM, INC. )	TC96-104
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR ) BROOKINGS TELEPHONE COMPANY )	TC96-106
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR ) SANBORN TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE )	TC96-108
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR ) KENNEBEC TELEPHONE COMPANY )	TC96-109
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR ) WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY )	TC96-110
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT ) OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR UNION ) TELEPHONE COMPANY )	TC96-111

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY	) ) ) )	TC96-113
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR TRI- COUNTY TELCOM, INC.	) ) )	TC96-114
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR JAMES VALLEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY	) ) ) )	TC96-115
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR SIOUX VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY	) ) )	TC96-116
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR STOCKHOLM-STRANDBURG TELEPHONE COMPANY	) ) ) )	TC96-117
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION	) ) ) )	TC96-118
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE OF HAZEN, NORTH DAKOTA	) ) ) )	TC96-119
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR GOLDEN WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	) ) )	TC96-121
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY	) ) ) )	TC96-124

The Public Utilities Commission (Commission) opened each of the above-captioned dockets (Dockets) during the period from June 11, 1996, through July 10, 1996. Each Docket, with the exception of TC96-092 and TC96-104, represents company filings of revenue requirements that are included in the LECA switched access rate filing, Docket TC96-092.

Docket TC96-092 was opened on June 12, 1996, and represents a filing by the Local Exchange Carriers Association (LECA) for approval by the Commission of its 1995 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study.

Docket TC96-104 was opened on June 21, 1996, and represents a filing by Dakota Cooperative Telecom, Inc. (DCT) for approval by the Commission of its 1995 Intrastate Access Rate Study. On September 9, 1996, DCT filed its Schedule of General Rules, Regulations, Charges, and Conditions Applying to Intrastate Access Services and Facilities with an effective date of October 10, 1996. On October 25, 1996, the Commission ordered that the effective date of DCT's switched access rate be suspended for 120 days from the proposed effective date.

The Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing of each of the Dockets and their respective intervention deadlines to interested individuals and entities. Intervention in each Docket was granted to U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST). U S WEST subsequently withdrew its intervention in each of the Dockets.

On November 20, 1996, the parties filed with the Commission a separate Stipulation and Agreement for each Docket, with the exception of DCT which filed on November 21, 1996.

A hearing shall be held in these matters December 2, 1996. The hearing will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will be held in Room 412 in the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1-11, 49-31-5, 49-31-18 and ARSD Chapters 20:10:27 through 20:10:29, inclusive, and will make its determination based upon these laws and generally upon Chapters 49-31 and 49-1, SDCL.

The issue at the hearing is whether the Commission shall approve the Stipulation and Agreement filed by the parties relative to each of the Dockets setting the switched access charges that each of the above-captioned companies will be allowed to charge.

The hearing is an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapters 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 its final decision. As a result of the hearing, the Commission shall resolve any open issues. The final decision made by the Commission may be appealed by the parties. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the hearing shall be held on this matter December 2, 1996. The hearing will begin on December 2, 1996, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 412 in the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

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 22nd day of November, 1996.

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>Alvina Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>11/22/96</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:  
Commissioners Stofferahn, Burg,  
Schoenfelder



WILLIAM BULLARD, JR.  
Executive Director