

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
BY QWEST CORPORATION DBA )  
CENTURYLINK QC FOR APPROVAL OF )  
WAIVER OF SWITCHED ACCESS COST )  
STUDY )**

**ORDER GRANTING  
WAIVER  
TC17-002**

On January 17, 2017, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (CenturyLink) for a waiver of the requirement to perform a switched access cost study pursuant to ARSD 20:10:27:02. ARSD 20:10:27:07 requires that an incumbent local exchange carrier submit a cost study no less than once every three years. ARSD 20:10:27:02 also provides that the commission, for good cause shown, may either on its own motion or by application from a carrier's carrier, temporarily waive or suspend any rule in chapter 20:10:27. CenturyLink requests a waiver of the cost study requirement because (1) many access rates are limited by the federal ruling in the USF/ICC Transformation Order; (2) producing such a study is costly and consumes a great deal of resources; (3) Century Link does not intend to increase access rates at this time; and (4) preliminary analysis based on past studies indicates that a cost study would likely justify higher rates than those from the last submitted study.

On January 19, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 3, 2017, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 10, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended granting CenturyLink's waiver. The Commission found good cause to grant the requested waiver. It is therefore

ORDERED, that CenturyLink's waiver is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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, electronically or by mail.
By: <u>Adam DeHuelck</u>
Date: <u>2/15/17</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner