

Qwest Corporation
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Jason D. Topp
Corporate Counsel



December 14, 2006

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

**Re: In the Matter of the Confidential Settlement Agreement between
Qwest Corporation and Black Hills Fibercom, LLC
TC06-093**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Pursuant to the Commission's request, Qwest hereby submits the following for the Commission's review:

1. Request for Confidential Treatment of Information; and
2. Confidential Settlement Agreement between Qwest Corporation and Black Hills Fibercom, LLC.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions in this regard.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason D. Topp", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Jason D. Topp

JDT/bardm

Enclosures

cc: William P. Heaston
Colleen Sevold

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN QWEST
CORPORATION AND BLACK HILLS
FIBERCOM, LLC**

TC06-093

**REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL
TREATMENT OF INFORMATION**

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:41, Qwest Corporation (“Qwest”), through the undersigned counsel, requests confidential treatment as follows:

1. Confidential protection is sought for the Confidential Settlement Agreement between Qwest and Black Hills Fibercom, LLC.

The pages are marked as confidential and are provided in a sealed envelope.

2. The Confidential Settlement Agreement referenced herein must be protected for the life of this docket. When the docket is closed, all protected information must be returned to Qwest.

3. The person to be notified is Jason D. Topp, Qwest Corporation, 200 South Fifth Street, Room 2200, Minneapolis, MN 55402; telephone (612) 672-8905.

4. The claim for protection is based on ARSD 20:10:01:39 (4) and SDCL 37-29-1(4).

5. The Confidential Settlement Agreement referenced herein contains confidential and proprietary information regarding details of an agreement between Qwest and Black Hills Fibercom, LLC. Disclosure of this information will provide actual and potential competitors with information which is not publicly available and could provide

them with an unfair competitive advantage. Additionally, this information should be protected because it derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use. Competitors with access to this information could use it to make strategies and tactical decisions that could be harmful to the success and profitability of Qwest. Release of this information to competitors would unfairly enable them to make strategic and tactical decisions that would be harmful to the success and profitability of Qwest.

Accordingly, Qwest respectfully requests that the Commission grant this request for confidential protection.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2006.

QWEST CORPORATION



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