BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE BETWEEN THE HUMBOLDT-MONTROSE EXCHANGE AND THE SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA EXCHANGE	**)))))**	**ORDER DENYING PETITION AND CLOSING DOCKET TC99-055**

On May 10, 1999, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition for Extended Area Service between the Humboldt-Montrose Exchange of Sioux Valley Telephone Company and the Sioux Falls Exchange of U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) from subscribers in the Humboldt-Montrose Exchange. Intervention was granted to U S WEST at the Commission's June 8, 1999, meeting.

This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled February 2, 2000, meeting. Prior to this meeting, Commission Staff served data requests on the two telecommunications companies involved who supplied confidential responses in accordance with Commission rules for confidential materials. Commission Staff then filed its report and opinion under confidential protection. This report contained Staff's opinion that extended area service as requested should be denied because (1) the exchanges are not contiguous and (2) the call volume from the Sioux Falls exchange to the Humboldt-Montrose exchange do not meet the calling criteria of three calls per main station per month. These criteria were established by the Commission in docket F-3360, entered on February 11, 1980.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-2, 49-31-3, 49-31-7, and 49-31-7.1. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the petition for extended area service between the Humboldt-Montrose exchange and the Sioux Falls exchange, as described herein, is hereby denied; and it is further

ORDERED, that this docket is hereby closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of February, 2000.

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)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

_____
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

_____
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

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LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner