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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION  
OF FIBER RING REVENUE-POOLING  
ASSOCIATION FOR APPROVAL OF  
THE ADDITION OF AN ETHERNET  
TRAFFIC CLASS TO THE FRRPA RUL  
CONTRACTS

DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
  
PETITION

COMES NOW Darla Pollman Rogers, of Riter, Rogers, Wattier, & Northrup, LLP, 319 South Coteau Street, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, attorney for the Fiber Ring Revenue-Pooling Association (“FRRPA”), and represents and petitions to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) as follows:

1. Pursuant to SDCL § 49-31-83, FRRPA was organized on March 17, 1999, to provide a pooling mechanism for a collective, cost shared, cost averaged, nondistance sensitive fully-protected transport network for local exchange companies (“LEC” or “LECs”) whose traffic is carried on any of the joint South Dakota LEC and South Dakota Network, LLC (“SDN”) SONET (Synchronous Optical Network) ring transport facilities. As a result of this pooling mechanism, the FRRPA users have had the benefit of survivable, distance insensitive, and highly reliable toll, public Internet transport, 911/E911 transport, and extended area service transport. The fully-integrated SONET ring transport facilities also enables the LECs in South Dakota to more efficiently meet the infrastructure deployment goals described in SDCL §§ 49-31-60 and 49-31-61.

2. FRRPA’s pooling arrangement was first approved by this Commission on July 20, 2000 (Docket TC00-084). Since that time, FRRPA has filed other Petitions and/or informational

filings with this Commission amending the pooling contracts among FRRPA, SDN and member LECS (Docket TC05-173 and Docket TC08-137), and advising the Commission of a decrease in rates (September 28, 2010).

3. FRRPA submits this filing to seek approval of a modernization proposal that adds an Ethernet traffic option for member company ring users. This traffic class will allow the FRRPA Ring User LECs (RULs) to continue to provide advanced services to their customers using modern, cost-efficient Ethernet technology.

4. The addition of an Ethernet traffic class will be accomplished by adding Ethernet equipment to FRRPA's CPR (Continuing Property Records) inventory. This will occur as Sonet Ring Providers (SRPs) upgrade their equipment to include Ethernet investments, and then report said updates to FRRPA, as part of the pooling process.

5. The current RUL contracts between FRRPA and its member LECs and between FRRPA and SDN will remain the same. Each Exhibit that outlines the various services available to ring users will be amended to include the new Ethernet traffic class, including rates for said class of traffic. All other traffic classes and rates, including PNS rates, are not impacted by or changed as a result of the addition of an Ethernet class of traffic. Confidential Attachment 1 contains the revised Exhibits to the RUL contracts for which FRRPA is seeking Commission approval.

6. The proposed effective date for availability of the new traffic class to member LEC ring users is July 15, 2011.

WHEREFORE, FRRPA requests that the Commission:

1. Approve the addition of an Ethernet traffic option to the existing FRRPA RUL contracts, including approval of the pricing of said option as set forth in the revised Exhibits (Confidential Attachment 1); and
2. Grant such other and further relief as the Commission deems necessary to carry out the objectives of FRRPA and this filing.

DATED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.

  
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