

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>ORDER ASSESSING FILING</b>
<b>OF SWITCHED ACCESS REVENUE</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>FEE AND ORDER</b>
<b>REQUIREMENT FOR WEST RIVER</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>GRANTING USE OF OWN</b>
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE</b>	<b>)</b>	<b>COST STUDY PROGRAM</b>
	<b>)</b>	<b>TC04-125</b>

On July 1, 2004, West River Telecommunications Cooperative (West River) filed for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 2003 Intrastate Switched Access Cost Study.

On July 8, 2004, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 23, 2004, to interested individuals and entities.

On July 12, 2004, the Commission received a letter from West River requesting that the Commission allow West River to use GVNW's cost study model.

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, 20:10:27:08 and 20:10:27:14.

On August 17, 2004, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission, pursuant to SDCL 49-31-12.6, unanimously voted to assess West River a \$1,000 filing fee, subject to additional amounts as requested by the Executive Director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. Commission Staff recommended that West River be allowed to use the GVNW cost study program as its cost study. The Commission unanimously voted to approve West River's request for use of GVNW's cost study model. It is therefore

**ORDERED**, that West River 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. It is further

**ORDERED**, that West River be allowed to use the GVNW cost study program as its cost study.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004.

**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: Melaine Kalbo

Date: 8/27/04

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner