BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF ITS INTRASTATE SWITCHED ACCESS TARIFF AND FOR AN EXTENSION OF AN EXEMPTION FROM DEVELOPING COMPANY **SPECIFIC COST-BASED** SWITCHED ACCESS RATES

ORDER APPROVING SWITCHED ACCESS RATES AND GRANTING **EXTENSION FROM DEVELOPING COMPANY** SPECIFIC COST-BASED **SWITCHED ACCESS RATES** TC05-185

On October 24, 2005, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a request from Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) for approval of revised switched access rates and for an extension of its exemption from the requirement to develop intrastate switched access rates based on company specific costs. Midcontinent is also asking for a waiver of ARSD 20:10:27:12. Midcontinent intends to mirror the switched access rates of Qwest.

On December 20, 2005, the Commission considered Midcontinent's request for approval of revised switched access rates, for an extension of its exemption from establishing switched access rates based on company specific costs, and for a waiver of ARSD 20:10:27:12. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-18, 49-31-19 and ARSD 20:10:27. The Commission voted to grant the request for approval of revised switched access rates, for an extension of its exemption from the requirement to develop intrastate switched access rates based on company specific costs and for a waiver of ARSD 20:10:27:12. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Midcontinent's request for approval of revised switched access rates to mirror Qwest's intrastate switched access rates is hereby approved; and it is further

ORDERED, that Midcontinent's request for a waiver of ARSD 20:10:27:12 is hereby approved; and it is further

ORDERED, that Midcontinent is approved for an extension of its exemption from establishing company specific cost-based switched access rates so long as Midcontinent's intrastate switched access rates are equal to or less than that of the ILEC Qwest intrastate switched access rates or until the Commission shall otherwise order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of December, 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.

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

SAHR. Commissioner