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

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT) TC05-096
OF SWITCHED ACCESS RATES FOR THE)
LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION) PETITION TO INTERVENE**

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. ("AT&T"), by its undersigned counsel, petitions the Commission as follows:

1. AT&T is a certificated communications company under the jurisdiction of the Commission.
2. The Local Exchange Carriers Association ("LECA") has filed with the Commission a letter and supporting documentation seeking to establish revised, that is, increased, switched access rates for the members of LECA, "as necessitated by revisions in member companies' revenue requirements." It is petitioner's understanding that the original June 30, 2005, filing is in the process of being recomputed because of LECA's withdrawal of its docket TC05-073 requesting on its behalf and on behalf of its members a waiver from ARSD 20:10:27:14 requiring companies filing access cost studies to use a historic test year. By withdrawing this docket, it is petitioner's understanding that LECA and its members have withdrawn their initial cost studies which were based upon projected minutes of use, rather than historical minutes of use. It is further expected that LECA members will revise their cost studies.
3. AT&T has a direct interest in the outcome of this proceeding. As a certificated local exchange carrier and long distance carrier, AT&T and its customers are subject to the payment of switched access charges in order to do business with LECA and its members. Any increase in access rates increases the cost of doing business for AT&T and increases the cost of services that AT&T provides to its customers.
4. AT&T believes that LECA members, like all other carriers in the wire-line industry today, may be experiencing some decrease in traffic due to wireless and internet usage.
5. LECA member loss in traffic may be due, in part, to their own action deploying VoIP service or wireless service. Carriers, such as AT&T, forced to pay ever-increasing access rates to LECA members should not be subject to the unfairness of paying higher access rates while LECA members or their affiliates also recover revenue for the same alleged traffic loss from their VoIP or wireless services.¹

¹ For example, AT&T will seek through discovery, among other areas, information on proper imputation based upon its belief that LECA members and their affiliates may not, in fact, be properly imputing their own access rates to

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE AT&T prays that the Commission permit its intervention and participation in this proceeding to examine and cross-examine witnesses, participate in discovery and offer evidence on its own behalf.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2005.

BY: _____



**ATTORNEYS FOR AT&T COMMUNICATIONS
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their services. See "Separated access costs and related access charges must be imputed to all intracompany toll service minutes of usage." ARSD 20:10:27:05

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

John S. Lovald hereby certifies that on the 14th day of September, 2005, he mailed by United States mail, first class postage thereon prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing in the above-captioned action to the following at their last known addresses, to-wit:

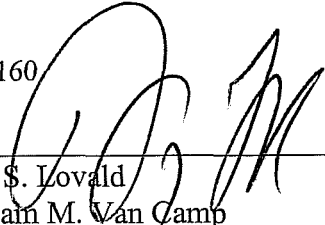
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