

TCOO - 096

TC00-096

In the Matter of \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST BY  
WEST RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COOPERATIVE FOR A WAIVER OF A  
REQUIREMENT TO FILE A SWITCHED  
ACCESS COST STUDY

Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

DATE

MEMORANDA

*Case filed and docketed;  
Case ready for filing;  
Case filed pending the waiver request;  
Case docket closed*



TC00-096  
GVMW CONSULTING, INC.

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June 12, 2000

Harlan Best  
Deputy Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

RECEIVED

JUN 15 2000

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Best:

On Behalf of West River Telecommunications Cooperative (WRT), we request a waiver of § 20:10:27:07 of the Commission's rules which requires, "Each carrier's carrier or association shall file cost data in support of its switched access service tariff no less than once every three years." WRT should be allowed such a waiver given that: 1) the estimated impact on access rates of a filing is negligible, 2) the cost of making a filing is significant given the number of customers involved, 3) a similar filing by WRT's for it's South Dakota study area, Mobridge Telecommunication Company (MTC), would more than offset the WRT reduction.

1) There is little impact on access rates or the interexchange carriers from a waiver of the access rate-filing requirement. Attached as workpaper 1 is an analysis of the change in minutes and revenue requirement that have occurred from the last rate filing submitted by WRT. Although the minutes have risen significantly from the Company's 1996 filing, the Company has also made significant investments in their network. As you will note from the attached workpaper, the growth in minutes has been effectively offset by a growth in revenue requirement. The net result, given the estimate, would be a negligible reduction in access rates. The total dollar amount of this change is identified on workpaper 2 and is approximately \$3,000.

2) The cost of creating and filing the access information required in justifying the filing is significant. With the evaluation and cost study development, required Commission forms, data requests, and audit, last years filing for (MTC) cost the Company almost \$ 5,000 in consulting fees (does not count WRT labor and expense). This does not include the filing fee, which, at a minimum, has been \$1,000. Directly assigning these charges in the cost study would more than offset the potential estimated decrease in access rates.

3) The Company's affiliate, MTC, could also file for a rate increase as its change in minutes has been outpaced by its increase in revenue requirements since it's filing last year. As you will note on workpaper 1, MTC could file to increase its revenues by several thousand dollars. However, given the cost of filing and the administrative burden of providing and justifying information, the Company would prefer not to go to this effort.

For these reasons, WRT respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Company a waiver from the requirement to make an access rate filing as required by § 20:10:27:07. Should the Commission not grant this waiver, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission grant an extension of the six month filing time frame required by § 20:10:27:14. The Company would request this extension for both WRT and MTC as a requirement to file on behalf of WRT could affect the current decision to deter filing on behalf of MTC. Should the filing waiver be denied, this extension is needed for the Company to complete and submit required information and is allowed by § 20:10:27:14.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this waiver request, I can be contacted at (719) 594-5831.

Sincerely,



David D. Clark

Encl.

Cc: M. Grosz, WRT  
B. Krause, WRT  
L. Heninger, LECA

# CONTINUATION

1 -

West River Telecommunications  
Evaluation of LECA Filings

	<u>Latest LECA Level</u>	<u>1999 Level</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percent Difference</u>
Minutes (filed on 1996 levels)	1,037,140	1,279,354	242,214	23.35%
Revenue Requirement (filed on 1996 levels)	\$136,093	\$164,535 *	\$28,442	20.90%
Estimated Rate Calculation	\$0.13122	\$0.12861		

\* estimated at 6.089% of WRT 1999 Est

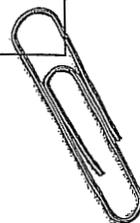
Mobridge Telecommunications Company  
Evaluation of LECA Filings

	<u>Latest LECA Level</u>	<u>1999 Level</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percent Difference</u>
Minutes (filed on 1998 levels)	4,342,451	4,196,303	-146,148	-3.37%
Revenue Requirement (filed on 1998 levels)	\$408,117	\$410,812	\$2,695	0.65%
Estimated Rate Calculation	\$0.09398	\$0.09790		

Continuation

# 2

# of pages



West River Telecommunications  
Evaluation of LECA Filings**Minutes of Use**

	<u>South Dakota</u>	<u>Total Company</u>
1999 Minutes	1,279,354	21,011,943
Percent of MOU	6.089%	

**Estimated Impact**

1999 Minutes	1,279,354
Change in Rate	<u>-\$0.00261</u>
Dollar Impact	<u><u>-\$3,341</u></u>

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
**WEEKLY FILINGS**  
For the Period of June 15, 2000 through June 21, 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

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**TC00-094 In the Matter of the Establishment of Switched Access Revenue Requirement for Union Telephone Company.**

Union Telephone Company filed a switched access cost study developing a revenue requirement that is included in the revenue requirement used to determine the switched access rates for the Local Exchange Carriers Association.

Staff Analyst: Keith Senger  
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer  
Dated Docketed: 06/15/00  
Intervention Deadline: 07/07/00

**TC00-095 In the Matter of the Establishment of Switched Access Revenue Requirement for Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company.**

Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company filed a switched access cost study developing a revenue requirement that is included in the revenue requirement used to determine the switched access rates for the Local Exchange Carriers Association.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best  
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer  
Date Docketed: 06/15/00  
Intervention Deadline: 07/07/00

**TC00-096 In the Matter of the Request by West River Telecommunications Cooperative for a Waiver of a Requirement to File a Switched Access Cost Study.**

West River Telecommunications Cooperative filed a request to waive ARSD 20:10:27:07 which requires a company to submit "cost data in support of its switched access service tariff no less than once every three years." West River Telecommunications (WRT) states that "such a waiver [should be] allowed given that: 1) the estimated impact on access rates of a filing is negligible, 2) the cost of making a filing is significant given the number of customers involved, [and] 3) a similar filing by WRT's for its South Dakota study area, Mobridge Telecommunication Company, would more than offset the WRT reduction." West River Telecommunications Cooperative is a member of the Local Exchange Carriers Association.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best  
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer  
Date Docketed: 06/15/00  
Intervention Deadline: 07/07/00

**TC00-097 In the Matter of the Application of Norstar Communications, Inc. d/b/a Business Savings Plan for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.**

Norstar Communications, Inc. d/b/a Business Savings Plan is seeking a Certificate of Authority to provide resold interexchange telecommunications services in South Dakota. The applicant intends to provide MTS, in-WATS, out-WATS, and Calling Card services.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney  
Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck  
Date Docketed: 06/16/00  
Intervention Deadline: 07/07/00

**TC00-098 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Resale Agreement between U S WEST Communications, Inc. and ServiSense.com, Inc.**

An interconnection agreement between ServiSense.com, Inc. and U S WEST Communications, Inc. was filed with the Commission. The agreement is a negotiated agreement setting forth certain arrangements to provide, within the geographical areas where U S WEST is the incumbent local exchange carrier, the resale of local telecommunications services.

Any party wishing to comment on the agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than July 6, 2000. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to comments no later than twenty days after the service of the comments.

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck  
Date Docketed: 06/16/00  
Comments Due: 07/06/00

**TC00-099 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement between U S WEST Communications, Inc. and NewPath Holdings, Inc.**

An interconnection agreement between NewPath Holdings, Inc. and U S WEST Communications, Inc. was filed with the Commission. The agreement is a negotiated agreement with the parties adopting the interconnection between Covad Communications Company and U S WEST, Docket TC99-017, which was approved by the Commission effective November 18, 1999.

Any party wishing to comment on the agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than July 6, 2000.

Parties to the agreement may file written responses to comments no later than twenty days after the service of the comments.

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck  
Date Docketed: 06/16/00  
Comments Due: 07/06/00

**TC00-100 In the Matter of the Application of eVulkan, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.**

eVulkan, Inc. is seeking a Certificate of Authority to provide resold interexchange telecommunication services in South Dakota. The applicant intends to provide switched and dedicated outbound interexchange services, and calling card services accessed via company provided 800/888 numbers.

Staff Analyst: Keith Senger  
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer  
Date Docketed: 06/19/00  
Intervention Deadline: 07/07/00

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST BY WEST ) ORDER GRANTING THE  
RIVER TELECOMMUNICATIONS ) WAIVER REQUEST  
COOPERATIVE FOR A WAIVER OF A )  
REQUIREMENT TO FILE A SWITCHED )  
ACCESS COST STUDY ) TC00-096

On June 15, 2000, West River Telecommunications Cooperative (West River) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a request to waive ARSD 20:10:27:07 which requires a company to submit "cost data in support of its switched access service tariff no less than once every three years." West River states that "such a waiver [should be] allowed given that: 1) the estimated impact on access rates of a filing is negligible, 2) the cost of making a filing is significant given the number of customers involved, [and] 3) a similar filing by West River for its South Dakota study area, Mobridge Telecommunication Company, would more than offset the West River reduction." West River Telecommunications Cooperative is a member of the Local Exchange Carriers Association.

On June 22, 2000, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 7, 2000, to interested individuals and entities.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1, 49-1A-9, 49-31-12.6, 49-31-18, 49-31-19 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.05, 20:10:27:07 and 20:10:27:08.

On July 20, 2000, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission found good cause to grant the requested waiver for a period of one year. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the requested waiver is hereby granted for a period of one year.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of July, 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>Melaine Kalbo</u>
Date:	<u>7/24/00</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Pam Nelson  
PAM NELSON, Vice Chair

Laska Schoenfelder  
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner