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December 30, 2009

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

Re: Notification of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. Regarding
Merger of its Telephone Subsidiaries into the Parent Cooperative

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen,

Pursuant to SDCL § 49-31-20, Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (Golden West), by and through its attorney, hereby notifies the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) of the merger of all of its telephone subsidiaries into the parent cooperative. Golden West believes that such a merger will add increased efficiency to the operation of all of the entities in the areas of advertising, management, operation, purchasing and distribution of services. In addition, Golden West is well established in the region and the merger will allow the wholly-owned subsidiaries to participate in and experience the good will developed by Golden West.

The Transaction: The effective date of the merger is January 1, 2010. Upon the effective date of the merger, each of the following entities wholly owned by Golden West and its subsidiaries shall be merged with and into Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. as follows:

- (a) Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company shall be merged with and into its parent company, Armour Independent Telephone Company; and
- (b) Vivian Telephone Company, Kadoka Telephone Company, Union Telephone Company of Hartford and Armour Independent Telephone Company shall be merged with and into their parent company, Golden West Telephone Properties, Inc.; and
- (c) Golden West Telephone Properties, Inc. and Sioux Valley Telephone Company shall be merged with and into Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.

The separate existence of each of the wholly-owned entities shall cease.¹ Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (the Surviving Cooperative) shall continue its existence under and shall be governed by the laws of the State of South Dakota. Golden West will

¹ The separate existence of each of the wholly-owned entities will cease after the effective date of the merger, but Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (the Surviving Cooperative) will maintain the same pre-merger separate study areas, to-wit: 391659 – Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.; 391640 – Armour Independent Telephone Company and Bridgewater-Canistota Independent Telephone Company; 391667 – Kadoka Telephone Company; 391677 – Sioux Valley Telephone Company; 391684 – Union Telephone Company of Hartford; and 391686 – Vivian Telephone Company.

Robert C. Riter, Jr.
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continue to provide the same services, and the transaction will not affect the rates, terms or conditions under which Golden West provides services. There will be no change in the Commission's regulatory authority over Golden West. There will be no change in the tariffs associated with this merger. No transfer of assets or of certificates of authority will occur as part of the transaction, nor will there be any sale or transfer of any telecommunications exchanges as a result of the merger. Other than the increased efficiencies in operations noted above, the transaction is not expected to affect the day-to-day operations of Golden West. In sum, this transaction will be transparent to and have no impact on Golden West customers.

Golden West shall maintain its name, and its headquarters shall continue to be at 415 Crown Street, Wall, South Dakota. Following the merger, the current Board of Directors will appoint directors to represent the newly created Districts 7, 8, and 9 to serve until elections are held at the next annual meeting of the Cooperative. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Golden West will continue to be in effect and govern the Cooperative after the merger. The Board of Directors, in accordance with the Bylaws of Golden West, shall be the Board of Directors of the Surviving Cooperative.

Report of Transaction: Based upon the structure of this merger, which is between wholly owned subsidiaries and their parent cooperative and does not involve the actual sale of any exchanges or transfer of any certificates, Golden West respectfully submits this letter to provide notice to the Commission of the pending transaction and to ensure the continuing accuracy of the Commission's records. Should the Commission have any questions or if the Commission believes that any further action is required, please contact Darla Pollman Rogers at (605)224-7889.

Very truly,

RITER, ROGERS, WATTIER &
NORTHROP, LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darla Pollman Rogers".

Darla Pollman Rogers

DPR/dk

Cc: Denny Law