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Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Docket Nos. TC 06-036 through 042

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

This correspondence will confirm that the Golden West Companies and WWC License, LLC have completed negotiations in the above matter and have resolved all outstanding issues previously presented in the Petitions of the Golden West Companies for Arbitration and the response of WWC License, LLC thereto. This settlement was communicated to Hearing Examiner Hillary Brady by the October 5, 2005 e-mail correspondence from Mr. Schudel, a copy of which is attached hereto. Subsequently, on October 10, 2006, Hearing Examiner Brady issued an Order of Dismissal evidencing the settlement and cancellation of the administrative hearing. As such, it is the parties' understanding that the matter has been returned to this Commission for any further necessary proceedings.

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1), parties are required to submit and obtain approval of any interconnection agreement which they have negotiated. On October 9, 2006, the negotiated Interconnection Agreements for Armour Independent Telephone Company, Bridgewater Canistota Independent Telephone Company, Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., Kadoka Telephone Company, Sioux Valley Telephone Company, Union Telephone Company and Vivian Telephone Company were electronically submitted to this Commission. Those Interconnection Agreements were submitted under the individual docket numbers as originally assigned by this Commission. Please be advised that the Golden West Companies are seeking Commission approval for these Interconnection Agreements pursuant to the directive of 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(1).

It is my understanding that it is the intention of the Commission to close the pending dockets in which the Petitions for Arbitration were originally filed and open one or more new dockets for the approval of the Interconnection Agreements. Because of the unusual procedural path that the pending dockets have followed with their transfer to the Office of Hearing Examiners, the Golden West Companies respectfully suggest that such dockets (TC06-036 through TC06-042) be utilized as the vehicles for entry of orders approving the Interconnection Agreements that have been submitted to the Commission. While the Office of Hearing Examiners did issue an Order of Dismissal pertaining to these matters, the Office of Hearing Examiners does not possess the statutory authority to make any final decisions in these cases, only to make recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law. Thus, it seems entirely appropriate, and perhaps is even required that the Commission officially close the pending dockets with the entry of its orders approving the negotiated Interconnection Agreements.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

CUTLER & DONAHOE, LLP

Meredith A. Moore

Meredith A. Moore
For the Firm

MAM/jlh
Attachment
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James Overcash
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