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HEARING EXAMINERS

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MARGO D. NORTHRUP, Associate

March 5, 2007

Julie M. Johnson
Office of the Hearing Examiners
210 East Fourth Street
Pierre, SD 57501-3185

Re: PUC-7-01 – In the Matter of the Petition of Venture Communications
Cooperative for Suspension or Modification of Local Dialing Parity
Reciprocal Compensation Obligations

Dear Ms. Johnson:

This letter is written to provide the Office of Hearing Examiners advance notice of the issues that need to be resolved at the Prehearing Conference from Venture's perspective.

Prehearing Conference Checklist

Representation for Petitioner, Venture Communications Cooperative ("Venture")

Darla Pollman Rogers
Margo D. Northrup
Mary J. Sisak
Benjamin H. Dickens, Jr.

**Representation for Intervenor, South Dakota Telecommunications Association
("SDTA")**

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Request for Postponement

The date in which the final decision in this matter must be made needs to be determined. Federal law requires that a decision must be made within 180 days after a petition is filed for a Suspension and Modification. The original petition was filed by Venture on October 24, 2006 and was supplemented with additional information on December 5, 2006.

Alltel made an argument in its Reply to Opposition to Request by Alltel to use the Office of Hearing Examiner ("Reply Memorandum") that the time in which the 180 days should commence is actually December 5, 2006, since this is the date that Venture supplemented

its Petition. This would require a decision on June 4, 2007. Venture is willing to accept the position asserted by Alltel in its Reply Memorandum and Venture is requesting that June 4, 2007 be established as the date a final decision must be made.

Additionally, Venture is willing to agree to an additional extension past June 4, 2007 if all parties will agree to the postponement. Venture asserts that this can be accommodated by all parties agreeing to a later commencement date of the petition filing.

Issues:

1. Issues presented by Venture in the Petition for Suspension and Modification have not been resolved.
2. Alltel has filed a Motion to Dismiss. Venture requests that a Procedural Schedule be established to determine when its response to the Motion to Dismiss is due. Venture is proposing Friday, March 9, 2007 as a due date.

Discovery

Venture and SDTA are requesting that a Procedural Schedule be issued in this matter. Venture has sent a proposed Procedural Schedule to the Intervenors for review. If the parties are unable to agree to a schedule, Venture will provide a proposed procedural schedule for consideration by the Hearing Examiner, before the prehearing conference.

Witnesses and Testimony

Larry Thompson of Vantage Point Solutions
Randy Houdek, Venture
Randy Olson, Venture
Policy Expert

Exhibits

To be provided pursuant to the Procedural Schedule.

Stipulations


None presented at this time.

Other Administrative Matters

Court Reporter requested

We hope this will assist the parties at the Prehearing Conference scheduled on March 8, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. CST.

Sincerely,


Darla Pollman Rogers
DPR/mdb