

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY GREAT) ORDER GRANTING WAIVER
PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR A)
WAIVER OF ARSD §§ 20:10:32:52, 20:10:32:53) TC06-097
AND 20:10:32:54)
)

On July 25, 2006, Great Plains Communications, Inc. (Great Plains) filed a request for a 30 day extension of the August 1 due date for filing the Annual ETC Certification and a Petition for Waiver of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:52 to 20:10:32:54, inclusive. Great Plains' study area is comprised primarily of a geographic area contained within the state of Nebraska, but also includes small portions of rural territory in South Dakota. Great Plains' service area in South Dakota consists of North Cody, North Crookston, North Gordon and North Kilgore. According to Great Plains' Petition for Waiver, for companies that have a very small portion of their overall study area in South Dakota, the requirement of certifying the use of federal Universal Service Fund monies per the requirements of the above referenced rules are "unduly burdensome and unnecessary" for the Commission to certify that Great Plains is using the federal high cost support for the uses it is intended. Because its study area is largely contained within the state of Nebraska and because it will comply with the Nebraska Public Service Commission requirements for ETC certification, Great Plains requests that it be allowed to file a copy of its Nebraska ETC certification with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission), and that the Commission accept such filing as sufficient to make the determination as to include Great Plains on the list of certified carriers it provides to the FCC on or before October 1 of each year.

On July 27, 2006, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 11, 2006, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

On August 23, 2006, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission granted an extension of the deadline for filing a request for certification of federal universal service support. The request for a waiver was deferred.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-31, and 47 U.S.C. § 254.

On September 26, 2006, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for a waiver. Commission Staff had no objection to granting the waiver. The Commission voted to grant a waiver of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:52 to 20:10:32:54, finding that compliance is unduly burdensome and unnecessary. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request for a waiver of ARSD §§ 20:10:32:52 to 20:10:32:54 is hereby granted

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of September, 2006.

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: *Delaine Kalbo*

Date: *9/27/06*

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner