



South Dakota Telecommunications Association
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Rural roots, global connections

November 6, 2006

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NOV 06 2006

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Ms. Patty Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Ave.
State Capitol Building
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Docket TC06-181, Petition of Venture Communications Cooperative

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed you will find the original and ten (10) copies of a "SDTA Petition to Intervene" in the above referenced proceeding.

As is evidenced by the Certificate of Service attached to the Petition, service has been made to those parties identified in the case.

Thank you for your assistance in filing the original and distributing copies of the Petition.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Coit
SDTA Executive Director and General Counsel

RDC/ms

CC: Darla Pollman Rogers
Ben H. Dickens, Jr.
Mary J. Sisak
Talbot J. Wiczorek

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

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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of the Petition of Venture
Communications Cooperative for
Suspension or Modification of Local
Dialing Parity Reciprocal Compensation
Obligations**

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DOCKET TC06-181

SDTA Petition to Intervene

The South Dakota Telecommunications Association ("SDTA") hereby petitions the Commission for intervention in the above captioned proceeding pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD §§ 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.03 and 20:10:01:15.05. In support hereof, SDTA states as follows:

1. SDTA is an incorporated organization representing the interests of numerous cooperative, independent and municipal telephone companies operating throughout the State of South Dakota.

2. On October 25, 2006, Venture Communications Cooperative (Venture) filed a Petition with this Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(2) and SDCL 49-31-81 seeking a suspension or modification of certain local dialing parity and reciprocal compensation obligations. The "Petition for Suspension or Modification of Local Dialing Parity and Reciprocal Compensation Obligations" (Petition) has been filed in response to certain demands being made by Alltel Communications, Inc. (Alltel) as part of a request for interconnection services.

3. Generally, with its Petition, Venture is requesting the following from this Commission: (1) a modification of the dialing parity requirement such that Venture is not required to provide local dialing and it is not required to transport traffic outside of its service territory or beyond the wireline local calling area; (2) a modification of the reciprocal compensation requirements such that it is not required to pay reciprocal compensation on traffic

terminating to a wireless carrier within the same MTA that is handed off to an IXC in accordance with Venture's wireline local calling areas; (3) a modification of the symmetrical compensation requirement and a request that the Commission base compensation for wireless carrier's on the wireless carrier's forward looking cost study; and (4) an immediate temporary suspension of the 251(b)(3) and (5) requirements as described pending the Commission's consideration of the Petition.

4. Alltel as part of its interconnection request seeks to impose extraordinary interconnection obligations on Venture that, if ordered by this Commission, will have substantial negative impacts on Venture and the end users of its local exchange services. Generally, what Alltel seeks is (1) to shift substantial transport costs associated with interconnection to Venture by asking that this Commission require Venture to transport traffic to a point or points of interconnection outside its rural service area; and (2) to further impose excessive costs on Venture and its local exchange subscribers by expanding local dialing parity obligations in such manner that wireline originated traffic currently classified as long distance traffic is instead classified as local traffic. As set forth in the Venture Petition, the interconnection demands presented by Alltel would require Venture to incur substantial additional costs "associated with facilities, stranded investment, jurisdictional shifts in expense and increased reciprocal compensation."

5. The issues addressed in the Venture Petition related to originating carrier transport responsibilities and the scope of local dialing parity and reciprocal compensation obligations are of critical importance to all rural telephone companies in South Dakota, and accordingly, SDTA supports the Venture Petition and strongly believes the modifications requested by Venture should be granted. Granting these modifications is necessary to preserve universal service in rural service areas and is consistent with the applicable standards of review set forth in 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(f)(2)(A) and 251(f)(B). In addition, it should be noted that Alltel is seeking through its interconnection request to press this Commission into action on certain call rating and routing issues that are already pending before the FCC in various proceedings. See *Federal Communications Commission Seeks Comment on Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis in Telephone Number Portability Proceeding*, CC Docket No. 95-116, Public Notice, 20 FCC Rcd 8616 (2005); and *In the Matter of Sprint Petition for Declaratory Ruling, Obligation of Incumbent LECs to Load Numbering Resources Lawfully Acquired and to Honor Rating and*

Routing Points Designated by Interconnecting Carriers, CC Docket No. 01-92 (filed July 18, 2002).

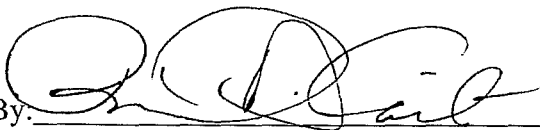
6. SDTA seeks intervention herein on the based on the interest of Venture, an SDTA member, and also the pecuniary interests of other SDTA member LECs that are likely to be “bound and affected either favorably or adversely” by the outcome of the proceeding. (See ARSD § 20:10:01:15.05).

7. Based on all of the foregoing, SDTA alleges that it is an interested party in this matter and would seek intervening party status.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2006.

Respectfully submitted:

SDTA

By: 

Richard D. Coit
Executive Director and General Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that an original and ten (10) copies of the Petition for Intervention of SDTA in Docket TC06-181 was hand-delivered to the South Dakota PUC on November 6, 2006, directed to the attention of:

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

A copy was sent by US Postal Service First Class mail to each of the following individuals:

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Dated this 6th day of November, 2006.



Richard D. Coit, General Counsel
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