

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT)	ORDER GRANTING
OF SWITCHED ACCESS REVENUE)	PETITION TO INTERVENE;
REQUIREMENT FOR EAST PLAINS)	ORDER ASSESSING FILING
TELECOM, INC.)	FEE
)	TC02-072

On June 20, 2002, East Plains Telecom, Inc. (East Plains) filed for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 2001 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study.

On June 27, 2002, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 12, 2002, to interested individuals and entities. On July 9, 2002, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from S&S Communications (S&S).

SDCL 49-31-12.6 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1, 49-1A-9, 49-31-12.6, 49-31-18, 49-31-19 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.05, 20:10:27:07 and 20:10:27:08.

On July 23, 2002, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission found that S&S' Petition to Intervene was timely filed and demonstrates good cause to grant intervention. Further, the Commission, pursuant to SDCL 49-31-12.6, unanimously voted to assess East Plains a \$1,000 filing fee, subject to additional amounts as requested by the Executive Director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. It is therefore

ORDERED, that S&S' Petition to Intervene is granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that East Plains shall deposit an initial assessment of \$1,000 in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund and shall deposit any additional amounts as requested by the Executive Director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7th day of August, 2002.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u> Melaine Kalbo </u></p> <p>Date: <u> 8/7/02 </u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Robert K. Sahr *by*
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner *sk*