

T000-067

Richard D. Coit
Executive Director
rscditc@sd.cybernet.net

April 5, 2000

RECEIVED

APR 07 2000

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

William Bullard, Jr., Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreements

Dear Mr. Bullard:

Enclosed for Commission review pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e) are true and correct copies of "Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreements" negotiated and entered into between GCC License L.L.C. (an affiliate of Western Wireless Corporation) and the independent local exchange carriers listed below:

Brookings Municipal Telephone
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority
Tri County Telecom, Inc.

SDITC, on behalf of the above listed companies, and GCC License L.L.C. are requesting Commission approval of each of the negotiated agreements. The agreements have already been signed and, if approved by the Commission, will be considered effective by the parties as of January 1, 1999. All of the agreements are identical in their terms and conditions, and the rates agreed upon are reflected in "Exhibit A" attached to each agreement. It should further be noted that these agreements are identical in content to the Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreements submitted by SDITC to the PUC on March 2, 2000.

Brookings Municipal Telephone also wishes to inform the Commission that it has in effect, a tariff which incorporates the terms, conditions, and rates in its enclosed "Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement." As a result, any commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) carrier that does not have a signed agreement with Brookings Municipal Telephone will be able to obtain transport and terminations service pursuant to the tariff on substantially the same terms and conditions and at the same rates.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Coit
Executive Director and General Counsel

RDC/ms
Encls.

cc: Gene DeJordy, Western Wireless Corporation
Jim Adkins, Brookings Municipal Telephone
JD Williams, CRST Telephone Authority
John Pudwill, Tri County Telecom, Inc.



RECEIVED

TC00-067

APR 07 2000

Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between G.C.C. License L.L.C. ("CMRS Provider") with offices at 3650 131st Ave., S.E., Bellevue, Washington 98006 and TRI COUNTY TELECOM INC ("Carrier") with offices at 202 NORTH 3RD ST. EMERY SD. CMRS Provider and Carrier are each individually a "Party" and are together the "Parties" to this Agreement. The "effective date" of this Agreement is January 1, 1999.

CMRS Provider is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") as a Commercial Mobile Radio Service provider. Carrier and CMRS Provider agree to exchange wireline to wireless and wireless to wireline traffic for the benefit of the Parties. Services provided by Carrier to CMRS Provider under this Agreement are provided pursuant to the receiving Party's status as a CMRS Provider.

WHEREAS, the Parties currently extend arrangements to one another allowing for the transport and termination of wireline to wireless and wireless to wireline traffic over each other's network facilities, between each other's subscribers; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to put in place an arrangement for the mutual exchange and reciprocal compensation of local telecommunications traffic in accord with the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and which is intended to supersede any previous arrangements between the parties relating to such traffic;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, CMRS Provider and Carrier hereby agree as follows:

1. Scope. This Agreement addresses the parties' reciprocal compensation obligations as described in § 251(b)(5) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"). By this Agreement, neither Party waives any other rights it may have under the Act or rules of the FCC, under state statute, or pursuant to rules of the State Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"). Such rights may include CMRS Provider's right to request unbundled network elements and a review of Carrier's rural telephone company exemption provided for under § 251(f)(1)(A) of the Act and Carrier's right to seek to maintain the rural exemption.

2. Interpretation and Construction. The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be subject to any and all applicable laws, rules, regulations or guidelines that subsequently may be prescribed by any federal, state or local government authority. To the extent required by any such subsequently prescribed law, rule, regulation or guideline, the Parties agree to modify, in writing, the affected term(s) and condition(s) of this Agreement to bring them into compliance with such law, rule, regulation or guideline.

The Parties agree and understand that certain provisions in this Agreement are based on the FCC's First Report and Order, In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98, rel. Aug. 8, 1996 ("FCC 1st Order") and the Second Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order, In the Matter of the Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98, rel. Aug. 8, 1996 ("FCC 2nd Order"). To the extent that certain of the rules contained in the FCC 1st Order and the FCC 2nd Order, or any other FCC Order adopted to implement the Telecommunications Act of 1996, are ultimately deemed by the courts to be not effective, this Agreement shall be modified to comport with the final court decisions and subsequent FCC rules adopted to comply with the court's decisions.

The Parties further agree and understand that the rates for local transport and termination agreed to, as set forth in Exhibit A hereto, have not been determined based on a specific costing methodology or company specific cost studies and that they may have to be adjusted when an appropriate costing methodology consistent with § 252(d)(2) of the Telecommunications Act is established and actual cost information or an acceptable cost proxy which reasonably reflects the actual costs of providing the local transport and termination services becomes available.

The Parties enter into this agreement without prejudice to any position they may take with respect to similar future agreements between the Parties or with respect to positions they may have taken previously, or may take in the future in any legislative, regulatory or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the rates to be charged for transport and termination of local traffic or the types of arrangements prescribed by this agreement.

3. Definitions.

3.1 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et. seq.), as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission within its state of jurisdiction.

3.2 "CMRS" or "Commercial Mobile Radio Service" is as defined in the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

3.3 "Commission" means the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

3.4 "Local Calling Area (LCA)" for purposes of this Agreement, is a geographic area defined by the Major Trading Area (MTA) within which CMRS Provider provides CMRS services where local transport and

termination rates apply as set forth in FCC 1st Order and 47 CFR 51.701(b)(2).

3.5 "Local Traffic" for purposes of this Agreement means traffic which originates and terminates, based on the location of the wireless subscriber and landline end user, within the same CMRS LCA.

3.6 "Major Trading Area (MTA) is a geographic area established in Rand McNally's Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide and used by the FCC in defining CMRS license boundaries for CMRS providers for purposes of Sections 251 and 252 of the Communications Act of 1934 as amended.

3.7 "Non-Local Traffic" is the completion of interMTA calls based on the location of the wireless subscriber and the land line end user and the completion of that roaming traffic, as defined in FCC 1st Order, par. 1043, to which switched access charges are applicable.

3.8 "Reciprocal Compensation Credit" for purposes of this Agreement and based on current traffic trends is a monetary credit for wireline to wireless traffic which is originated by a landline subscriber of Carrier and terminates to a subscriber of CMRS Provider within the LCA. Should traffic patterns change so that more wireless traffic is terminated by CMRS Provider than Carrier within a prescribed billing period, the reciprocal compensation credit shall be changed to reflect such difference.

3.9 "Transit Traffic" is traffic that originates from one provider's network, transits another telecommunication carrier's network, substantially unchanged, and terminates to yet another provider's network.

3.10 "Wireless Traffic" for purposes of this Agreement, means all calls in either direction between a user of CMRS Provider's CMRS (where CMRS Provider provides the wireless equivalent of dial tone to the user) and an end user served by Carrier.

4. Reciprocal Traffic Exchange. Each Party shall reciprocally terminate wireless local traffic originating on each other's network. Reciprocal traffic exchange addresses the exchange of wireless traffic between CMRS Provider subscribers and Carrier end users. Consistent with Carrier's current practice with CMRS Provider, either Party's wireless local traffic may be routed through an intermediary for interconnection with the other Party's system. Any such arrangement may be modified by a separate agreement if both Parties wish to provide for two-way direct interconnection. Reciprocal traffic exchange per this Agreement covers only transport and termination services provided for CMRS providers only in association with CMRS services. Other services, including any direct interconnect arrangement established between the parties, shall be covered by a separate contract, tariff or price list. The transport and termination services

provided hereunder are intended for wireless to wireline or wireline to wireless, but not wireline to wireline communications. Such services will not be used to terminate other types of traffic on Carrier's network (such as wireline originated traffic) and services used in violation hereof shall constitute a breach of this Agreement. In addition to any other remedies available, the Party whose services have been improperly used shall be entitled to recover the charges applicable to such traffic for the entire period of misuse. Any incidental services (e.g. directory assistance, operator services, etc.) will be billed at the standard rates for those services.

5. Local and Non-Local Traffic. This Agreement is intended to address the transport and termination of local wireless traffic between the Parties. Local wireless traffic is subject to only the local transport and termination charge(s) set forth below and is not subject to switched access charges. Non-local traffic is subject to either interstate or intrastate switched access charges, whichever is applicable.

Ancillary traffic which includes wireless traffic that is destined for ancillary services including, but not limited to, directory assistance, 911/E911, operator call termination (busy line interrupt and verify), 800/888, LIDB, and information services requiring special billing will be exchanged and charged in accordance with the appropriate tariffs, local or switched access.

CMRS Provider agrees that it shall not use the services provided by Carrier under this Agreement for the transport and termination of non-local wireless traffic. Any use of the services for non-local traffic shall constitute a breach of this Agreement and, with respect to such improper use, in addition to any other remedies available, Carrier shall be entitled to recover the charges applicable to such traffic for the entire period of misuse.

For billing purposes, if either Party is unable to classify on an automated basis traffic the local wireless traffic delivered by CMRS Provider as intrastate or interstate, CMRS Provider will provide Carrier with a Percent Interstate Use (PIU) factor, which represents the estimated interstate portion of intraMTA traffic delivered by CMRS Provider. The PIU factor will be provided and updated on a semi-annual basis to commence six (6) months after Commission approval of this Agreement.

6. Local Transport and Termination Rate. CMRS Provider and Carrier shall reciprocally and symmetrically compensate one another for wireless local traffic terminated to their end users. The rate(s) for the termination and transport of such traffic are as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto. Carrier will be responsible for measuring the total monthly minutes of use terminating into its network from CMRS Provider's network. Measured usage begins when CMRS Provider's mobile switching office is signaled by the terminating end office that the call has been answered. Measured usage ends upon recognition by the mobile

switching office of disconnection by the earlier of the Carrier's customer or the disconnection signal from the terminating end office. Carrier will only charge CMRS Provider for actual minutes of use and/or fractions thereof of completed calls. Minutes of use will be aggregated at the end of the billing cycle and rounded to the nearest whole minute.

7. Transit Traffic Rates. For transiting local traffic, the applicable local transit rate applies to the originating Party per Exhibit A attached.

8. Reciprocal Compensation Credit. The monthly minutes of use terminated into CMRS Provider's network from Carrier's network for purposes of this Agreement, which will determine the reciprocal compensation credit due CMRS Provider, will be calculated using the formula set forth in Exhibit A.

The resulting number shall be multiplied by the local transport and termination rate to determine the monthly reciprocal compensation credit. The reciprocal compensation credit for the local transport and termination will appear on the monthly bill as a credit against amounts due and payable from CMRS Provider to Carrier.

9. Billing and Collection Fees. CMRS Provider will only bear the portion of billing and collecting fees that are associated with wireless traffic transport and termination to its subscribers. This will apply to billing and collection costs incurred by the Carrier directly or indirectly. For the purpose of this Agreement, CMRS Provider will bear cost for billing and collection services in order for the Carrier to render an accurate bill in an amount not to exceed the percentage used to calculate the reciprocal compensation credit to CMRS Provider per Exhibit A of total direct or indirect billing and collection costs incurred by the Carrier. Billing and collection arrangements entered into by CMRS Provider or the Carrier with any intermediaries will be addressed separately and are not part of this Agreement.

10. Term. Subject to the termination provisions contained in this Agreement, the term of this Agreement shall be one (1) year from the effective date and shall continue in effect for consecutive one (1) year terms until either Party gives the other Party at least sixty (60) days written notice of termination, which termination shall be effective at the end of the notice period.

11. Termination Upon Default. Either Party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part in the event of a default by the other Party, provided however, that the non-defaulting Party notifies the defaulting Party in writing of the alleged default and that the defaulting Party does not cure the alleged default within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of written notice thereof.

12. Liability Upon Termination. Termination of this Agreement, or any part hereof, for any cause shall not release either Party from any liability which at the time of termination had already accrued to the other Party or which thereafter accrues in any respect for any act or omission occurring prior to the termination relating to an obligation which is expressly stated in this Agreement. The Parties' obligations under this Agreement which by their nature are intended to continue beyond the termination or expiration of this Agreement shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

13. General Responsibilities of Parties. Each Party is responsible to provide facilities within its network which are necessary for routing and terminating traffic from the other Party's network.

14. Assignments, Successors and Assignees. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto, and their successors and assignees.

15. Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control, including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, power blackouts, other major environmental disturbances or unusually severe weather conditions (collectively, a "Force Majeure Event").

16. No Third Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement does not provide and shall not be construed to provide third parties with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other privilege.

17. Notices. Notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing to the addresses of the Parties set forth above and shall be (i) delivered personally; (ii) delivered by express delivery service; (iii) mailed, certified mail or first class U.S. mail postage prepaid, return receipt requested; or (iv) delivered by telecopy.

18. Governing Law. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction of the FCC, the Parties agree that remedies for such claims shall be governed by the FCC and the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction of the State Public Utilities Commission, the parties agree that the jurisdiction for all such claims shall be with such Commission, and the remedy for such claims shall be as provided for by such Commission. In all other respects, this Agreement shall be governed by the domestic laws of the state of South Dakota without reference to conflict of law provisions.

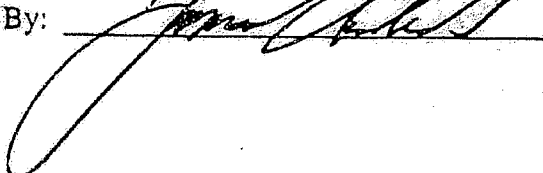
19. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements, representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals and undertakings with respect to the subject matter hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of this 27th day of SEPTEMBER 1999.

"CMRS Provider" GCC License L.L.C.
(type company name)

By: 

"Carrier" TRI COUNTY TELCOM INC
(type company name)

By: 

ILEC

EXHIBIT A Page 1
Exchange Lines

		MOU Rate
Accent Communications	1,933	\$0.028
Armour Telephone Company	692	\$0.038
Baltic Telecom Cooperative	1,577	\$0.028
Beresford Municipal Telephone Company	1,190	\$0.033
Bridgewater-Carlisle Independent	965	\$0.033
Brookings Telephone	14,424	\$0.028
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Tele. Authority	2,824	\$0.028
East Plains Telecomm, Inc	1,127	\$0.033
Faith Municipal Telephone	368	\$0.050
Fort Randall Telephone	5,865	\$0.028
Golden West Telecom. Cooperative, Inc.	14,403	\$0.028
Hanson Communications, Inc	1,019	\$0.033
Hanson County Telephone Company	519	\$0.038
Heardland Communications	1,610	\$0.028
Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative	14,764	\$0.028
James Valley Cooperative Telephone	2,126	\$0.028
Jefferson Telephone Company	525	\$0.028
Katoka Telephone Company	600	\$0.038
Kennebec Telephone Company	750	\$0.038
McCook Cooperative Telephone Company	615	\$0.038
Midstate Telephone Company	2,981	\$0.028
Mobridge Telecommunications Company	2,482	\$0.028
Mt. Rushmore Telephone Company	545	\$0.038
Roberts County Telephone Coop.	448	\$0.050
RC Communications	1,428	\$0.033
Sanborn Telephone Cooperative	2,513	\$0.028
Sanscom, Inc.	2,449	\$0.028
Sioux Valley Telephone Company	5,586	\$0.028
Spitrock Telecom Cooperative, Inc.	4,385	\$0.028
Spitrock Properties, Inc.	1,560	\$0.028
StateLine Telecomm., Inc.	2,301	\$0.028
Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company	714	\$0.038
Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	4,082	\$0.028
Tri-County Mutual Telephone Company	443	\$0.050
Union Telephone Company	1,575	\$0.028
Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn.	1,985	\$0.028
Valley Cable & Satellite	1,601	\$0.028
Venture Communications, Inc.	7,106	\$0.028
Vivian Telephone Company	17,919	\$0.028
West River Cooperative-Bison	1,589	\$0.028
West River Telecom-Hazen	724	\$0.028
Western Telephone Company	1,102	\$0.033

"Exhibit A"

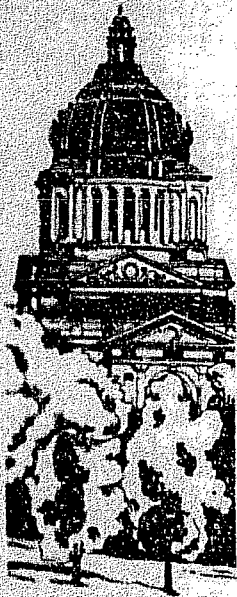
Page 2

-TRANSIT TRAFFIC RATE

\$0.0005 per MOU per route mile

- RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION CREDIT - CALCULATION

Multiply the total monthly local minutes of use of wireless traffic delivered from CMRS Provider's network for termination into Carrier's network by a factor of 0.17.



South Dakota Public Utilities Commission



State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

April 10, 2000

Mr. William Bullard, Jr.
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: In the Matter of the Reciprocal Transport
and Termination Agreements
Dockets TC00-065, TC00-066 and TC00-067

Dear Mr. Bullard:

On April 7, 2000, the Commission received the above-referenced filings. These are the same basic transport and termination agreements as are contained in Dockets TC00-020 to TC00-056, inclusive.

On March 30, 2000, Commission Staff filed comments and on April 7, 2000, filed rebuttal comments.

Inasmuch as the above-referenced dockets contain the same agreements that Staff has previously commented upon, Staff would incorporate all of its previously filed comments into this letter and address them to these three dockets.

Very truly yours,

Camron Hoseck
Staff Attorney

CH:dk

cc: Mr. Richard D. Coit

Capitol Office
Telephone (605)773-3201
FAX (605)773-3809

Transportation/
Warehouse Division
Telephone (605)773-5280
FAX (605)773-3225

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

TTY Through
Relay South Dakota
1-800-877-1113

Internet Website
www.state.sd.us/puc/

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William Bullard, Jr.
Executive Director

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Marlette Fischbach
Heather N. Forney
Shirleen Fugitt
Mary Giddings
Laws Hammond
Leri Healy
Mary Healy
Camron Hoseck
Lisa Hull
Dave Jacobson
Jennifer Kirk
Bob Knadle
Delaine Kolbo
Charlene Lund
Gregory A. Rislov
Keith Senger
Rosalynne Ailtz Wiest

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of April 6, 2000 through April 12, 2000

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact
Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing.
Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

CT00-060 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Don and Judy Blindauer, Mitchell, South Dakota, against Sprint Communications Company L.P. Regarding Unauthorized Switching of Long Distance Provider.

The complainants allege that they received charges for long distance out of state phone service from Sprint on their December phone bill. They never authorized Sprint to be a carrier and they had a "freeze" on their phone service to prevent being slammed. The charges from Sprint were high, ranging from .57 cents per minute to \$3.09 per minute. They received another bill from Sprint in February and they continue to get bills from their chosen carrier I-Link. The complainants are requesting that the Sprint rates be re-rated to the charges they would have received with I-Link and that they be paid \$1000.00 for the inconvenience. The complainants would like to see Sprint heavily fined in order to put a stop to this type of thing. The complainants want to be sure that Sprint is off of their phone service and if they have to attend a hearing in Pierre, they feel that Sprint should have to pay their expenses.

Staff Analyst: Charlene Lund
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 04/06/00
Intervention Deadline: NA

ELECTRIC

EL00-010 In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Corporation for Authority to Issue Common Stock and Preferred Stock.

On April 10, 2000, Black Hills Corporation submitted an application for authority to issue common stock and preferred stock related to the agreement and plan of merger between Black Hills Corporation and Indeck Capital, Inc.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney
Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Docketed: 04/10/00
Intervention Deadline: 04/28/00

EL00-011 In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Corporation to Authorize Gerald R. Forsythe to Acquire Control, Directly or Indirectly, of more than 10% of the Total Capital Stock of Black Hills Corporation.

On April 19, 2000, Black Hills Corporation submitted an application to authorize Gerald R. Forsythe to acquire control, directly or indirectly, of more than 10% of the total capital stock of Black Hills Corporation. This application pertains to the proposed merger between Black Hills Corporation and Indeck Capital, Inc.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney
Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Docketed: 04/10/00
Intervention Deadline: 04/28/00

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC98-203 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Second Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between FirsTel, Inc. and U S WEST Communications, Inc.

An amendment, termed a "second" amendment to an interconnection agreement between FirsTel, Inc. and U S WEST Communications, Inc., has been filed with the Commission for approval pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(e). The interconnection agreement amends a prior agreement approved by the Commission on September 14, 1999 in docket TC98-203. The amendment purports to allow FirsTel to access certain preexisting combinations of unbundled network elements in accordance with the FCC's November 5, 1999 Order and related federal regulations. It will add terms, conditions and rates with regard to unbundled network elements. Pending at this time is a first amendment of the same interconnection agreement.

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Docketed: 04/12/00
Intervention Deadline: 04/28/00

TC99-086 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Second Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between DSLnet Communications, LLC and U S WEST Communications, Inc.

An amendment, termed a "second" amendment to an interconnection agreement between DSLnet Communications, LLC and U S WEST Communications, Inc., has been filed with the Commission for approval pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(e). The interconnection agreement amends a prior agreement approved by the Commission on September 23, 1999 in docket TC99-086. The amendment purports to allow DSLnet to access certain preexisting combinations of unbundled network elements in accordance with the FCC's November 5, 1999 Order and related federal regulations. It will add terms, conditions and rates with regard to unbundled network elements.

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Docketed: 04/12/00
Intervention Deadline: 04/28/00

In the Matter of the Filing by South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition for Approval of Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement between G.C.C. License L.L.C. and Brookings Municipal Telephone Company.

TC00-066 In the Matter of the Filing by South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition for Approval of Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement between G.C.C. License L.L.C. and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority.

TC00-067 In the Matter of the Filing by South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition for Approval of Reciprocal Transport and Termination Agreement between G.C.C. License L.L.C. and Tri County Telcom, Inc.

The above companies (TC00-065, TC00-066, TC00-067) have each filed a reciprocal transport and termination agreement which was negotiated and entered into between them and G.C.C. License L.L.C. which is an affiliate of Western Wireless Corporation. Commission approval is sought pursuant to 46 U.S.C. Section 252(e).

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Docketed: 04/07/00
Intervention Deadline: 04/28/00

TC00-068 In the Matter of the Filing by U S WEST Communications, Inc. Regarding the Sale of Exchanges in Nebraska and Minnesota.

"U S WEST Communications and Citizens [Communications] have entered into transactions whereby Citizens will purchase 14 U S WEST exchanges in Nebraska and 43 [U S WEST] exchanges in Minnesota....Approximately 95 South Dakota customers are served out of the Valentine, Nebraska exchange and approximately 520 South Dakota customers are served out of the Ortonville-Big Stone, Minnesota exchange....[U S WEST and Citizens] respectfully request that the Commission, as expeditiously as possible, issue two separate statements that: 1) contingent on the Nebraska Public Service Commission's approval of the Nebraska sale, the Commission does not object to the FCC granting study area waivers nor to any configuration of study area boundaries involving the South Dakota portion of the Valentine, Nebraska exchange and; 2) contingent on the State of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's approval of the Minnesota sale, the Commission does not object to the FCC granting study area waivers nor to any configuration of study area boundaries involving the South Dakota portion of the Ortonville-Big Stone, Minnesota exchange."

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Docketed: 04/10/00
Intervention Deadline: 04/28/00

TC00-069 In the Matter of the Application of Natel, LLC for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.

Natel, LLC submitted an application to provide resold interexchange telecommunications services in South Dakota. The applicant proposes to offer 1+ and 101XXXX direct outbound dialing, 800/888 toll-free inbound dialing, travel card service, and prepaid calling card services.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer

Date Docketed: 04/11/00

Intervention Deadline: 04/28/00

TC00-070 In the Matter of the Application of Enhanced Communications Group, L.L.C. d/b/a ECG, L.L.C. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.

Enhanced Communications Group, L.L.C. d/b/a ECG, L.L.C. has filed a request for a Certificate of Authority to offer resold interexchange services, including message toll service, featuring 800/888, and travel card services throughout South Dakota.

Staff Analyst: Michele Farris

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer

Date Docketed: 04/12/00

Intervention Deadline: 04/28/00

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You may subscribe or unsubscribe to the PUC mailing lists at <http://www.state.sd.us/puc/>

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY SOUTH)
DAKOTA INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE)
COALITION. FOR APPROVAL OF A)
RECIPROCAL TRANSPORT AND)
TERMINATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN G.C.C)
LICENSE L.L.C. AND TRI-COUNTY TELCOM,)
INC.)

ORDER APPROVING
AGREEMENT

TC00-067

On April 7, 2000, the South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition on behalf of Tri-County Telcom, Inc. (Tri-County) filed for approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a reciprocal transport and termination agreement between G.C.C. License L.L.C. (GCC) and Tri-County. The agreement had an effective date of January 1, 1999.

On April 13, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of this filing to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to intervene had until April 28, 2000, to do so. No intervention was sought. Commission staff filed comments.

At its duly noticed May 17, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered whether to approve the agreement between GCC and Tri-County. Commission Staff recommended approval with an effective date as of the date of an Order approving the agreement.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31, and the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. In accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2), the Commission found that the agreement does not discriminate against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement and the agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the agreement with an effective date as of the date of this Order. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the agreement effective as of the date of this Order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of May, 2000.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Debra Kalbs</u>
Date: <u>5/25/00</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner