



1997 ANNUAL REPORT



South Dakota
Public Utilities Commission

◆ 1997 Annual Report ◆

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

§ 49-1-13

Annual Report
to the Governor
- Contents

The public utility commission shall annually make a report of its activities to the Governor at the time and in the manner prescribed by law for other state officers, containing the facts, statements, and explanations deemed necessary by the commission to fully disclose its transactions and conduct.

Letter to the Governor

Dear Governor Janklow:



The 1997 Annual Report of the Public Utilities Commission was electronically generated and distributed. This report can be accessed by anyone within the state and throughout the world on the Commission's internet homepage found at: <http://www.state.sd.us/puc/> The only limitation is that recipients must first have internet access. To accommodate those who do not, conventional hard copies are available from the Commission.

For your review, I do hereby respectfully submit the Commission's annual report for the 1997 calendar year in electronic format.

This report describes the activities, functions and accomplishments of the Commission during the 1997 calendar year. Included are facts, statements and explanations necessary to fully disclose its transactions and conduct. Also included is a listing of applications, subjects and disposition of each docket number assigned by the Commission; a complete financial report of receipts and expenditures; and a list of the regulated utilities.

The Commissioners and Commission Staff are available to discuss the various topics contained in this report.

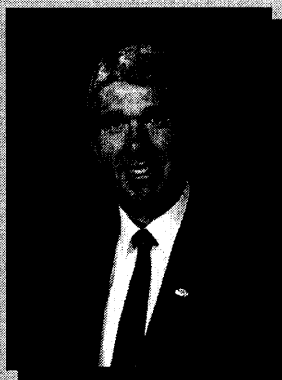
Sincerely,

Jim Burg
Chairman

Table of Contents

<i>Commissioners, Qualifications and Powers</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Organizational Chart</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Brief History</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>1997 in Review</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Fiscal Report</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Docket Status Register</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>1997 Court Action</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Investor-Owned Utilities</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Black Hills Power & Light</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>MidAmerican Energy</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Montana Dakota Utilities</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Northern States Power Company</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Northwestern Public Service</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Otter Tail Power Company</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>People's Natural Gas</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>US WEST Communications, Inc.</i>	<i>45</i>

The Commissioners



Jim Burg, Chairman



Pam Nelson, Vice Chairman



*Laska Schoenfelder
Commissioner*

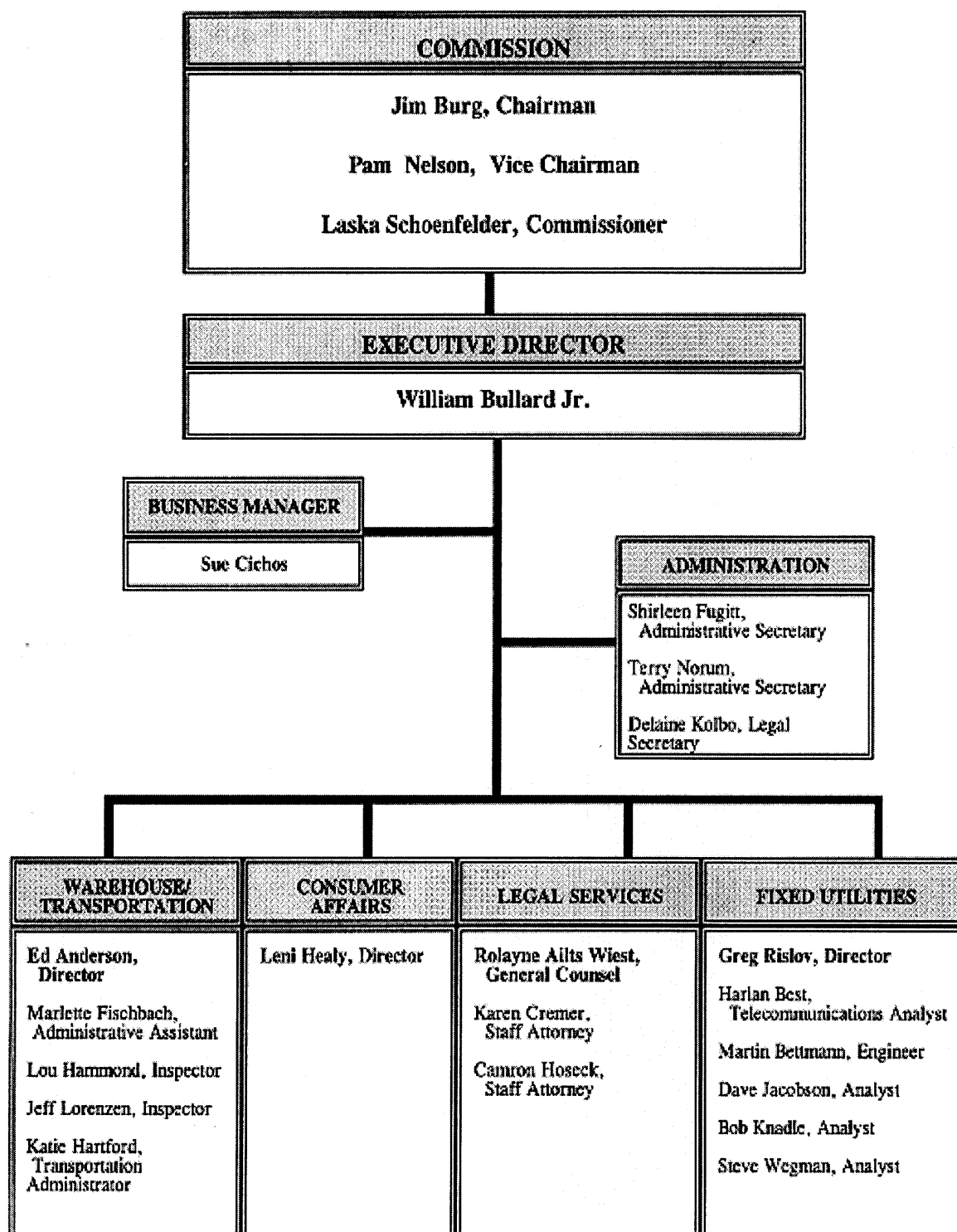
Qualifications and Powers of the Commissioners

There are three public utility commissioners, each elected from the public at large. At each general election one commissioner position, serving a six-year term, will be placed on the statewide ballot.

The Commissioners have legislative, judicial and administrative powers. For example: the Commission acts in a legislative capacity when setting quality of service rules; it acts as judge when determining violations of those rules; and it acts in an administrative capacity when requiring reports of utility companies' actions regarding implementation of those rules.

SD Public Utilities Commission

Organizational Chart



Brief History

In 1882, the Territorial legislature created an ad hoc committee to deal with railroad issues. Each year the committee became more burdened with railroad issues. In 1885, the legislature established the Board of Railroad Commissioners with regulatory powers. The three-member board was appointed by the Governor to serve two-year terms. In 1890 the Board was given authority over grain warehouses since the facilities were usually adjacent to railroads.

The Commissioner positions became elected posts in 1897 and the Commission was given rate regulation authority. In 1909 the Board was given authority over telephone and telegraph services. In 1925 the Board was given authority over for-hire motor carriers and later testing and inspection of heavy scales.

In 1939 the Board's name was changed to Public Utilities Commission to more accurately reflect its wide range of responsibilities.

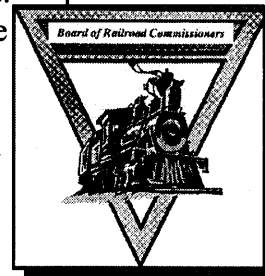
Gas and electric industries became regulated by the Commission in 1975; however, a year later rural electric utilities became exempt from rate regulation. In 1979, rural telephone companies became exempt from rate regulation; and in 1987, independent telephone companies serving fewer than 10,000 subscribers became exempt from rate regulation.

Railroad authority was given to the Department of Transportation in 1980. In 1981 the Record Carrier Competition Act removed telegraph companies from state regulation.

In 1988 the legislature classified telecommunication services into three categories: noncompetitive, emerging competitive, and fully competitive. Rate regulation was allowed for fully competitive services.

In 1995, the intrastate trucking industry was wholly deregulated.

Throughout the many changes, the mission of the Public Utilities Commission remains the same: ensuring that utility companies in South Dakota provide safe, reliable service at fair and reasonable rates.



1997 in Review

The Year's Most Prominent Highlights:


- ◆ The PUC approved a request by U S West to allow the company to establish a price cap-type rate structure, thus providing U S West more rate flexibility in the wake of competition. This alternative regulation was implemented in 1996 and included a \$25 million infrastructure investment plan and a phase-in of rate increases. The second phase of the rate increase was to occur in 1997, contingent upon a finding by the PUC that U S West's service quality was adequate. The PUC denied the second phased-in rate increase, except for a touch-tone roll-in increase based upon inadequate service quality. U S West both appealed the PUC's denial to state circuit court and suspended its investment activity in the state.
- ◆ Commission staff filed a petition to show cause with the Commission alleging that U S West's performance was inadequate and may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the state as well as an impediment to economic development. The petition asks the Commission to order U S West to show cause as to why the Commission should not force the company to make improvements in its service territory or possibly lose its authority to do business in South Dakota.
- ◆ Western South Dakota Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. customers will be receiving a percentage share of a \$30.8 million refund following the South Dakota Commission's and Montana Consumer Counsel's challenge of excessive rates implemented by Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company from 1992 through 1995.
- ◆ A study commissioned by Black Hills Power and Light Company concludes that South Dakota would not benefit from electric deregulation.
- ◆ The Commission's consumer affairs division register 1,565 consumer contacts in 1997. That compares to 1,451 contacts in 1995. Slamming leads the list of most frequent consumer complaints in the state.

The Year's Issues

The passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; the ensuing federal rulemaking processes; and the resulting positioning of telecommunications companies dominated the Commission's 1997 agenda much as it did in 1996. While electric restructuring gained popularity in other states, South Dakota, which enjoys relatively low electric rates, did not open any formal dockets on the issue of retail wheeling. The Commission continues to monitor developments in other jurisdictions. Mergers and acquisitions were prevalent in both the natural gas and grain warehouse industries within the state. A few of the issues reflecting the changing utility industries are reported below.

"Mergers and acquisitions were prevalent in both natural gas and grain warehouse industries within the state."

Electricity



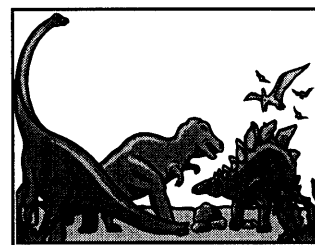
Northern States Power Company-South Dakota (NSP) petitioned the Commission for approval of an overall 1.5% electric rate reduction and to freeze rates through the year 2000 subject to extraordinary events resulting from expected savings from NSP's proposed merger with Wisconsin Energy Corporation to form

Primergy, a new registered holding company. NSP proposed that the decrease be effective upon closing of the merger. On June 6, 1997, the Commission received a request from NSP to withdraw its rate reduction application based on the termination of the merger between it and Wisconsin Energy Corporation.

Natural Gas

In 1997, Commission staff promulgated rules which would specify standards of conduct to be followed in transactions between natural gas distribution companies and their affiliates. The rules were supported by unregulated natural gas marketers which compete against the regulated utilities and their affiliates in selling gas to end users. After a hearing in August, the Commission decided against adopting rules at this time since there had been no complaints regarding abuse of the affiliate relationships.

In 1997, four new municipal gas systems initiated service in South Dakota at the communities of Humboldt, Garretson, Crooks, and Freeman. The Commission is also now considering an application by Northern States Power Company to become a regulated natural gas distribution company in the state and to set rates. The Commission also responded to numerous complaints of high gas prices during the first months of 1997 and again in December. The Commission explained that the price fluctuations are due



to changing supply and demand levels and the evolution of the natural gas market deregulated by the Federal Government several years ago.

Five new South Dakota towns had natural gas distribution systems installed in 1997. Four of the five new systems are municipally owned and operated. Previous to last year there was only one municipal gas system in the state. The expansion of gas distribution facilities has added close to 5,000 new customers during the year.

Telecommunications

The 1997 South Dakota Legislature did not establish a state universal service fund nor did it revise state telecommunications statutes to accommodate the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Legislature did pass a new telecommunications law. The new law establishes an advanced "Public Communications Network Infrastructure." This infrastructure is to be completed in three phases. The first phase, narrowband, is to be accomplished within 5 years. It entails, among other upgrades, the deployment of ISDN throughout the state's existing telecommunications network. The second phase, wideband, is simply a transitional phase from the narrowband phase to the far more sophisticated third phase which is a broadband network. The Commission is conducting an investigation to determine what upgrades are needed within the state in order to achieve compliance.

The Legislature also strengthened South Dakota's telemarketing laws requiring written letters of authorization from consumers before long distance services could be switched. This law will likely be challenged during the 1998 Session.

During the year, the Commission received 62 applications for certificates of authority from interexchange carriers, 14 applications from competing local exchange carriers, 5 applications from carriers wanting to do both long distance and local, and 1 application from a local exchange carrier which had purchased some of the U S WEST sold exchanges. At year end 1997, South Dakota had 220 certified long distance providers, 22 certified competitive local exchange providers and 59 certified local exchange companies.

Eight formal interconnection agreements are in effect between U S West and new, competitive local exchange companies, including four wireless carriers. Only one interconnection agreement exists between two rural telecommunications companies.

In addition to the sale of 55 U S West exchanges within South Dakota in 1996, the Commission approved the sale of 9 additional U S West exchanges and 2 independent telephone exchanges during 1997.



Issues continued

The Commission approved new switched access rates for U S West following a protracted proceeding involving a circuit court appeal and remand. It approved a switched access rate increase from \$.0364 to \$.060905 to be achieved through a series of increases ending on December 1, 1999.

The Commission approved 7 switched access cost studies submitted by the Local Exchange Carrier Association (LECA) on behalf of its small independent, cooperative and municipal telephone company members and the South Dakota Network. U S West's switched access study and corresponding request to increase its originating and terminating switched access rates were remanded by the Commission to a rehearing scheduled for early 1997.

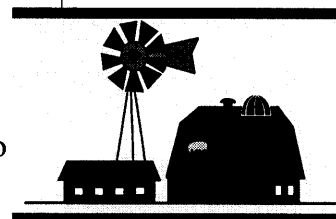
The Commission issued 56 orders granting eligible telecommunications carrier status to local exchange companies in South Dakota.

Transportation/Warehouse

Rail car shortages topped the list of problems experienced by the grain elevator industry in 1997. Although widespread flooding in the spring idled large tracts of farm ground for the 1997 growing season, the acres which were planted generally produced above average to record breaking yields for several different grains. With millions of bushels of grain on the ground after harvest, many elevator managers were forced to contend with rail car shortages that delayed delivery of cars for up to 40 days. An unusually late winter provided an expanded window of opportunity to move the grain and the weather related losses to spoilage in 1996 were not repeated in 1997.

Consolidations and mergers continued in 1997 with 15 facilities involved in some type of ownership restructuring. The trend is expected to continue as a result of rail transportation rates which offer substantial discounts to facilities that can load 108 car unit trains.

The Commission continues to administer registration programs for approximately 3200 interstate exempt motor carriers and 850 Federal Highway Authority regulated carriers. Throughout 1997, Commission staff participated in several workshops for the purpose of developing a business plan designed to improve the regulation of motor carriers operating in South Dakota.



Pipeline Safety Program

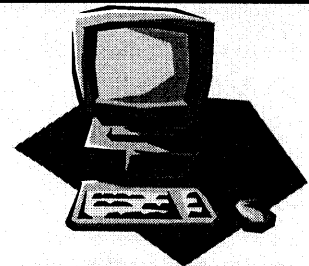
The Commission has jurisdiction over 3,187 miles of transmission and distribution pipelines that serve 145,554 customers in the state. 1996 marked the second full year of the Commission's operation of the program and it completed all required training during the year. The program involves fifteen natural gas pipeline operators. One reportable incident occurred during the year. A plastic six-inch distribution line located under the Bad River was exposed and damaged during flooding over the Memorial Day weekend. There were no injuries. However, the loss of facilities and cost of repair exceeded the \$50,000 minimum threshold for reportable incidents.

One Call Notification

In its third year of operation, the South Dakota One Call Notification Board went through a bidding process in order to procure an operator of the system for another three years. A new system, One Call Systems, Inc., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was selected. The One Call Notification Board continues to function as an eleven member board who are appointed by the Governor and, by statute, come from various utility and contracting industries.

Computerization

The Commission's WebPage was greatly expanded to include consumer brochures, news releases, orders, agendas, dockets, and other information.



FISCAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1997

	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES by fund group		ENCUBRANCE	BALANCE
		GENERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS		
ADMINISTRATION					
Personal Services	\$ 226,463	223,343	0	0	4,826
Operating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$ 226,463	223,343	0	0	4,826
TRANSPORTATION/WAREHOUSE					
Personal Services	\$ 199,015	123,918	52,520	0	22,577
Operating Expenses	56,405	55,686	0	719	0
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$ 255,420	179,604	52,520	719	22,577
FIXED UTILITY					
Personal Services	\$ 783,472	0	778,146	0	5,326
Operating Expenses	345,801	0	334,642	2,917	8,242
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$ 1,129,273	0	1,112,788	2,917	13,569
FILING FEES (Informational Budget)					
Personal Services	\$ 0	0	21,564	0	(21,564)
Operating Expenses	475,000	0	3,502	0	471,498
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$ 475,000	0	25,066	0	449,934
PIPELINE SAFETY (Informational Budget)					
Personal Services	\$ 87,141	0	28,355	0	58,786
Operating Expenses	47,680	0	17,452	0	30,228
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$ 134,821	0	45,808	0	89,013

Stmt of Transportation/ Warehouse Revenue

ICC Registration	\$ 11,275
Identification Stamps	21,265
SSRS Registrations	963,995
Bus Permits	2,405
Grain and Warehouse Licenses	75,144
Checkoff Audits	3,332
Tr/Whr Misc Revenue	31
Total Revenue	\$ 1,077,447

Gross Receipts Tax Fund Revenues

Gross Receipts	\$ 1,054,019
Tax	
Application Fees	20,250
Williston Basin Reimbursement	0
Interest Earned	92,078
TOTAL REVENUE	1,166,347

The Gross Receipts Tax Fund Revenues fund entirely and exclusively the Commission's Fixed Utility Division.

Docket Status Register

DOCKET NUMBER	DOCKET TITLES & OPENING AND CLOSING DATES
CIV97-292	DAKOTA TELECOM, INC., DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., AND DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC. V. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/07/97; Closed 11/24/97.
CIV97-348	CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. V. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF SOUTH DAKOTA AND CORSON COUNTY COMMISSION, MCINTOSH CITY COUNCIL AND DOUG SCOTT Filed 05/12/97; Pending. CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. V. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF SOUTH DAKOTA AND CORSON COUNTY COMMISSION, MCINTOSH CITY COUNCIL AND DOUG SCOTT Filed 09/09/97; Pending.
CIV97-349	U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. V. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 09/09/97; Closed Pending.
CIV97-425	DAKOTA TELECOM, INC. V. JAMES A BURG, PAM NELSON, LASKA SCHOENFELDER, COMMISSIONERS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 10/30/97; Closed 11/25/97.
CIV97-462	U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. V. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 12/04/97; Pending.
CIV97-50	U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. V. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 02/06/97; Closed 05/29/97.
CIV973017	U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. V. JAMES A. BURG, PAM NELSON, LASKA SCHOENFELDER AND AT&T COMMUNICATION OF THE MIDWEST, INC. Filed 04/23/97; Closed 08/25/97.
EL97-001	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF FUEL CLAUSE ADJUSTMENT Filed 01/07/97; Closed 01/23/97.
EL97-002	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BLACK HILLS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 1996 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT Filed 02/12/97; Closed 04/28/97.
EL97-003	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SIOUX VALLEY-SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR SALE OF PROPERTY AND TRANSFER OF SERVICE TERRITORY BETWEEN H-D ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., AND SIOUX VALLEY-SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. Filed 02/20/97; Closed 07/02/97.
EL97-004	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BUTTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., AND BLACK HILLS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF TRADE AGREEMENT Filed 02/21/97; Closed 03/11/97.

- EL97-005 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY LUANE SOUR, SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY REGARDING HER ACCOUNT Filed 03/11/97; Closed 07/29/97.
- EL97-006 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY JIM SCHIRBER, HERMOSA, SD, AGAINST MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES REGARDING TRANSFER OF ELECTRIC SERVICE Filed 03/17/97 Closed 05/21/97.
- EL97-007 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN Filed 04/08/97; Closed 05/21/97.
- EL97-008 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY JOHN BYRE, SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY REGARDING A BILL Filed 04/17/97; Closed 12/02/97.
- EL97-009 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY JAMES AND MARY BETH MOSS, SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY REGARDING A BILL Filed 05/06/97; Closed 07/29/97.
- EL97-010 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY AND WHETSTONE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FOR APPROVAL OF EXCHANGE OF RIGHTS AND PROPERTY Filed 05/16/97; Closed 07/02/97.
- EL97-011 IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR A STATEMENT TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REGARDING INVESTMENT IN A FOREIGN UTILITY Filed 05/29/97; Closed 06/04/97.
- EL97-012 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY AND DAKOTA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF ASSIGNMENT OF ELECTRIC SERVICE Filed 06/11/97; Closed 07/02/97.
- EL97-013 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY ARNOLD MURRAY CONSTRUCTION, SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY REGARDING TRANSFERRING UNPAID BALANCES TO ITS ACCOUNT Filed 07/09/97; Closed 12/02/97.
- EL97-014 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FOR TARIFF REVISIONS Filed 07/15/97; Closed 11/03/97.
- EL97-015 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BON HOMME-YANKTON ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC., AND TURNER-HUTCHINSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF ASSIGNMENT OF ELECTRIC SERVICE Filed 07/21/97; Closed 08/04/97.
- EL97-016 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY LINDA LAPOINTE, ABERDEEN, SD, AGAINST NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY REGARDING PAYMENT OF BILL Filed 08/11/97; Closed 08/27/97.
- EL97-017 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY THE TOWN OF PICKSTOWN AND CHARLES MIX ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF LIMITED WAIVER OF SERVICE TERRITORY AGREEMENT T Filed 09/05/97; Closed 10/03/97.
- EL97-018 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., A DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE AREA BETWEEN MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., AND CAMWAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. Filed 10/06/97; Pending.

- EL97-019 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., A DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ITS OCCASIONAL POWER PURCHASE NON-TIME DIFFERENTIATED RATE 95, SHORT-TERM POWER PURCHASE TIME DIFFERENTIATED RATE 96 AND LONG-TERM POWER PURCHASE TIME DIFFERENTIATED RATE 97 Filed 10/16/97; Closed 12/01/97.
- EL97-020 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE CITY OF VERMILLION FOR DETERMINATION OF PURCHASE PRICE OF ELECTRIC FACILITIES IN ANNEXED AREAS Filed 10/20/97; Pending.
- EL97-021 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY LAKE REGION ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF ASSIGNMENT OF ELECTRIC SERVICE FROM OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY TO LAKE REGION ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. Filed 10/17/97; Closed 12/05/97.
- EL97-022 IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR A STATEMENT TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REGARDING INVESTMENT IN FOREIGN UTILITIES Filed 11/18/97; Pending.
- EL97-023 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY ANGELIA QUALL, SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY REGARDING PREVIOUS BALANCES Filed 12/10/97; Pending.
- GD97-001 IN THE MATTER OF THE GRAIN WAREHOUSE AND GRAIN DEALER LICENSES OF UTICA GRAIN AND FEED, INC. Filed 04/04/97; Pending.
- GE97-001 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY TERESA VOGEL, DOLAND, SD, AGAINST NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY REGARDING GAS AND ELECTRIC BILL Filed 03/24/97; Closed 04/02/97.
- GE97-002 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS GUIDE TO ENERGY SERVICES PAMPHLET Filed 09/02/97; Pending.
- GE97-003 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ITS ELECTRIC AND GAS TARIFFS Filed 11/12/97; Pending.
- GE97-004 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ITS TARIFFS Filed 12/05/97; Pending.
- GE97-005 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ITS TARIFFS Filed 12/08/97; Pending.
- GW97-001 IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING WAREHOUSE RATES FOR THE STORAGE, RECEIVING, HANDLING AND REDELIVERY OF TRAIN Filed 12/18/97; Pending.
- NG97-001 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR REVISIONS TO ITS GAS TRANSPORTATION TARIFF Filed 02/26/97; Closed 04/10/97.
- NG97-002 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES COMPANY, A DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF A PURCHASED GAS COST ADJUSTMENT CHANGE FOR RATE 88 AND EAST RIVER SYSTEM PURCHASED GAS COST ADJUSTMENT RATE 89 TARIFFS Filed 02/26/97; Closed 04/10/97.

- NG97-003 IN THE MATTER OF THE NOTICE OF NORTHERN BORDER PIPELINE COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT COMPRESSOR STATION NO. 11 IN DEUEL COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 03/05/97; Closed 06/10/97.
- NG97-004 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE FOR REVISIONS TO ITS GAS TRANSPORTATION TARIFF Filed 03/27/97; Closed 04/28/97.
- NG97-005 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY TODD SCHAUFENBUEL, HURON, SD, AGAINST NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE REGARDING HEAT BILL Filed 04/02/97; Closed 10/17/97.
- NG97-006 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY ADAM HEADRICK, SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY REGARDING A BILL Filed 05/06/97; Closed 11/18/97.
- NG97-007 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., A DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC., FOR TARIFF REVISIONS Filed 05/09/97; Closed 06/03/97.
- NG97-008 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY GOLDIE BURNHAM, FORT PIERRE, SD, AGAINST MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., REGARDING A GAS LEAK Filed 05/29/97; Closed 07/02/97.
- NG97-009 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY BRUCE ITTERMAN, HARRISBURG, SD, AGAINST MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY REGARDING A GAS BILL Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/02/97.
- NG97-010 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY SUSAN COBB, SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY REGARDING DISCONNECTION Filed 06/25/97; Closed 07/29/97.
- NG97-011 IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE SAFETY PROCEDURES OF MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. Filed 07/02/97; Pending.
- NG97-012 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY ARNOLD MURRAY CONSTRUCTION, SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY REGARDING TRANSFERRING UNPAID BALANCES TO ITS ACCOUNT Filed 07/11/97; Closed 12/02/97.
- NG97-013 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FOR TARIFF REVISIONS Filed 08/29/97; Closed 10/03/97.
- NG97-014 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO ADD LANGUAGE TO ITS RESIDENTIAL GAS CUSTOMERS' BILLS Filed 09/02/97; Closed 09/22/97.
- NG97-015 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ASSOCIATED MILK PRODUCERS, INC. PIPELINE, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN AN INTRASTATE NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION RATE Filed 09/05/97; Pending.
- NG97-016 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR REVISIONS TO ITS GAS SALES AND GAS TRANSPORTATION TARIFFS Filed 10/09/97; Closed 11/03/97.

- NG97-017 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY DARRELL SEEMAN, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, AGAINST MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY REGARDING TRANSFERRING UNPAID BALANCES TO HIS ACCOUNT Filed 10/14/97; Pending.
- NG97-018 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY SUSAN COBB AND VANESSA COBB, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, AGAINST MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY REGARDING A PAYMENT PLAN Filed 10/17/97; Closed 12/12/97.
- NG97-019 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., A DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATION WITH MERILLAT CORPORATION Filed 11/04/97; Closed 12/12/97.
- NG97-020 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., A DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF A PLAN TO DEVIATE FROM PURCHASED GAS COST ADJUSTMENT RATE 88 Filed 12/01/97; Pending.
- NG97-021 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER ESTABLISHING A NATURAL GAS UTILITY, AND TO ESTABLISH INITIAL NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION RATES FOR NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY Filed 12/16/97; Pending.
- NG97-022 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 1997 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND ITS 1998 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET Filed. 12/30/97; Pending.
- RM97-001 IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST BY COMMISSION STAFF TO OPEN A RULEMAKING DOCKET PURSUANT TO SDCL CHAPTERS 49-28-33, 49-42-1.2, AND 49-45-6 [GRAIN DEALER] Filed 04/10/97; Closed 07/15/98.
- RM97-002 IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF RULES FOR STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES AND THEIR MARKET AFFILIATES Filed 07/14/97; Closed 10/03/97.
- TC97-001 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 01/02/97; Closed 02/20/97.
- TC97-002 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INTERCONTINENTAL COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC., D/B/A ICLD FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 01/07/97; Closed 02/20/97.
- TC97-003 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SPRINT SPECTRUM L.P., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 01/13/97; Closed 07/29/97.
- TC97-004 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BELL SOUTH LONG DISTANCE INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 01/13/97; Closed 05/21/97.
- TC97-005 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION COST ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM Filed 01/14/97; Pending.
- TC97-006 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF Filed 01/15/97; Closed 10/17/97.

- TC97-007 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF HEARTLAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IOWA FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 01/16/97; Closed 03/11/97.
- TC97-008 IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY ROBERT E. MCGINNIS, PIERRE, SD, AGAINST U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., REGARDING PHONE BILL AND DEPOSIT Filed 01/21/97; Closed 03/11/97.
- TC97-009 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MERIDIAN TELECOM CORPORATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 01/28/97; Closed 03/11/97.
- TC97-010 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TELCO PARTNERS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 02/03/97 Closed 03/11/97.
- TC97-011 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TELE-TECH, INC., FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 02/05/97; Closed 06/10/97.
- TC97-012 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF AMERICAN LONG LINES, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 02/06/97; Closed 07/02/97.
- TC97-013 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 02/10/97; Closed 03/11/97.
- TC97-014 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FILED BY DAKOTA COOPERATIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., DAKOTA TELECOM, INC., DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., REQUESTING THE COMMISSION TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT OBJECTS TO WAIVER BY THE FCC OF THE DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA Filed 02/10/97; Closed 05/12/97.
- TC97-015 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 02/18/97; Closed 04/10/97.
- TC97-016 IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF U S WEST'S SERVICE QUALITY PERFORMANCE Filed 02/20/97; Closed 08/28/97.
- TC97-017 IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF Filed 02/20/97; Pending.
- TC97-018 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ATCALL, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 02/24/97; Pending.
- TC97-019 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MFS INTELENET OF SOUTH DAKOTA, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 02/25/97; Closed 04/28/97.

TC97-020	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS ACCESS SERVICE TARIFF Filed 02/26/97; Pending.
TC97-021	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BROOKINGS TELEPHONE FOR APPROVAL OF ITS REVISED SERVICE TERRITORY AS A RESULT OF ANNEXATION Filed 03/04/97; Closed 04/10/97.
TC97-022	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MCIMETRO ACCESS TRANSMISSION SERVICES, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 03/07/97; Closed 07/02/97.
TC97-023	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ATLAS COMMUNICATIONS, LTD. FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE RESOLD LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 03/10/97; Pending.
TC97-024	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF U.S. REPUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 03/10/97; Closed 04/10/97.
TC97-025	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CYPRESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 03/12/97; Closed 05/21/97.
TC97-026	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF EAST PLAINS TELECOM, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 03/13/97; Closed 06/12/97.
TC97-027	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE SOUTHLAND CORPORATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 03/19/97; Closed 05/21/97.
TC97-028	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY NETWAY ADVERTISING, WHITE RIVER, SD, AGAINST GOLDEN WEST COMPANIES REGARDING INTERNET ACCESS CHARGES Filed 03/24/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-029	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MCLEODUSA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF ITS LOCAL EXCHANGE TARIFF Filed 03/26/97; Closed 05/02/97.
TC97-030	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY DAKOTA COOPERATIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., DAKOTA TELECOM, INC., AND DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS Filed 03/26/97; Closed 09/17/97.
TC97-031	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF RSL COM U.S.A., INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 03/27/97; Closed 11/03/97.
TC97-032	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR SERVICE RESALE BETWEEN FIRSTEL, INC., AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Filed 03/31/97; Pending.
TC97-033	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GST NET, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/02/97; Closed 05/21/97.

TC97-034	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF LONG DISTANCE DIRECT HOLDINGS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/07/97; Closed 07/02/97.
TC97-035	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF COMMCHOICE, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/10/97; Closed 06/10/97.
TC97-036	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF IDT CORPORATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/11/97; Pending.
TC97-037	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF AMERICA'S TELE-NETWORK CORP., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/11/97; Closed 07/02/97.
TC97-038	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF LDM SYSTEMS INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/14/97; Closed 09/17/97.
TC97-039	IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION AND AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MIDWEST INC., TO CERTIFY ALL LECS AS TO COMPLIANCE WITH FCC PAYPHONE ORDERS Filed 04/14/97; Pending.
TC97-040	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TEL-SAVE, INC., D/B/A THE PHONE COMPANY FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/15/97; Closed 06/10/97.
TC97-041	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ONE STEP BILLING, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/15/97; Closed 07/02/97.
TC97-042	IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANIES THAT HAVE PURCHASED U S WEST EXCHANGE AREAS FOR EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF SWITCHED ACCESS RULES Filed 04/15/97; Closed 07/29/97.
TC97-043	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATORS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/17/97; Closed 06/10/97.
TC97-044	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF WIRELESS INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND COMMNET CELLULAR, INC. Filed 04/18/97; Pending.
TC97-045	IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ARBITRATION ON BEHALF OF SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P. WITH U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Filed 04/25/97; Closed 06/10/97.
TC97-046	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF F.D.S.D. RAPID CITY, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/29/97; Closed 07/02/97.
TC97-047	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF EASTON TELECOM SERVICES INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/29/97; Closed 06/10/97.

TC97-048	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NETWORK PARTNERS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 04/29/97; Closed 10/17/97.
TC97-049	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF AND EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES CATALOG Filed 04/30/97; Closed 08/28/97.
TC97-050	IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PRACTICE OF LONG DISTANCE RESELLERS TO OPERATE WITHIN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA WITHOUT AN IDENTIFYING PIC NUMBER Filed. 05/02/97; Closed 12/12/97.
TC97-051	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GLD, GROUP LONG DISTANCE, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 05/06/97; Closed 07/29/97.
TC97-052	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF RRV ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A CONSUMER ACCESS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 05/09/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-053	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY DAKOTA COOPERATIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND WESTERN WIRELESS CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF THEIR WIRELESS INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT Filed 05/14/97; Closed 08/04/97.
TC97-054	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY THE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION FOR SWITCHED ACCESS TARIFF REVISIONS Filed 05/16/97; Closed 12/02/97.
TC97-055	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARITY NETWORK, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 05/20/97; Closed 07/29/97.
TC97-056	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY KADOKA TELEPHONE CO. FOR SWITCHED ACCESS TARIFF REVISIONS Filed 05/27/97; Pending.
TC97-057	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INMARK, INC., D/B/A PREFERRED BILLING FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 05/27/97; Closed 07/02/97.
TC97-058	PETITION TO ADOPT DISCOUNT RATES IMPLEMENTED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES FILED BY THE STAFF OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION Filed 05/28/97; Closed 06/20/97.
TC97-059	IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY Filed 05/30/97; Pending.
TC97-060	IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR SOUTH DAKOTA NETWORK, INC. Filed 06/02/97; Pending.
TC97-061	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY THE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION FOR SWITCHED ACCESS TARIFF REVISIONS Filed 06/02/97; Pending.
TC97-062	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY DAKOTA TELECOM, INC., DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., AND DAKOTA COOPERATIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR INTERCONNECTION WITH FORT RANDALL TELEPHONE COMPANY Filed 06/03/97; Pending.

TC97-063	IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOP. ASSN. Filed 06/04/97; Pending.
TC97-064	IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY Filed 06/04/97; Pending.
TC97-065	IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR MCCOOK COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY Filed 06/04/97; Pending.
TC97-066	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BROOKINGS TELEPHONE FOR APPROVAL OF ITS REVISED SERVICE TERRITORY AS A RESULT OF ANNEXATION Filed 06/05/97; Closed 07/02/97.
TC97-067	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF LCI INTERNATIONAL TELECOM CORP., FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/09/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-068	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY VIVIAN TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/09/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-069	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/09/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-070	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY VALLEY CABLE & SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/10/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-071	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/10/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-072	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SPEER VIRTUAL MEDIA, LTD., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/10/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-073	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SIOUX VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/11/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-074	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MOUNT RUSHMORE TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/12/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-075	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY FORT RANDALL TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/12/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-076	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF JOURNEY TELECOM INTERNATIONAL, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/13/97; Pending.
TC97-077	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY INTRASTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY COOPERATIVE, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/13/97; Closed 12/17/97.

TC97-078	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY INTERSTATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/13/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-079	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF TYPE 1 PAGING AGREEMENT BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND KJAM MOBILE PAGING SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/17/97; Closed 09/11/97.
TC97-080	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-081	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY STATELINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-082	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF AND EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES CATALOG Filed 06/17/97; Closed 07/29/97.
TC97-083	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY ACCENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-084	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY JAMES VALLEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-085	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY HEARTLAND COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-086	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-087	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BALTIC TELECOM COOPERATIVE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-088	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY EAST PLAINS TELECOM, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-089	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-090	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY STOCKHOLM-STRANDBURG TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/17/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-091	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CALLS FOR LESS, INC., DBA CFL FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/17/97; Pending.
TC97-092	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY KENNEBEC TELEPHONE CO., INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/18/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-093	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY JEFFERSON TELEPHONE CO., INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/18/97; Closed 12/17/97.

TC97-094	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SULLY BUTTES TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-095	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-096	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SANCOM, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-097	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SANBORN TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-098	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE CO., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-099	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY ROBERTS COUNTY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-100	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY RCA COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-101	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SPLITROCK PROPERTIES, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-102	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SPLITROCK TELECOM COOPERATIVE, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-103	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CRYSTAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/19/97; Closed 08/27/97.
TC97-104	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF QUINTELCO, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INCLUDING LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES, IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/19/97; Pending.
TC97-105	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY TRI-COUNTY TELECOM, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/19/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-106	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CALL PLUS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/20/97; Closed 08/27/97.
TC97-107	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY KATHY ROTTENBUCHER, NEWELL, SD, AGAINST STATELINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., REGARDING UNPUBLISHED ADDRESS Filed 06/23/97; Closed 12/01/97.
TC97-108	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY FAITH MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/23/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-109	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF FIRSTEL, INC., TO OFFER NEGOTIATED RATES

Filed 06/25/97; Pending.

TC97-110	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WORLDCOM TECHNOLOGIES, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/25/97; Closed 10/17/97.
TC97-111	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF Z-TEL, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/25/97; Closed 08/27/97.
TC97-112	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CAPROCK COMMUNICATIONS CORP., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/25/97; Pending.
TC97-113	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY ARMOUR INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/25/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-114	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BRIDGEWATER-CANISTOTA INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/25/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-115	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/25/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-116	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF USA TELE CORP., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 06/30/97; Closed 08/27/97.
TC97-117	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MCCOOK COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 06/30/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-118	IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE Filed 06/30/97; Pending.
TC97-119	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF TYPE 1 PAGING AGREEMENT BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND COMMUNITY PAGING CORPORATION Filed 06/30/97; Closed 08/27/97.
TC97-120	IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE Filed 07/03/97; Pending.
TC97-121	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY KADOKA TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 07/03/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-122	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ACCESS POINT, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 07/07/97; Closed 10/02/97.
TC97-123	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF USBG, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 07/07/97; Closed 08/27/97.
TC97-124	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ELECTRIC LIGHTWAVE, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed

07/07/97; Closed 02/13/98.

TC97-125	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY BROOKINGS MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 07/07/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-126	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND DAKOTA TELECOM, INC., AND DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC. Filed 07/07/97; Closed Pending.
TC97-127	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TELCO HOLDINGS, INC., D/B/A DIAL & SAVE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 07/09/97; Closed 10/17/97.
TC97-128	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CLARITY TELECOM LD NETWORK SERVICES, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 07/10/97; Closed 09/17/97.
TC97-129	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TELCO HOLDINGS, INC., D/B/A DIAL & SAVE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE RESOLD LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 07/10/97; Closed 10/17/97.
TC97-130	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY HANSON COMMUNICATIONS INC., D/B/A HANSON COUNTY TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 07/10/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-131	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY HANSON COMMUNICATIONS INC., D/B/A MCCOOK TELECOM FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 07/10/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-132	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN BELL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE INC. D/B/A SOUTHWESTERN BELL LONG DISTANCE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 07/14/97; Closed 08/27/97.
TC97-133	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY FOR CLARIFICATION REGARDING DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 07/17/97; Closed 09/17/97.
TC97-134	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF Filed 07/23/97; Closed 08/27/97.
TC97-135	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ACCUTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 07/28/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-136	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF COMTEL COMPUTER CORP., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/01/97; Closed 09/17/97.
TC97-137	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MICRO-COMM, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/01/97; Closed 09/17/97.
TC97-138	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF KCI LONG DISTANCE, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE

	OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/01/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-139	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY GEMINI COMPANIES, INC., AGAINST U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., REGARDING COST OF BASIC PUBLIC ACCESS LINES Filed 08/05/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-140	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ONE CALL TELECOM, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INCLUDING LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES, IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/08/97; Pending.
TC97-141	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. D/B/A DISCOUNT DIRECT DIALING FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/08/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-142	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY RAYMOND AND GENE SAND, DBA SAND CONSTRUCTION, DALLAS, SD, AGAINST U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., REGARDING TELEPHONE LINE LOCATION Filed 08/12/97; Pending.
TC97-143	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL TO OFFER A PROMOTION TO ITS TOLL CUSTOMERS Filed 08/15/97; Closed 11/03/97.
TC97-144	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF USN COMMUNICATIONS LONG DISTANCE, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/15/97; Closed 10/17/97.
TC97-145	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF VOCALL COMMUNICATIONS CORP., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/18/97; Closed 12/01/97.
TC97-146	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY TERRY NAGEL, LEAD, SD, AGAINST U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., REGARDING TELEPHONE SERVICE Filed 08/20/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-147	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES CATALOG Filed 08/22/97; Closed 10/03/97.
TC97-148	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF INTELNET SERVICES OF NORTH AMERICA, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/29/97; Closed 11/03/97.
TC97-149	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, L.P. FOR APPROVAL OF NEGOTIATED TERMS OF AGREEMENT FOR INTERCONNECTION, RESALE, AND UNBUNDLED ELEMENTS BETWEEN SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, L.P. AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Filed 08/27/97; Pending.
TC97-150	IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE LIFELINE AND LINK UP PROGRAMS Filed 08/28/97; Closed 11/18/97.
TC97-151	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GLD, GROUP LONG DISTANCE, INC., FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 08/29/97; Closed 12/01/97.
TC97-152	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF Filed 09/03/97; Closed 10/03/97.

TC97-153	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ACSI LOCAL SWITCHED SERVICES, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 09/10/97; Closed 11/03/97.
TC97-154	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 09/10/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-155	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY MOBRIDGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 09/10/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-156	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DISCOUNT CALL RATING, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 09/15/97; Closed 12/12/97.
TC97-157	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF Filed 09/16/97; Closed 12/01/97.
TC97-158	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF UNITED SERVICES TELEPHONE, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA. Filed 09/16/97; Pending.
TC97-159	IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION OF JEFFERSON TELEPHONE CO., AND JEFFERSON COMMUNICATIONS, LLC REGARDING THE SALE OF JEFFERSON TELEPHONE CO. STOCK TO JEFFERSON COMMUNICATIONS, LLC Filed 09/23/97; Closed 12/23/97.
TC97-160	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF STERLING INTERNATIONAL FUNDING, INC., D/B/A RECONEX FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 09/24/97; Pending.
TC97-161	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SBR, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 09/25/97; Closed 12/01/97.
TC97-162	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES CATALOG Filed 10/06/97; Closed 12/01/97.
TC97-163	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 10/10/97; Pending.
TC97-164	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DTG COMMUNITY TELEPHONE, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INCLUDING LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES, IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 10/15/97; Pending.
TC97-165	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR SERVICE RESALE BETWEEN MIDCO COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Filed 10/15/97; Pending.
TC97-166	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF Filed 10/16/97; Closed 11/03/97.

TC97-167	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY THREE RIVER TELCO FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 10/16/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-168	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ATLAS EQUITY, INC., D/B/A PERFORMANCE TELECOM FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 10/27/97; Closed 01/07/98.
TC97-169	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY AVERY AND DIXIE THOMPSON, RELIANCE, SOUTH DAKOTA, AGAINST U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., REGARDING DELAY OF SERVICES Filed 10/27/97; Closed 03/27/98.
TC97-170	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ITELSA (USA), INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 10/27/97; Closed 06/19/98.
TC97-171	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NEW MEDIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 10/27/97; Closed 06/04/98.
TC97-172	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF LONG DISTANCE OF MICHIGAN, INC., D/B/A LDMI LONG DISTANCE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 10/27/97; Closed 12/12/97.
TC97-173	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF VISTA COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 10/31/97; Closed 08/14/98.
TC97-174	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NTI TELECOM, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 10/31/97; Closed 12/12/97.
TC97-175	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF Filed 10/31/97; Closed Pending.
TC97-176	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY DICKEY RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/03/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-177	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/03/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-178	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY BEN HOFER, CARPENTER, SOUTH DAKOTA, AGAINST U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., REGARDING UPDATING LINES Filed 11/04/97; Pending.
TC97-179	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY NEBCOM, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/05/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-180	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY RED RIVER TELECOM, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/05/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-181	IN THE MATTER OF THE SETTING OF PERMANENT PRICES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS FOR INTERCONNECTION WITH U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Filed 11/07/97; Pending.

TC97-182	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/13/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-183	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/13/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-184	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/13/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-185	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY CONSOLIDATED TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/20/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-186	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY CTC COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 11/20/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-187	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TOTALTEL, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 11/25/97; Pending.
TC97-188	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 12/01/97; Closed 12/17/97.
TC97-189	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 12/03/97; Pending.
TC97-190	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SPRINT PAYPHONE SERVICES, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 12/08/97; Pending.
TC97-191	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CONNECTAMERICA, INC. D/B/A CONNECT US FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 12/12/97; Pending.
TC97-192	IN THE MATTER OF U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND ITS ABILITY TO SERVE SOUTH DAKOTA CUSTOMERS Filed 12/12/97; Pending.
TC97-193	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NEW CENTURY TELECOM, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 12/15/97; Pending.
TC97-194	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO ITS EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES TARIFF AND EXCHANGE AND NETWORK SERVICES CATALOG Filed 12/17/97; Pending.
TC97-195	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY HEARTLAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF IOWA D.B.A. HICKORY TECH CORPORATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 12/17/97; Closed 12/30/97.
TC97-196	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ECLIPSE COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INCLUDING LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 12/19/97; Pending.

TC97-197	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ASC TELECOM, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 12/19/97; Pending.
TC97-198	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TELEHUB NETWORK SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA Filed 12/22/97; Pending.
TC97-199	IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY RT COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER Filed 12/23/97; Pending.
TC97-200	IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED BY JEROME JACOBS, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA, AGAINST U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., REGARDING HAVING AN EXTRA LINE INSTALLED Filed 12/24/97; Pending.
TC97-201	IN THE MATTER OF ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-202	IN THE MATTER OF CENTRAL PAYPHONE SERVICES, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-203	IN THE MATTER OF FONE AMERICA, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-204	IN THE MATTER OF GTN CORP. D/B/A GLOBAL TELECOM NETWORK'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-205	IN THE MATTER OF INMATE COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-206	IN THE MATTER OF NETWORK SERVICES, INC. D/B/A LONG DISTANCE NETWORK SERVICES, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-207	IN THE MATTER OF PREFERRED TELECOM, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-208	IN THE MATTER OF SMARTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-209	IN THE MATTER OF TELECOM USA D/B/A TELECONNECT COMPANY'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-210	IN THE MATTER OF TELENATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS' FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-211	IN THE MATTER OF TOTAL NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS D/B/A TOTAL WORLD TELECOM'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-212	IN THE MATTER OF USX CONSULTANTS, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-213	IN THE MATTER OF UNIVERSAL NETWORK SERVICES OF SOUTH DAKOTA, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.

TC97-214	IN THE MATTER OF UTILITY ANALYSTS, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-215	IN THE MATTER OF WATS/800, INC. D/B/A ITS' FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-216	IN THE MATTER OF WORLDTTEL SERVICES, INC.'S FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.
TC97-217	IN THE MATTER OF CELLULAR EXPRESS' FAILURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT AND PAY THE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX Filed 12/30/97; Pending.

1997 COURT ACTION

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY AND U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS v. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, CIV. 95-288

U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) filed an appeal in Circuit Court of the Commission's decision that disapproved of the sale of the U S WEST exchanges of Timber Lake, McIntosh, and Morristown to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (CRSTTA). CRSTTA was granted intervention in the appeal. The issues in the appeal are as follows: (1) whether the Commission has jurisdiction over the sale of the three exchanges to CRSTTA; (2) whether the application of SDCL 49-31-59 to the proposed sales violates equal protection rights; (3) whether the application of SDCL 49-31-59 to the proposed sales is an unconstitutional impairment of contract; (4) whether the proposed sales would result in an improper delegation of authority under SDCL 49-1-17; and (5) whether the Commission's findings that the sales would result in the loss of significant tax revenue for the cities, counties, and school districts are clearly erroneous. The parties have filed their briefs in this matter. Oral arguments were heard on February 2, 1996. The Circuit Court remanded the matter to the Commission which then entered a decision on remand. The matter was appealed a second time to the Circuit Court.

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE TELEPHONE AUTHORITY v. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, ET AL., CIV. 95-3035

On October 27, 1995, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (CRSTTA) filed a civil action in the United States District Court seeking declaratory, injunctive, and 1983 relief against the Public Utilities Commission and the Commissioners concerning their decision to deny the sale of the U S WEST exchanges of McIntosh, Timber Lake, and Morristown to CRSTTA. The Commission's answer to the complaint was served on December 12, 1995.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING OF NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY WITH REGARD TO ELECTRIC SERVICE TO HUB CITY, INC., CIV. 95-043

Northern Electric Cooperative (NEC) appealed the Commission's declaratory ruling concerning the interpretation of SDCL 49-34A-56. The Commission ruled that an assignment of a large load customer made pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-56 was not a permanent assignment. In a 1977 decision, the Commission allowed a foundry owned by Safeguard Metal Castings Division (SCD) which was located in the assigned service territory of Northwestern Public Service (NWPS) to be served by NEC pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-56. SCD later sold the foundry to Hub City, Inc. This ruling would have allowed Hub City, Inc. to receive electric service from NWPS instead of NEC. The Circuit Court reversed the Commission's decision and ordered that NEC would continue to serve Hub City at the foundry. The Court found that an assignment pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-56 could only be changed if the current supplier of service provided inadequate service. The Court further found that the Commission did not have the jurisdiction over a contract dispute between NEC and Hub City. The Commission and NWPS appealed to the South Dakota Supreme Court. Oral argument was heard before the Supreme Court on September 11, 1996. The Supreme Court issued its decision on April 3, 1997. The Supreme Court upheld the Circuit Court's ruling.

STATE OF MICHIGAN v. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, CIV. 95-1321

The Commission joined in a Petition for Declaratory Judgment and Review of Final Decision of the Department of Energy (DOE). The issue is whether DOE's decision that it is not required to begin acceptance of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel by January 31, 1998, is contrary to law. The case was briefed by the parties and oral argument was heard before the U S District Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit on January 17, 1996. On July 23, 1996, the Court ruled that DOE has a statutory obligation to start disposing of the radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel no later than January 31, 1998. The decision was then remanded back to DOE for further proceedings consistent with the Court's decision. The parties then filed a writ of mandamus requesting declaratory and injunctive relief. The Court granted the writ only in part, finding there were contractual remedies the parties could pursue.

**IOWA UTILITIES BOARD, ET AL. v. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION,
No. 96-3321 and Consolidated Cases**

The Commission, along with numerous other state commissions and telecommunications companies, filed an appeal with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) rules interpreting the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (federal Act). The Commission, along with three other state commissions, also filed for a stay of the FCC's pricing rules. The Eighth Circuit granted the stay on October 15, 1996. The state commissions' issue was whether the FCC exceeded its jurisdictional authority when it promulgated rules regarding the methodologies to be used in the pricing of network elements and services necessary to provide competitive local exchange service. The state commissions contend that the federal Act left the pricing of network elements and services to the state commissions, not the FCC. Briefs on the merits were filed and oral argument was held before the Eighth Circuit on January 17, 1997. On July 18, 1997, the Eighth Circuit ruled that the FCC exceeded its jurisdictional authority when it promulgated the pricing rules. The decision was appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.

U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. v. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, CIV. 96-392

On October 10, 1996, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) appealed the Commission's dismissal of U S WEST's complaints against Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, Inc. (DCT) and Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (DTS). The Commission dismissed the complaints, which concerned the construction of telecommunications facilities in the Centerville and Vermillion exchanges, due to its finding that SDCL 49-31-21 had been preempted by the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (federal Act). The South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition (SDITC) also appealed. The appeals were consolidated. The issues are whether the Commission has the authority to determine preemption under the federal Act and whether SDCL 49-31-21 is preempted by the federal Act. U S WEST moved to dismiss the appeal; SDITC joined in the motion. The matter was dismissed by the Court on March 24, 1997.

**DAKOTA COOPERATIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. v. PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION, CIV. 96-192**

On November 27, 1996, Dakota Cooperative Telecommunications, Inc. (DCT) appealed the Commission's decision approving the sale of eight U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) telephone exchanges. DCT's issues on appeal to the First Circuit Court were as follows: (1) whether the approval of the sale of the telephone exchanges met the requirements of SDCL 49-31-59; (2) whether the approval of the sales should have included the findings of fact and conclusions of law proposed by DCT; and (3) whether the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires the Commission to determine the interconnection rights and obligations of buyers in the purchased exchanges as part of the sale approval process. The parties moved to dismiss the appeal and the Court granted the motion on March 3, 1997.

**U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. v. JAMES A. BURG, PAM NELSON, LASKA
SCHOENFELDER AND AT&T COMMUNICATION OF THE MIDWEST, CIV. 97-3017
(DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DIVISION)**

On April 23, 1997, U S WEST filed a Summons and Complaint in federal court seeking judicial review of a Commission decision in a case that was pending between U S WEST and AT&T. The Commission filed a Motion to Dismiss based upon the following arguments: (1) U S WEST's suit must be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction; (2) the controversy is not ripe for review until the Commission rejects or accepts an interconnection agreement entered into by the parties; (3) U S WEST's takings claim must be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction because the claim is premature; (4) the granting of declaratory relief is improper because it would preempt the resolution of issues that Congress has given to the state Commissions. U S WEST also filed a Motion for a Stay. The federal court issued its decision on August 25, 1997, granting the Commission's Motion to Dismiss.

**U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. v. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, CIV. 97-349**

On September 9, 1997, U S WEST appealed the Commission's decision which denied U S WEST's request for a second rate increase to its local exchange services rate. The denial was based upon the evidence of U S WEST's service quality performance as presented at the hearings. U S WEST's issues were as follows: (1) whether the Commission's decision denying U S WEST an increase violated SDCL 49-31-7 and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and Article VI, of the South Dakota Constitution; (2) whether the Commission's decision denying U S WEST an increase to its residential rates other than the touch tone increase should be reversed under SDCL 1-26-36; (3) whether Finding of Fact 19 and Conclusion of Law 3 of the Commission's decision should be reversed under SDCL 1-26-36; (4) whether the Commission's denial of U S WEST's request for an increase to its residential rates constitutes a taking under the United States and South Dakota Constitutions.

DAKOTA TELECOM, INC. V. JAMES A. BURG, PAM NELSON, LASKA SCHOENFELDER,
COMMISSIONERS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF **THE STATE OF**
SOUTH DAKOTA, CIV. 97-425

Dakota Telecom, Inc. filed an application for alternative writ of prohibition on October 31, 1997, seeking to prohibit the Commission from proceeding with a hearing concerning the provisioning of local exchange service in telephone exchanges owned by Fort Randall. A hearing was held in circuit court on October 31, 1997. The alternative writ of prohibition was denied.

DAKOTA TELECOM, INC., DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., AND
DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC. V. PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, CIV. 97-292

Dakota Telecom, Inc., Dakota Telecommunications Systems, Inc., and Dakota Telecommunications Group, Inc. appealed the Commission's decision finding a letter for interconnection was not a bona fide request. The parties came to a settlement on the issues and moved to dismiss the appeal. The appeal was dismissed.

Investor-Owned Utility Companies

The Commission has territory, complaint and quality of service authority over all natural gas, electric and telecommunication utilities within South Dakota. Municipal, rural electric cooperatives, telephone cooperatives and small, independent telephone companies are not subject to the Commission's rate making authority. Only investor-owned utilities are required to seek Commission approval for change in rates.

The following electric and natural gas companies are investor-owned utilities:

- Black Hills Power & Light Company
- MidAmerican Energy Company
- Montana Dakota Utilities
- Northern States Power Company
- Northwestern Public Service
- OtterTail Power Company
- People's Natural Gas
- South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company

The following is the incumbent investor-owned telecommunications company:

- U S WEST Communications, Inc.

These companies have submitted the following descriptive information.

Black Hills Power & Light Company (Information submitted by the Company)

Black Hills Power and Light Company was incorporated under the laws of South Dakota in 1941. In 1986 the Company changed its name to Black Hills Corporation and now operates its investor-owned electric utility operations under the assumed name of Black Hills Power and Light Company. In addition, the Company has diversified into coal mining through Wyodak Resources Development Corp. and oil and gas production through Western Production Company.

Black Hills Power is engaged in the generation, purchase, transmission, distribution, and sales of electric energy in 11 counties in western South Dakota, northeastern Wyoming, and southeastern Montana. The territory served by Black Hills Power includes 20 incorporated communities and various unincorporated and rural areas with a population estimated at 165,000. The largest community served is Rapid City, with a population including environs, estimated at 75,000. Our service economy continues to be stable, primarily due to its diversity.

DISTRICT OFFICES

Black Hills Power and Light maintains district offices and service centers in the South Dakota communities of Rapid City, Sturgis, Belle Fourche, Spearfish, Lead/Deadwood, Custer, Hot Springs, and Edgemont, as well as in the Wyoming communities of Newcastle and Gillette.

ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY

In August of 1995, Black Hills Power and Light Company completed construction on Neil Simpson Unit #2, an 80 MW coal-fired mine-mouth power plant near Gillette, Wyoming. The decision to construct was made after reviewing plant retirement needs, customer load growth projections, and cost-effectiveness.

In addition to Neil Simpson #2, BHP owns and operates three electric generating power plants and has partial interest in another. Neil Simpson #1, an 18 MW plant, is located near Gillette, WY; Osage, 30 MW, is at Osage, WY; and Ben French, 22 MW, is at Rapid City, SD. The Company is a 20% owner of Wyodak Station #1, 330 MW, near Gillette with Pacific Power and Light, an 80% owner.

The power plants are all fueled with low-sulfur, sub-bituminous coal mined by Wyodak Resources Development Corp. Pricing of the coal is regulated by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economic prosperity of our service area is vitally important to Black Hills Power and the customers and communities we serve. We have developed programs and services to assist both existing and potential businesses. Since each community is unique, we strive for flexible economic incentive packages including site development, marketing and engineering support, energy efficiency grants, and energy cost analysis. We have established partnerships with our economic development groups in order to enhance growth in the region.

MidAmerican Energy (Information submitted by the Company)

MidAmerican Energy Company continues to position itself for the time when the deregulated energy marketplace becomes a reality.

During 1997, MidAmerican Energy reorganized its operations into four new and distinctive units - Energy Delivery, Transmission, Generation and Retail. These business units were developed to align with the company's expectations of the business needs of a deregulated energy environment.

Effective Jan. 1, 1998, each of these four business units began operating as individual entities and profit centers.

- * Energy Delivery - MidAmerican Energy has a long history of providing highly reliable electrical and natural gas service. The company serves more than 647,800 electrical customers and 618,000 natural gas customers.
- * Transmission - Thousands of miles of transmission lines connect MidAmerican Energy's generation facilities with distribution substations and provide interconnections with five surrounding states.
- * Generation - MidAmerican Energy has 4,378 megawatts of net generating capacity, 65 percent fueled by coal, 18 percent fueled by nuclear, and 17 percent fueled by natural gas and oil.
- * Retail - The company is developing new products and services, forming alliance relationships that provide co-marketing opportunities and investigating new markets that will allow the company to expand its business. New products include an appliance warranty program and security system products.

One of MidAmerican Energy Company's five district headquarters for operations is located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. MidAmerican Energy serves Alcester, Baltic, Beresford, Brandon, Canton, Centerville, Colton, Dakota Dunes, Dell Rapids, Elk Point, Ellis, Flandreau, Gayville, Harrisburg, Hartford, Jefferson, Lennox, Meckling, Montrose, North Sioux City, Ramona, Salem, Sioux Falls, Tea, Vermillion, Worthing and Yankton, with natural gas.

In addition, the company serves electrical customers in the southeastern South Dakota communities of Dakota Dunes, North Sioux City, Jefferson, Alcester, Hudson and Fairview.

MidAmerican Energy's service territory includes much of Iowa and portions of South Dakota, Nebraska and Illinois. Headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, MidAmerican Energy provides electrical and natural gas service in a 10,600-square-mile region. The largest communities service, in addition to Sioux Falls and Des Moines, include Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, Waterloo, Iowa City and Council Bluffs, Iowa, and the Quad Cities of Illinois and Iowa.

MidAmerican Energy Company is a subsidiary of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company and has two affiliates - MidAmerican Capital Company and Midwest Capital Group, Inc.

In an effort to distinguish MidAmerican Energy from other energy providers, the company continually strives to play a role in the growth and development of communities in the service territory. In doing so, MidAmerican Energy works in close cooperation with the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development, as well as community officials and development leaders in the communities we serve. We are particularly proud of the partnership we have with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in accomplishing these objectives.

The company has economic development staffs in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Sioux City and Davenport, as well as community developers in other strategic communities in the service territory, including Yankton, S.D. MidAmerican has played key roles in two prominent economic development programs in southeast South Dakota - the Gateway Business Park in North Sioux, an 137-acre business park which has over a dozen businesses including Gateway 2000; and Dakota Dunes, a 2,000-acre master-planned community where living and working environments complement one another.

As the company looks to the future, our efforts in 1998 and beyond will be guided by the ideal of building a foundation for competitiveness. By focusing on customer loyalty and shareholder value, MidAmerican Energy is working to make the company's vision - to become the leading regional provider of energy and complementary services - a reality.

Montana Dakota Utilities (Information submitted by the Company)

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. owns and operates natural gas distribution systems in the Black Hills and central South Dakota plus electric transmission and distribution facilities in north-central South Dakota. The Company serves 41,498 natural gas customers and 9,879 electric customers in the state, as of December 31, 1997.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., which has been part of the state's business community since 1928, has expanded its presence through the addition of natural gas distribution systems in Pierre, Mobridge and other towns in central South Dakota.

The Company also operates natural gas systems in many Black Hills cities and electric properties in several north-central towns and has also been involved in the promotion of natural gas as vehicle fuel. Along with providing energy to South Dakota customers, Montana-Dakota employees participate in community activities including economic development plus public education and safety organizations. Many Montana-Dakota employees also participate in the Company's Gatekeeper program. This program is designed to uncover problems with the elderly and the disabled. Utility employees regularly come in contact with all customers and act as "eyes and ears" to relay information to local service agencies that can help elderly and disabled citizens.

Montana-Dakota is indeed a partner in the communities it serves. In addition to providing energy and a large payroll, Montana-Dakota is also a major taxpayer. In 1997 the Company paid property taxes of approximately \$1,141,000 in South Dakota.

Montana-Dakota is a business unit of MDU Resources Group, Inc., a multidimensional natural resource enterprise traded on the New York Stock Exchange. The utility offers electric power generation and transmission plus natural gas, propane and electricity distribution to customers in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. The corporation also operates a natural gas pipeline company, coal and aggregate mining operations, as well as oil and natural gas production investments.

Northern States Power Company (Information submitted by the Company)

Northern States Power Company serves about 1.4 million electric customers in parts of South Dakota, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

In South Dakota, the company serves electricity to over 64,000 customers in thirty-six communities including Sioux Falls, Canton, Garretson, Dell Rapids, Salem and Centerville. Peak demand for the South Dakota system was 349 megawatts (Mw) in July 1997. Sioux Falls customers use about 85 percent of the South Dakota system load. South Dakota represents about 4 percent of the total NSP system load.

Power is supplied to the system predominately from coal, nuclear and hydro plants. Two generating facilities operate in South Dakota: the Pathfinder generating unit, a 60-Mw gas-fired peaking facility that came on line in 1994, and the Angus C. Anson Plant, a 210-Mw gas-fired combustion peaking facility that came on line Sept. 20, 1994.

NSP's service territory's once traditional agriculture economy (John Morrell, Sioux Falls Stockyards) has been bolstered by non-agricultural expansions. Examples include credit cards (Citibank, Sears Payment Systems); manufacturing (Raven Industries, Hutchinson Technology, Gateway 2000); medical (Sioux Valley Hospital, McKennan Hospital, Children's Care Hospital and School, and the Veteran's Administration Hospital); and a thriving regional retail activity.

Construction activity in Sioux Falls surpassed \$230 million in 1997.

NSP is assisting the "Good Thing Going" in the Sioux Falls area through keeping electric rates among the lowest one-third in the nation. The business environment is extremely competitive today -
- NSP helps businesses maintain competitiveness through low rates and assistance in energy management.

Northwestern Public Service Company (Information submitted by the Company)

Northwestern Public Service

Celebrating 75 Years of Service to South Dakota...

For 75 years, Northwestern Public Service has served the residents of eastern South Dakota and central Nebraska, providing competitive, reliable electric and natural gas service. Formed in 1923 through the consolidation of several small companies, Northwestern has grown and expanded and now serves 55,800 electric customers in over 100 communities in South Dakota and 78,500 natural gas customers in over 50 communities in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Northwestern is an investor-owned company, and its stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol NPS. Over 400 employees of Northwestern live in the communities we serve, providing leadership, civic involvement and volunteerism to schools, churches, government and local activities.

Customer Service... Beyond Expectations

Northwestern's employees pride themselves on delivering exceptional customer service. As part of our service commitment, our employees respond to customers' needs promptly and courteously, and our customer service staff is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Partnering... With Communities

Northwestern is proud to be a South Dakota-based company. Our employees live in the communities we serve and contribute to the growth and progress of their cities. Northwestern personnel also provide economic development assistance, helping new, expanding or relocating businesses recognize the advantages of doing business in South Dakota.

Growing... For Tomorrow's Marketplace

While the energy industry was once predictable, increasing market forces, new technologies, evolving regulation and changing customer expectations are reshaping today's energy marketplace. Anticipating competitive forces that may change our market environment and recognizing customers' growing demands for integrated, value-added products and services, we are implementing strategies to position Northwestern as a growth-oriented leader in the marketplace of tomorrow.

In addition to electric and natural gas energy, Northwestern's companies include Northwestern Services, the catalyst for integrating products and services throughout the Northwestern companies; Northwestern Energy, a marketer of nonregulated natural gas and other related services in the Midwest; Cornerstone (NYSE:CNO), the nation's fifth largest retail propane marketer; ServiCenter USA, a national provider of heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing and related services and Communication Systems USA, a national provider of communications, data and related services.

Northwestern's growth strategies center upon operations which offer consumer-desired products which can be integrated with products from other Northwestern companies. For customers, it will mean more convenience, better service, lower cost and access to innovative and value-added products and services.

Come and Visit...

Northwestern invites you to learn more by visiting their web site at www.northwestern.com.

Otter Tail Power Company (Information submitted by the Company)

First-class service is a long-standing commitment

Otter Tail Power Company's service to South Dakota began in 1915. That's when Sisseton and White Rock became the first of 54 South Dakota communities to which Otter Tail now provides electric service. Today we serve 11,500 retail customers in the northeastern part of the state

Today, as then, our mission is to enrich people's lives by delivering high-quality, competitively priced products and services. One indicator of our success is the fact that our average residential customer paid less per kilowatt-hour of electricity in 1997 than in 1983.

The Energy to serve you *(use camera ready corporate theme)*

Otter Tail's success is directly related to the success of the communities that we are privileged to serve. That's why we work closely with experienced, successful economic development consultants to assist communities in their efforts to encourage business expansion and relocation.

Our goal is to help generate jobs and build a healthy local economy. Since 1989 our professional economic development firm helped create and save over 11,000 jobs in our three-state service area. During 1997 alone, we helped secure 194 jobs in South Dakota.

Eleven South Dakota communities now participate in the loan pool program established in 1988. The loan pool concept spreads the risk of lending cash to new or expanding businesses among several entities such as banks, savings and loan associations, and other service entities. Since the program began, our loan pool commitment to communities in South Dakota has grown to over \$1 million and totals \$6.7 million in our service area.

The third component of our economic development commitment is our Commercial Development Partnership Program, designed to help new retail businesses get started. Communities involved must offer commitment similar to ours, such as tax abatement or credit for sewer, water, and refuse collection. Businesses such as telephone companies and other energy providers are encouraged to participate. In 1997 two South Dakota communities participated.

Property taxes contribute to state's economy

Federal income tax is typically the largest bill we pay. In addition, property tax payments to South Dakota taxing authorities were \$1,723,700 in 1997.

It's interesting to note what that means in terms of people. At year-end 1997 we served 8,455 residential customers in South Dakota. This means that our property tax bill for the year averaged \$204 per residential customer of the company. Demographers tell us that each customer represents between two and three people. So we believe it is fair to say that we pay about \$82 in property taxes in South Dakota for each South Dakotan who uses our electricity. In Grant county alone, where Big Stone Plant is located, our liability accrued during 1997 for county, school, village and city, township, and other property taxes was \$1,305,023.

People's Natural Gas (Information submitted by the Company)

In South Dakota, Peoples Natural Gas provides natural gas service to approximately 275 customers in the southeastern part of the state.

Peoples Natural Gas is a division of UtiliCorp United, an international energy and services company based in Kansas City, Missouri. UtiliCorp draws on 80 years of business experience as a leader in the accelerating movement to better serve the American energy consumer.

Since being formed in 1985 from Missouri Public Service Company, UtiliCorp has grown through acquisitions totaling approximately \$1 billion. Today UtiliCorp has a strong national presence as a provider of competitive and innovative energy solutions, and a growing presence in the international energy arena.

The company has approximately 2 million electric and gas utility customers in nine states, one Canadian province and Australia. It also owns interests in 2 electric utilities in New Zealand and markets natural gas to wholesale customers in the United Kingdom through joint ventures with British regional electric companies.

UtiliCorp's Aquila Energy subsidiary markets and trades natural gas and electricity throughout the U.S. and in four provinces of Canada to industrial and commercial customers, including distribution utilities.

The common shares of UtiliCorp United Inc. are listed on the New York, Pacific and Toronto stock exchanges. The company's trading symbol is UCU.

For more information about the company, visit UtiliCorp's home page on the Internet at <http://www.utilicorp.com>.

South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline (Information submitted by the Company)

South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company

1415 North Airport Road
Pierre, SD 57501

Tel: (605) 224-0949

Fax: (605) 224-1559

South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company (SDIP) was formed in 1992 to transport natural gas from the Northern Border Pipeline in Edmunds County to Pierre, in Hughes County. SDIP also provides gas to interested communities and businesses along its route.

In March of 1992 SDIP filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) for certification to construct and operate a pipeline consisting of 47 miles of 8" pipe, 106 miles of 6" pipe, and 25 miles of 3" pipe, and the associated valves, meters, and fittings. The pipeline is designed to operate at a pressure of 1130 psig and was built to meet federal safety requirements and the requirements of the SDPUC. The SDPUC granted site permission in July of 1992 and an interim rate in January of 1993, with a final rate approved in December 1993 after construction costs were finalized. SDIP began construction in April of 1993 and went into operation on September 1, 1993.

SDIP currently transports gas to ten (10) communities along its pipeline route for a distribution company, Montana Dakota Utilities. Revenues for 1997 were approximately \$2,260,401 and expenses were approximately \$2,161,726. The final cost of construction was approximately \$13,900,000. SDIP currently employs five (5) people.

U S WEST Communications, Inc. (Information submitted by the Company)

Commitment to South Dakota's Economy

- ① Approximately **600 employees**, with over **\$25 million annual payroll**.
- ① Recently opened an Agent Services/National DA Center in Sioux Falls, **creating over 100 customer assistance agent jobs**.
- ① More than **800 pensioners**, receiving over **\$3 million annually in benefits** from US WEST.
- ① **\$7.6 million 1997 South Dakota property taxes**.
- ① Collected **\$9.2 million in state, city and county taxes** in 1997.
- ① Purchased more than **\$28 million products and services** from South Dakota businesses.
- ① **\$600 million investment** in property and equipment.
- ① More than **\$380 million capital investment since 1987** to modernize and grow the South Dakota telecommunications network. (\$38 million average yearly investment).

Commitment to Customer Service

- ① Invested more than **\$11.5 million since Jan. 1996** to bring new services/technology to South Dakota customers:
 - * brought **Caller ID** to all U S WEST communities
 - * brought **toll-free Internet access** to all U S WEST communities
 - * brought **ISDN and Frame Relay** high-speed data services to all U S WEST communities
 - * improved long distance reliability by completing **two self-healing (SONET) fiber optic rings** in eastern South Dakota
- ① Processed about 330,000 orders for services in 1997.
- ① **All customers have access to digital call switching systems.**
- ① Virtually every community is connected via digital facilities.
- ① More than **36,000 connector miles of inter-city fiber optic cable** in use.
- ① Serve 268,000 South Dakota customers.

Commitment to Community Service

- ① Awarded more than **\$1.4 million in U S WEST Foundation grants and contributions** since 1995, including \$141,000 in employee matching gifts.
- ① Invested more than **\$2.3 million in South Dakota education since 1992**.
- ① **1,289 Telephone Pioneers** gave **105,000 community service hours** last year.

South Dakota **Public Utilities Commission**

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