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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LECs' 2004 SWITCHED ACCESS REVENUE REQUIREMENTS	) NOTICE OF HEARING ) )
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Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.	TC04-106
Splitrock Properties, Inc.	TC04-107
Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc	c. TC04-108
Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc.	TC04-111
City of Brookings Municipal Telephone Department	TC04-112
Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company	TC04-114
Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc.	TC04-116
Kennebec Telephone Company	TC04-118
West River Telecommunications Cooperative	TC04-125
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Between the dates of June 22, 2004, and July 21, 2004, the nine local exchange carriers (LECs) listed above (Applicants) filed their 2004 switched access separations cost studies for approval by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The non-confidential portions of the various amended cost studies and other filings in these dockets are set forth on the Commission's web site for each of the company-specific dockets under "Commission Actions," "Commission Dockets," "2004 Telecommunications Dockets."

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, including \$\$ 49-31-12, 49-31-12.4, 49-31-18 and 49-31-19 and ARSD Chapters 20:10:27, 20:10:28 and 20:10:29, including \$\$ 20:10:27:02, 20:10:27:03, 20:10:27:06, 20:10:27:07 and 20:10:27:08.

Commission Staff and Darla Rogers, counsel for Applicants, met on January 3, 2006 and agreed to the dates for hearing set forth in this order for all of the LECs represented by Ms. Rogers. After subsequent discussions among counsel for Applicants, Staff and the Commission on April 13, 2006, it was agreed that the above-listed dockets would proceed to hearing at this time.

In accordance with the hearing schedule agreed to by counsel for Applicants, Staff and Commission Counsel, a hearing will be held beginning at 10:00 A.M. on April 24, 2006, and continuing at 8:30 A.M. on April 25 – 28, at 10:00 A.M. on May 1 and at 8:30 A.M. on May 2 - 3, 2006, in Rm. 412 of the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota, on the above-listed dockets. The dockets will be heard in the following order, which has been requested by Applicants to group companies sharing the same cost consultants for the convenience of witnesses and to facilitate the consolidation of evidence that will be common to multiple cases: TC04-106 (Alliance), TC04-107 (Splitrock), TC04-111 (Venture), TC04-108 (Valley), TC04-112 (Brookings), TC04-125 (West River), TC04-118 (Kennebec), TC04-116 (Santel) and TC04-114 (Stockholm). To the extent that the issues and the witnesses and documentary evidence are materially the same in more than one cost docket, the parties may, and are encouraged to, present such common evidence in a consolidated manner that will minimize repetition and the parties are further encouraged to agree to such consolidated presentation from the other parties.

The issues at the hearing will be whether the switched access cost study, rates and tariff filed by each Applicant should be approved as filed or, if not, what costs, rates and tariff provisions shall be approved?

The hearing will be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights will be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If a party or its representative fails to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision may be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing, the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision. As a result of the hearing, the Commission will determine for each Applicant its allowable switched access costs and will establish its switched access rates and associated tariff provisions. The Commission's Final Decision may be appealed to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED, that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issues set forth above.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of April, 2006.

## 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 prevaid thereon. By: Date: (OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

DUSTIN M. JOHNSON/Commissioner

GARY HANSON, Commissioner