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George Baker Thomson, Jr.
Corporate Counsel

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota

RE: Docket TC 09-074 – CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Jon Thurber, Staff Utility Analyst, asked for additional detail regarding the Qwest two-year plan filed in the referenced docket. Qwest has attached answers to Mr. Thurber's questions, which include materials for which Qwest requests confidential treatment.

The detail shown in Qwest's responses are projections, and plans and projects may change significantly due to growth trends, competitive considerations, road projects, extreme weather or other natural conditions affecting facilities, and other variations or upgrades in equipment. Qwest is continually evaluating our facilities and growth in our exchanges to meet service quality needs in South Dakota.

There are two attachments to this letter: the first is a public document and provides a narrative answer to each of the questions posed by Mr. Thurber, and the second attachment, consisting of six (6) pages, is confidential supporting detail. These documents are attached separately and each confidential document is marked in accordance with ARSD 20:10:01:41. Qwest requests confidential treatment for a period of three years, at which time Qwest requests the documents be either returned or destroyed with notice to Qwest. Qwest believes the material contains competitively sensitive material related to deployment of capital and cost of facilities construction and maintenance, and constitutes trade secrets within the meaning of ARSD 20:10:01:39 and SDCL 37-29-1 to 37-29-11, inclusive. You may direct any questions about confidentiality to the undersigned at 303-383-6645.

Sincerely,

/s/

George Baker Thomson, Jr.
Corporate Counsel