

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS FOR) APPROVAL TO EXPAND ITS CERTIFICATE OF) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE) SERVICE IN THE WOLSEY EXCHANGE OF) THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF SANTEL) COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE)	ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION TC05-161
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On August 26, 2005, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application from Midcontinent Communications for approval to expand its certificate of authority to provide local exchange service in the Wolsey Exchange of the service territory of Santel Communications Cooperative.

On September 1, 2005, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 16, 2005, to interested individuals and entities. The South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) filed to intervene on September 16, 2005.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-31 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.05.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of September 27, 2005, the Commission found that the Petition to Intervene was timely filed and demonstrated good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Petition to Intervene of SDTA is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of October, 2005.

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>Melaine Kaelo</u>
Date:	<u>10/4/05</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner